

Color Coded

By

Kimiyo Bremer and Rishi Mutalik

2018

Cast of Characters

<u>Kimiyo:</u>	Kimiyo Bremer
<u>Rishi:</u>	Rishi Mutalik
<u>Elephant of Race:</u>	Avalon Qian
<u>Anya, Sandra, No Heart 1:</u>	Anya Andrews
<u>Austin, Competitor 1:</u>	Austin Clark
<u>Sabina, DDR Host:</u>	Sabina Diaz-Rimal
<u>Terry, Heart 1:</u>	Jeszack Gammon
<u>Strange Man, Bodyless Voice:</u>	Charlie Mai
<u>Alicia, Pilar, Narrator:</u>	Alicia Rodriguez
<u>Taty, Competitor 2, Heart 2:</u>	Tatyana Rozetta

Everyone is standing in front of a door with canvassers clothes on. They don different colored t-shirts with environmentalist group logos and plain bottoms. A different colored light shines on each of the canvassers as the play begins. This part is to include a rhythmic element.

Knock knock

Hi

ALL

Ding Dong

How are you

ALL

Knock knock

My name is-

ALL

Wrong buzzer.Ding dong.

And we're with-

ALL

Knock knock

RISHI
Citizen's Campaign for the Environment.

KIMIYO
Right now we're working to ban fracking in our state.

SABINA
We're here today fighting EPA budget cuts and we're doing this through a letter drive and fundraiser.

RISHI
Take a look at our goals here.

TATY
I'm sorry...No sir we are not selling anything...we're trying to mobilize your neighborhood.

Wrong Buzzer

(CONTINUED)

KIMIYO

As I'm sure you already know, fracking is an extremely dangerous form of oil drilling that wastes hundreds of gallons of water and poisons our lakes, rivers, and oceans with harmful chemical-

AUSTIN

In the worst drought California has seen in years, we cannot afford to waste any water. That's why Citizen's Campaign is lobbying to get Governor Brown to stop fracking!

ALICIA

Let me tell you more about the campaign..as you may know the EPA is facing a 35% budget cut by the new administration and that greatly affects our water our air and-

RISHI

We're doing everything in our power to fight these budget cuts. Is this work you agree with?

Wrong Buzzer.

SABINA

Sir. I'm sorry- If you want me to leave I'll just-

TATY

Yes! Citizen's Campaign is real. I've actually interned with them in the past.

ANYA

This is a lovely neighborhood.

RISHI

We are just trying to raise money to lobby. I have no intention of exploiting.

Wrong Buzzer.

KIMIYO

Well- That's perfectly fine! You're also free to donate as much as you can-

ALICIA

I can show you my permit-

AUSTIN

No you don't have to be a member, but most non-members are donating \$20.

KIMIYO

You can also do \$10. Anything hel-

Wrong Buzzer.

TATY

Actually we DO have a legitimate website! I have a brochure right-

RISHI

Nice dog. What's his name?

ANYA

We're supposed to be in the neighborhood again.

Wrong Buzzer.

RISHI

I'm sorry hers.

KIMIYO

Even \$5?

RISHI

Celeste.

SABINA

I'm sorry could you refill my water bottle for me.

ALICIA

The website is right here. Would you at least be willing to sign a petition?

Wrong buzzer.

AUSTIN

I am sorry I upset you, sir.

ANYA

I didn't know your kids were sleeping.

RISHI

I am sorry to bother you I will leave. I am leaving-

Wrong buzzer.

Goodbye

Wrong buzzer.

Thanks again, sir.

Wrong buzzer.

Sorry for the inconvenience

Wrong buzzer.

Still going

Wrong buzzer.

I'm fucking going!!!!

(CONTINUED)

Wrong buzzer.

KIMIYO

Thanks have a nice day. Bitch.

A bunch of canvassers walk across the stage exhausted and discouraged.

ALICIA

40

KIMIYO

30

SABINA

53.24

KIMIYO

They couldn't give you a quarter.

SABINA

Watch it

KIMIYO

What about you guys?

TATY

I got a "How do I know you're not gonna pocket this"?

KIMIYO

And you guys?

AUSTIN

70

ALICIA

Fuck.

SABINA

Goddamn it

AUSTIN

What?

ANYA

She was winning

KIMIYO

Andddd

90 RISHI

FUCK EVERYONE

Cents RISHI

AYYY look at you that's a 50% gain from yesterd-

RISHI
Okay guys its getting late- You should all head home. Great job this week. We're just gonna go over the numbers for today.

The rest exit to head to the car. Kimiyo and Rishi take out their clipboards. They embrace out of exhaustion.

One more week. KIMIYO

I know. RISHI

One more week. That's all we have before they start laying off people. KIMIYO

RISHI
We need to talk to them, Kimiyo. There's been so many incidents with everyone. I can list all the people who literally spat in my face.

They're not going to listen. KIMIYO

I'll quit. RISHI

Do it. KIMIYO

RISHI
I swear to god I'll walk right up and say "FUCK you."

KIMIYO
But Rishi, they might give you a bad review

Laughing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIMIYO (cont'd)

"I don't know why you'd quit! You're so good at this!"

RISHI

"You're the BEST at it! One of the best we've ever had!"

KIMIYO

They don't care. Even if we tell them we're concerned about people's safety.

RISHI

Whatever. I'll be glad when we're done with this. We can find some other job.

KIMIYO

Word. Fuck these racist homeowners and fuck our neoliberal bosses for pretending they can't see what the hell is going on. They can all suck a d-

The Elephant of race pops out from behind a tree

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Fear not, it's ME! The Elephant of Race! I've heard your lamentations about not being treated the way every elephant should!

KIMIYO AND RISHI

What the fuck.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

I know you're alarmed but I'm here to help you, racially.

KIMIYO

Did we smoke? I can't remember.

RISHI

I dont think so!?! (To the Elephant) Explain yourself please.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

I come from a land of magic. A land where the sun shines bright, the peace is plentiful, and the food is seasoned. BA DUM TSSS My purpose is to give all the little brown children a chance to understand their consciousness. What it means to be them. I have but one joy in life and that is to see to the comprehension of one's own power in the sweet and the strong.

KIMIYO

But why an ELEPHANT of race?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Because the Elephant of Gender wasn't necessary. Now are y'all gonna come with?

RISHI

Where exactly are we going?

KIMIYO

And what are we gonna do there?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Its become clear to me that you both feel lost and enraged by how people are treating you. And you have every right to be. So I just think this is the getaway you both need right now.

RISHI

How long are we gonna be gone?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Only a quick visit! We are going into your imaginations.

KIMIYO

Booooo

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Shh. A world of the imagination not yet colonized, revised, and synthesized like the one you guys are currently inhabiting.

RISHI

Ok I'm down.

KIMIYO

Uh, what? You're gonna trust them?

RISHI

Why not? Its just a person in an elephant costume.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Hey, I've got my papers.

RISHI

Plus this day has been trash. This shit sounds fun and ridiculous.

KIMIYO

Seems sketch to me, but if you go I'll go.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Alright alright, let's get out of here!

A spaceship lights up in the back. The Elephant of Race leads Kimiyo and Rishi on to the spaceship. As they enter the spaceship takes off and they begin their journey.

KIMIYO

This is crazy!

RISHI

So how long will it take?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

It's going to take some time. We've gotta get through all this goo first.

KIMIYO

Goo?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Goo AND the vapors.

RISHI

Vapors?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

The goo and the vapor are what keep our gravity in check. Without them, we'd all crash and die! Ha! Ha! Ha! Oh by the way here's the music remote. Go ahead and choose some tunes.

Elephant gives remote to Rishi. Rishi presses the button and Honkey Tonk Badonkadonk by Trace Adkins comes on. Rishi and Kimiyo make a face.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Hey every Elephant is different. I got volumes.

Rishi hands remote to Kimiyo. Kimiyo presses the next button. Erykah Badu's Hollywood plays.

KIMIYO

Ayyyyy

ELEPHANT OF RACE

So where y'all from.

(CONTINUED)

Connecticut. RISHI

California. KIMIYO

RISHI
We were best friends in college. And then we both got jobs working as environmental canvassers.

ELEPHANT OF RACE
Canvassers ay? Hows thats been.

KIMIYO
Those margharitas aren't gonna pay for themselves

RISHI
Its been pretty awful. Homeowners say a lot of shit to people of color. And sometimes they make threat.

KIMIYO
Yeah, but no matter where you go that's gonna happen

RISHI
I mean not neces-

ELEPHANT OF RACE
Well- hate to interrupt the tune but we here. If it was to me we'd go straight to our destination but they force us to make this detour. I was instructed to have you (pointing to Kimiyo) go this way and you (pointing to Rishi) go that way.

Kimiyo and Rishi start to leave.

ELEPHANT OF RACE
WAIT after you are done come back here. Do not go on your own. Without my knowledge of the terrain, you can end up in some terrifying places...Have fun!

The elephant moves the spaceship offstage. Rishi and Kimiyo stand on the stage

RISHI
I guess you go in now.

Kimiyo walks into the space on her side. People are very still on DDR mats. She sees one is empty and steps on it, everything immediately comes to life. Everyone is eating candy or good food from the bag next to them.

KIMIYO

Nice. Candy.

DDR HOST

Hello and welcome back TO "So You Think You Can Not Not Dance?"

KIMIYO

What?

DDR HOST

Dancing is the name and surviving is the game. Last as many rounds as possible and you can continue your journey! If you don't, you must stay here with the others and continue competing on the show until the end of time.

KIMIYO

I think I can handle a little DDR. [looking to one of the competitors] How long have you been here?

COMPETITOR 1

57 years.

COMPETITOR 2

I don't even know.

KIMIYO

Oh helllllll no.

Kimiyo lunges to leave, but the music and the competition begin. Kimiyo begins to dance through the round. Rishi walks to his door and knocks.

RISHI

Hello??

Rishi realizes the door is open and walks in. When he walks, he here applause from a studio audience. He has entered the world of a sitcom.

SANDRA

Parshuram, you're home!!

TERRY

We missed you son!!

RISHI

Oh I missed you too!! (to himself) Why did I say that? Why did I just talk like that?.

SANDRA

Parshuram, you're such a good boy. We want to talk to you about something. Either you or Billy is in trouble

Audience OOHS

RISHI

Why?!?!

Audience LAUGHS

TERRY

Son we found a condom in the laundry room? Was it you?

Audience OOHS

RISHI

Oh YOU KNOW IT wasn't me.

Audience LAUGHS

SANDRA

Oh we know!! We just wanted to make sure honey.

TERRY

But you shouldn't be afraid of girls, son!

RISHI

I just am!!

Audience OOHS

TERRY

I know!!

SANDRA

You're still our perfect adopted boy.

RISHI

Love you mom and dad! WHAT IS THIS SHOW!?

Suddenly the theme song is projected on the screen:

(CONTINUED)

DDR HOST

Alright that's it for Round 1! Competitors reach into your brown bags and pull out the helpful nutrients provided by our sponsors.

They all begin to pull things out of brown paper bags next to them. Those with white masks on will pull out water bottles. Those without masks will pull out gatorade and soda drink bottles.

ALL COMPETITORS

Thank you for our nutrients. MMMMMMm.

Everyone takes a collective sip

KIMIYO

Hey can I get some water the sugar in this is going to make me so thirsty and I can't dance if I'm ti-

DDR HOST

Round 2, it's time for you! And, GO!

COMPETITOR 1

I can't DO THIS.

COMPETITOR 2

SHUT UP AND DANCE!!!!

The music starts up again, slightly faster than last time. The second round begins. Everyone is dancing for a long time, then the music stops.

SANDRA

So Parshuram, tell us about your day.

RISHI

Kimiyo. KIMIYO.

KIMIYO

Yes, YES I hear you. What's going on.

RISHI

I don't know I'm in some terrible 90s sitcom and everytime I try to speak these LINES come out in this accent and these assholes laugh. And these freaks are calling me their son!!!

KIMIYO

Well I can't help you right now so just keep doing that I guess.

RISHI

Are you KIDDING ME.. fine.I had a great day, MOMMY and DADDY. I measured the circumference of all of the fruits in the kitchen and then at school I measured the inside of all the lockers.

TERRY

Why the inside son?

RISHI

Because everytime I got stuffed in one I figured, might as well measure it!!! (Audience laugh).

DDR HOST

You know what that means. It's feeding time!

ALL COMPETITORS

Thank you for our nutrients.
[begins eating]

KIMIYO

Hey how come they're getting all the good stuff?

DDR HOST

Some competitors come into the dance with all the tools the tools they'll ever need. Others have to make due with what they've got.

The music starts up again, only this time its going incredibly fast. Everyone is dancing very fast, almost to the point of exhaustion.

COMPETITOR 1

I can't do this I need to stop I need to PLEASE GOD MAKE THEM STOP.

COMPETITOR 2

gotta keep- gotta- DANCE

SANDRA

Now Parshuram. Connor's friend Pilar is coming over to study now. Promise you won't freak out like last time.

Audience Laughs

RISHI

Oh I won't.

Door bells rings

(CONTINUED)

TERRY
That'll be Pilar.

Rishi collapses on the floor.

RISHI
WHAT THE- WHY I AM ON THE FLOOR.

KIMIYO
Rishi are you okay?!!

RISHI
NOO. PARSHURAM IS FREAKING.

KIMIYO
Oh shit.

TERRY
Oh Parshuram calm yourself just think of those elephants from Bombay.

PILAR
Hola Mr. And Mrs. Darvus..Ummm What the f-

RISHI
AHHHHHHH HALLO PILAR-

PILAR
Who are you? And why are you speaking like that?

RISHI
I'm trying not to but they're making me.

PILAR
How the fuck did I end up on Full House.

RISHI
This isn't Full House!! Its some other show I don't know but I can't get out of it. PILARRR

PILAR
Well I'm not speaking any of this nonsen- Its been a long day but I'm ready to dance with someone. How about you..Para-shuram.

RISHI
OH GA TO NA. WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU ASSHOLES LAUGHING

PILAR
Oh he is so adorable.

SANDRA

Oh my god- Look at these two Terry. I think I see something brewing. Imagine if they get married.

TERRY

Sandra can you even imagine what our grandkids would look like!?

Audience laughs

RISHI

KIMIYO WE NEED TO GET THE FUCK out of here

KIMIYO

I don't want to do this anymore! Things are getting weird...

RISHI

Don't you think I know that?

KIMIYO

On the count of three we dip, ready?

KIMIYO AND RISHI

1, 2, 3

4

Scene 4- In the Darkness

4

Kimiyo and Rishi run out of their television shows. The television show members walk backwards as Kimiyo and Rishi run appearing to gradually vanish into the different.

KIMIYO

Well, that was ridiculous.

Rishi is silent.

KIMIYO

What?

Rishi remains silent.

KIMIYO

Rishi what's wrong?

RISHI

I don't wanna talk about it.

KIMIYO

Was the sitcom that bad?

(CONTINUED)

RISHI

I don't want to talk about it. Lets just get out of here.

KIMIYO

Word..Where are we though.

RISHI

I don't know. Where's the Elephant of Race?

KIMIYO

I don't know.

RISHI

Hello?

KIMIYO AND RISHI

Hello?

RISHI

We should have never even come to thi-

Dark. Lights swing like pendulums.
Rishi and Kimiyo get lost within
the space and subsequently try and
make their way to the Elephant.

KIMIYO

Shh.

RISHI

What?

BODYLESS VOICE

Rishi

RISHI

What!

KIMIYO

I think it's the Elephant!

RISHI

I don't think it is

BODYLESS VOICE

Kimiyo

Kimiyo and Rishi walk curiously
around the space.

KIMIYO

Be still I can't see anything!

Hey you two!
ELEPHANT OF RACE

Hello?
RISHI

Hello?
KIMIYO

The Bodyless Voice continues to whisper their names as the two get lost. The Elephant of Race appears in an attempt to gather them.

ELEPHANT OF RACE
We need to head back on the road, it's already gotten dark out-

Rishi...
BODYLESS VOICE

I know! I'm coming!
RISHI

That's not me!
ELEPHANT OF RACE

Kimiyo...
BODYLESS VOICE

Heard ya loud and clear! I'm on my way!
KIMIYO

Rishi is walking across the stage and is surrounded by people with white masks on. As he walks, he nearly bumps into a mother and a child with their white masks facing forward. The mother guards her child and moves him away from Rishi. As Rishi walks, people follow him from behind. When he turns back to look at them they disperse. As he moves across the stage all the people with their white masks facing forward look at him. Rishi becomes more aware of all the people moving around him but only proceeds to move faster. He soon feels people chasing him and surrounding him.

Kimiyo enters the Fear space. As she enters, she is now in lime green clothes. A voice begins to speak overhead as she enters.

Kimiyo...
BODYLESS VOICE

KIMIYO

Hello?

NARRATOR

The Heart Bellied Heetches had hearts on their chests.

Spotlight on those in lime green with hearts. These are the heart bellied heetches.

NARRATOR

The Heetches without Hearts had none on their breasts.

Spotlight on those in lime green without hearts. These are the no heart bellied heetches.

NARRATOR

There were some Heetches who could run in between, but they found it hard to find themselves seen.

Spotlight on those in lime green with half hearts. These are half-bellied heetches.

NARRATOR

The hearts were cool. Or maybe they weren't.

KIMIYO

C'mon we're all wearing lime green. Can't we all just get turnt?

The Heart bellied Heetches roll their eyes.

NARRATOR

Those with the hearts had some real-and some not. Some wanted to share the old things they were taught. Like one who said

HEART 1

Your nose is too green! Wipe it away so no one will be mean!

NARRATOR

Or another who said

HEART 2

The reason the heetches will never reach peace is some heetches are educated and some heetches are beasts.

NARRATOR

Those without hearts and those with just half wished they could pass this whole thing with a laugh. But sadly they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

couldn't, for it is a fact- the heetch dynamics in play were strong and intact. Was it hearts that they needed? Or something much bigger to be planted and seeded? They wanted change. And they wanted in NOW! Then something rolled in with a rather large POW!

NARRATOR

A strange looking stranger rolled in a box. He announced to the Heetches, as he got up on top

STRANGE MAN

Friends, Heetches, Countrymen

NARRATOR

In a voice filled with charm

STRANGE MAN

I am here to help you! I mean you no harm! You need what you need and I've got what you want. I promise I've brought this, not to just stunt. But to show you a world when you become what you dream, of course selecting from the small pool of options you can see.

Everyone leans in to squint and read the paper he holds. Strange Man folds it up. The Strange Man opens up the box and this machine looking thing comes out.

STRANGE MAN

A collective price of \$200, for you all to have a heart. Fifty dollars each if each Heetch pays their part.

NARRATOR

They all ran inside with eager Heetch faces. It blipped and zopped and moved in a few places. It zooted and booted and klanked all around. Till the whole thing stopped, and didn't make a sound. The heetches came out where they'd come from the start, except this time each Heetch had their own heart!

NO HEART 1

Now look at us Heetches! We all look the same. Now maybe we can get some Heetch fame!

HEART 1

Plain Heetches. What nerve! I earned my heart. Now you can go pay and get one from some tart?

NARRATOR

Strange man slithered near with a smirk on his face. He said

(CONTINUED)

STRANGE

My Heart bellied comrades! Come with me! Let's touch base. You're clearly down. And I know what to do! Just trust in me and I'll follow through. For a small collective fee you can have two hearts and become an even better work of art.

The OG hearts fly into the machine on the other side. It kerplunks and the others come out.

NARRATOR

With their eyebrows up and noses in the sky. The two Hearted Heetches catwalked on by.

HEART 2

You have more work to do if you really want to shine. That's why us heart bellied heetches have two upon thine.

NARRATOR

The other Heetches got rightfully upset. Needing two hearts now, as a safety net. Then appeared our strange man, as he always does. He pressed a button and machines began to buzz. Everyone rushed with their eyes ablaze.. The heart bellied heetches were in such a craze. In! Out! Up! About! In again out again. Out again in again. They paid him money again and again. The hearts they kept coming and they wouldn't end. Through day and through night the machines were screeching. They didn't realize it was their skin it was eating. But much too late the heetches figured this out. They tried to scream. They tried to shout. And if their strength they tried to prove, another limb was yet removed. The bodies were moved and mashed all around. A mix up of colors, of red and of brown. And once he had collected all of their coins, our Mr. Strange Man with his box did rejoin. Putting a hat on his head, he laughed as he sped; in his car up the beach "They will never learn. No you can't teach a Heetch"

The man exits, Kimiyo and the crowd of Heetches part and exit as well. As they part, Rishi is revealed and the white masks are revealed. An exhausted Rishi runs to the front of the stage.

RISHI

I don't like this. I don't like this. Get the fuck away from me. I need to get out of here. Please leave me alone.

BODYLESS VOICE

Why don't you join them.

What?
RISHI

BODYLESS VOICE
Why are you letting them do this to you. You don't have to be like this. Join them. You know exactly what I mean.

RISHI
But I. I can't...I couldn't

BODYLESS VOICE
Then you're weak.

Bodyless voice continues to whisper
'Weak'

RISHI
I'm NOT weak. I'm not weak. I just....I.... I never thought about it..

Rishi looks around at the people in masks. He's frightened but intrigued.

RISHI
I've just never thought..

A few seconds pass and Rishi gets up. Suddenly all the people surround him and run around him. They then open up to reveal Rishi in a white mask. He's joined them. Blackout.

5

Scene 5- At Paradise

5

Lights come up on the Elephant of Race who has just found Kimiyo.

ELEPHANT OF RACE
KIMIYO!!! KIMIYO!!!!

KIMIYO
Where the FUCK were you.

ELEPHANT OF RACE
I told you guys not to leave my sight!!

KIMIYO
What was that? I mean- I saw those Heetch people get-How long was I in ther-

(CONTINUED)

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Six months.

KIMIYO

Six months?

ELEPHANT OF RACE

I'm so sorry Kimiyo- I was looking for you but this universe is surprisingly big and hard to get around. All parts of this imaginary will spend a lot of time trying to make you aware of the way your world works. But the scarier parts can make you feel like you should give up your tusks without a fight. Remember, your tusks are ivory. And ivory is one of the most valuable things in the world. but the GOOD news is.....WE'RE HERE.

KIMIYO

What.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

We've reached! Look over there.

Bright lights can be seen in the distant with silhouettes of people walking around. Alicia is heard singing in the background.

KIMIYO

You mean I was right outside here the whole time!!

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Yes!!

KIMIYO

Wait wheres Rishi.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

Oh well he's..

KIMIYO

Oh FUCK he's dead. He's dead.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

No Kim-

KIMIYO

I knew this would happen. I said I didn't-

ELEPHANT OF RACE

No Kimiyo he's--

Rishi is revealed in a black suit.
He appears different than before in
both manner and physical
appearance.

He's fine.
RISHI

Rishi.
KIMIYO

Hello.
RISHI

What happened? Are you okay? Look at you!!!
KIMIYO

I know.
RISHI

Where were you all this time.
KIMIYO

Well I've been many places actually.
RISHI

Let's hope they were better than where I went! Well I'm glad
you're safe. Also, I don't know if the Elephant told you but
our destination is right there? We made it! We should--
KIMIYO

Kimoyo
ELEPHANT OF RACE

What.
KIMIYO

Oh, yes it is.
RISHI

Well let's go..
KIMIYO

Oh. I'm not going in there.
RISHI

Why not?
KIMIYO

Kimoyo. Rishi's been-
ELEPHANT OF RACE

RISHI

Can you leave us alone for a second.

ELEPHANT OF RACE

umm I..

RISHI

Go.

KIMIYO

Whats going on?

RISHI

You know this world is really large. There's so many little universes and obstacles and places like that. You'd be surprised to see how much there is.

KIMIYO

Yeah lots of fucked up shit. What the fuck is going on, Rishi?

RISHI

Nothing's going on. I don't think its necessary for you to get that way with me.

KIMIYO

I don't understand. Where did you go when we got split up. What happened to you back there?

RISHI

It doesn't matter what happened to me then. All that matters is what I am now.

KIMIYO

And what are you now?

RISHI

One of the leaders here.

KIMIYO

You're running this place??

RISHI

Yes.

KIMIYO

You.

RISHI

Yes.

Running THIS place. KIMIYO

Yes. RISHI

Why? KIMIYO

If you can't beat 'em, join them. RISHI

What are you talking about? KIMIYO

Exactly what I'm saying. This place can be so much. It can make you weak or it can make you strong. So I chose to be strong. I chose to join them. And its amazing all the opportunities they've given me. They've recognized all the good things about me. How I lead. How I look. How smart I am. They really love how smart I am actually. They always talk about it. RISHI

Who the hell is them? And what do you mean you just chose? I didn't know we could just choose not to. KIMIYO

Well some of us can't. But I could. RISHI

Rishi do you know what I've been doing for the last six months. Where I've been?? In literal HELL. In loony fucking toon hell. I saw people killed! I- KIMIYO

I know where you've been. RISHI

What do you mean. KIMIYO

I mean I've known where you've been. RISHI

You do? And what the fuck were you planning to do about it. KIMIYO

Thats unfair. RISHI

KIMIYO

No I'm serious. You apparently have all this power. What were you planning on doing?

RISHI

Thats not how it works.

KIMIYO

Bullshit. You're a fucking coward.

RISHI

Oh fuck off. I'm not a coward. At least not anymore.

KIMIYO

You had a choice Rishi and you chose not to. I didn't get a choice. I don't get a choice. And if I did, I would have done some shit.

RISHI

That's bullshit and you know it

KIMIYO

No its not.

RISHI

Oh yes it is. If you were in my position you would have done exactly what I did.

KIMIYO

If thats what you want to believe.

RISHI

Kimiyo, do you know what was happening when we split up. I was being chased. Chased and threatened and taunted and it wasn't anything new, you know. It was the same shit that happened at every door. And I know those things pissed you off but they infuriated me. So amidst all that bullshit, I was offered a way out and I took it. And since then, I've had the time of my life. I'm powerful and important and people recognize that and I don't have to beg for respect anymore. I live well, I'm not looked down on and oh guess what people want to fuck me now. So do you think I'm going to choose to remain a victim. Fuck no. Why would I ever wanna be anything less than this? Why would anybody? So don't you dare act like you wouldn't have done the same thing because we both know you would have.

KIMIYO

I wasn't infuriated? I wasn't INFURIATED? I watched people stuck in a purgatory of physical exhaustion. I saw people shredded up into tiny little pieces, I was, over and over again and narrowly escaped. I sucked it up. I sucked it up because I didn't have a choice. Because I never have a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIMIYO (cont'd)

choice. Because that's what I have to do if I want stay strong. Not even in this fucking space does my black ass get the benefit of being somewhere that doesn't make me work the skin off my back. And by the way all the shit you described, I dealt with it and way worse. Way worse. But, I've done everything in my power to drown it out or fight it because we need to get home, and we need to get through this, and because you're my friend, but I would never turn my fucking back the way you have.

RISHI

Well then you're weak.

KIMIYO

Who are you?

RISHI

You can say what you want now but its not gonna change where you stand or where I stand. I made my choice.

KIMIYO

So thats it huh. You're just gonna be a politician of this hellhole and I'm never gonna see you again.

RISHI

Why would I leave a place that treats me well?

KIMIYO

Cause it's not you!

RISHI

You can go there if you want, Kimiyo.

KIMIYO

Are you serious.

RISHI

I'm not stopping you from that.

KIMIYO

But what about your friends? What about your family? What about

Suddenly, the world of people of color envelop Rishi and Kimiyo. Both of them look around overwhelmed at the variety and beauty of what they are seeing. The lighting looks like sunshine. A myriad of people of color surround and circle them engrossed in their own realities. Anya is playing.

(CONTINUED)

Alicia is singing. Avalon is dancing. Austin walks out writing a book. Jeszack is scratching beats. Taty and Sabina are folding fabrics. Rishi watches conflicted but moved. All of these things change as the members of the space begin to perform new things.

RISHI

You can go.

KIMIYO

Rishi-

RISHI

Just go. I love my life. I'm a winner now and I'm not going to abandon that for some world. I'm sorry we're parting ways, but that's just the way it has to be. Because I love my life. But, thank you for this. It's--nice to remember those things I'd forgotten. The smells and the sounds and the warmth..But no thank you, I love my life. I love my life.

Rishi loosens his tie.

THE END