

## **Jungle Fever**

Flip and Angie

The scene takes place in an office. Angie is working at one desk while Flip is working at another. (This scene is a compilation of vignettes that appear in succession, following the characters for multiple days.)

Flip:

Angie, you can do that stuff in the morning. I mean, you've done enough hard work for today.

Angie:

That's all right. I like to work.

Flip:

You like to what?

Angie:

I like to work. Besides, I want my father and my brothers to eat McDonalds.

Flip:

You want your father and brothers to eat McDonalds?

Angie:

See, when I get home I usually gotta cook for them and I don't wanna. So, I figure if I don't go home, they're left to their own...

Flip:

They're grown men! Why are you cooking for them?

Angie:

Yeah, well, it's what they expect because I always do. So, I just think it's time for them to just grow up.

Flip:

Dig it. Dig it. So, you're a good cook? You can cook, huh?

Angie:

Yeah, I can cook. I love to cook.

Flip:

Oh yeah?

Angie:

Yeah.

Flip:  
What, what can you cook?

Angie:  
I can cook anything.

Flip:  
What? Spaghetti?

Angie:  
Yeah, I can make spaghetti.

Flip:  
Lasagna?

Angie:  
Yeah, lasagna. You like lasagna?

Flip:  
I love lasagna.

Angie:  
Oh yeah? I'll make lasagna for you.  
(FLIP laughs)  
What?

Flip:  
You're gonna make lasagna for me?

Angie:  
Yeah, I'll make lasagna. I'll make it at home and bring it in for you, for lunch.

Flip:  
Why don't I just come over to your family's house and eat it with your family.

Angie:  
You could try – I don't know if...uh...

Flip:  
It's a joke, just a joke. I'm joking.

Angie:  
I know, I know.

Flip:  
Okay. Shoot, all this talk about food is making me hungry.

Angie:  
Yeah.

Flip:  
Are you hungry?

Angie:  
Yeah.

Flip:  
Where you from?

Angie:  
Bensonhurst.

Flip:  
Bensonhurst?

Angie:  
Hmm-mmm.

Flip:  
Nice neighborhood.

Angie:  
Yeah. Where you from?

Flip:  
Uptown.

Angie:  
The Bronx?

Flip:  
No. Harlem. Harlem USA.

Angie:  
Wow.

Flip:  
You ever been there? (ANGIE shakes her head “no”) No? You’ve never been to Harlem?

Angie:  
No. I’ve never met anybody from Harlem. I mean, not in Bensonhurst anyway.

Flip:

Well, you know, you should...you should go. I think you'd like it. I mean, there's a lot of nice people up there.

Angie:

Yeah? (referring to food) MMmmm.

Flip:

You like it?

Angie:

Yeah, it's good when you put a lot of soy sauce on it.

Flip:

I don't like the soy sauce so much. (ANGIE is looking at FLIP) What?

Angie:

What?

Flip:

What are you looking at? Wait, don't tell me, I know. I know what you're thinking. You're going "Wow, look at your skin color. How dark it is. I love your color complexion. I mean, I'm so white, I'm so pale. Me, I get a little sun every now and then when I hang out at Jones Beach. But nothing like that!"

Angie:

I hate the beach. You're definitely not a mind reader. But, I do admit I was looking at your skin.

Flip:

Boy, it's amazing. This, this preoccupation with color. I mean, here you are staring at me. But my experiences, my people; I've been called every black, dot, smut, midnight, spot, every black derogatory name that you could ever think of. And, then white people comment all the time; they love it. It's a deep dark tan.

Angie:

Sorry. It's kinda messed up, huh?

Flip:

Yeah, it really is.

Angie:

(referring to him) It's beautiful.

Flip:

You happy?

Angie:

Um, we've been going out for a long time, you know, since high school.

Flip:

How does he treat you?

Angie:

All right.

Flip:

Just all right?

Angie:

He's a nice guy, you know, he's just, um, from the neighborhood. It's the kind of thing I'm outgrowing.

Flip:

Yeah.

I'm just saying, I mean, you like all these things, but you're temping. I think you could be doing a lot more than that.

Angie:

I guess it's time to go home, right?

Flip:

Yeah.

Angie:

You want anymore?

Flip:

No.

Angie:

Sure?

Flip:

Positive, positive. So, um, how long does it take you to get back to Bensonhurst?

Angie:

40, 45 minutes.

Flip:

And, your – uh – boyfriend meets you at the subway station?

Angie:  
No.

Flip:  
No? Well, what, there is no one there waiting for you? Is that safe?

Angie:  
Yeah.

(ANGIE moves to put on her coat.)

Flip:  
Let me help you with this.

Angie:  
Thank you.

Flip:  
You know, uh, Angie, I've never cheated on my wife before. I mean, I'm married,  
happily married.

Angie:  
I know. I kinda figured that.

(ANGIE goes to leave)

Flip:  
Wait.

(FLIP stops her and they kiss.)