

SIDE C - JANINE MONOLOGUE

JANINE. *You are making yourself crazy.*

With your Post-its, with your paper, with your refusal to see the good in anything, it is clearly more of a strain than you can bear.

Do you think you're the first person in history to get hurt?

The grand sweep of history is that some people hurt other people and they never really make amends and you have to move on and win the next round.

But you will not win the next round if you keep thinking like this.

It will cost you a grade. It will cost you jobs. It will cost you political power.

No one likes to feel pity. No one likes to feel guilt.

No one likes anything that sounds anything like whining.

Everyone is tired of hearing about racism.

You are so relentlessly negative and you make everything seem uglier, why would anyone want to listen to that? I hate seeing the world through your eyes!

(ZOE picks up her phone.)

By all means, rather than engaging in a serious intellectual discussion, be on your phone instead. Be a millennial.

(ZOE turns her phone to face JANINE.)

That's illegal...

ZOE. In the state of Connecticut only one of the parties participating in a conversation has to be aware that it's being recorded.

Google.

JANINE. Look, you can't - I hope you're still recording - when people are speaking casually, they're not careful with every word.

(ZOE just keeps holding the phone in front of JANINE. JANINE thinks about trying to make a grab for it, but doesn't.)

God, I barely remember what I said.

I - I helped you with your paper.

I listened to your concerns about class.

I didn't say anything wrong.

I didn't say anything wrong!!

ZOE. Okay, then you won't mind if I share what you said.

JANINE. With who? Who are you planning on sending it to? The provost? The dean?

ZOE. No. No. They'd just end up like, having a meeting with us to try to "mediate a better understanding" or whatever. No. I think no one does anything real unless there's public pressure.

JANINE. I am *not* a racist. I'm not. Ask anyone who's ever known me, I'm not.

ZOE. You're more afraid of looking like a racist than you are of *being* a racist. Don't you want to think about that?

JANINE. I care very, very deeply about equality. I care -

ZOE. Okay. What are you doing to promote equality?

Are you using the money you saved on your son's tuition to fund a scholarship for a student of color?

Are you getting all your white friends together to call congressional representatives and demand criminal justice reform?

Or do you actually never bother to think about racial equality, and now you're just trying to claim that you do to save face when you know you've been behaving badly, because in that case you can go fuck yourself.

JANINE. What do you *want*?

ZOE. I want this to be your problem. I have spent my *life* living with this problem. Why are my teachers talking to me the way they do?

Why are my friends looking at me the way they do? Why is this boy interested in me? Why isn't this boy interested in me?

JANINE. I get it, I do -