

A HIGH SCHOOL DILEMMA

Written by

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Based on,
A High School Dilemma
A Short Fiction Novella

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

KANISE MARTIN, late teens, the typical all American cheerleader, in her English class. She digs through her bag as other students talk and laugh around her.

She finds her lip stick and mirror in the bottom of her bag and pulls them out. She looks in her mirror and applies lipstick, then throws them both in her bag. She is startled when the TRANSITION BELL RINGS.

KANISE

I wish Ms. Walker would come on...
Gosh!

Kanise remains at her desk as the other students leave the room. She watches the door as WILLIAM ROBINSON, late teens and a typical six foot high school basketball player, comes through the door to the room.

William daps the other students as they walk by then walks over to his seat. The final students leave the room as Kanise and William sit alone in the room.

WILLIAM

Hey Kanise.

KANISE

Hey there Will. How are you today?

WILLIAM

I'm fine. Do you know when Ms.
Walker is coming back?

KANISE

No, she didn't say. But you know
she will because she has to torture
us with endless homework.

WILLIAM

Oh. Well, all right then.

KANISE

You can wait if you want.

WILLIAM

That sounds good. Umm, Kanise, can
I ask you a question?

KANISE

Sure Will! You can ask me anything?

William gets up and walks over to Kanise and sits right beside her.

WILLIAM

Well, what happened between you and Khalil?

KANISE

How did you know about me and Khalil?

WILLIAM

Well, everybody has been talking about it... so what happened?

KANISE

Well, Khalil thought he could be with me, Christen and Natasha but I wasn't with it.

William shakes his head and frowns.

WILLIAM

Wow. Did it hurt you bad finding out he was like that?

KANISE

Yea, but that was so long ago. Right now, I'm interest in someone else.

William sits up and his shoulders straighten.

WILLIAM

Really? You're thinking about someone already?

Kanise smiles and looks away from him.

KANISE

Yea. Why do you say it like that?

WILLIAM

No reason.

KANISE

Don't lie. You think I'm moving too fast, don't you?

WILLIAM

I didn't say that.

KANISE

Then what are you saying William?

William begins to stutter and waves his hand for assistance.

WILLIAM

I'm saying... well, what I mean is--

IMANI DAVIDSON, late teens, a cheerleader as well, enters the room. She walks in and looks around the room under the desks and chairs. She looks over her shoulder at Kanise and William and flips her hand at them.

IMANI

Key Kanise. Hey Will. Have you seen my African American history textbook? And why are y'all in here alone?

KANISE

We are waiting for Ms. Walker.

IMANI

Tell her I will be right back.
Coach Shelton is gonna kill me if I don't find my book.

Imani shakes her head and leaves. William shakes his head at her.

WILLIAM

That girl is crazy.

KANISE

I know, but that's my boo. Imani been with me every step of the way since we were like 5.

William leans back and his eyes widen.

WILLIAM

She is, really? Wow. I don't see how you can do it. I couldn't.

KANISE

I know. She told me.

WILLIAM

Really. She told you what?

KANISE

That y'all talked this summer for like 2 months.

William hunches his shoulders and frowns his face.

WILLIAM

Please! It was like 3 weeks... and we stopped because she is crazy.

KANISE

Really?? She is a little out there,
but you learn to love her.

WILLIAM

Well, not me.

KANISE

Why not?

WILLIAM

Because... I love somebody else.

KANISE

You love somebody else??? Since
when?

WILLIAM

Since I transferred to this school.

Kanise frown her face and stands up. She looks at the ground.

KANISE

Really? It's someone who goes
here??

WILLIAM

Yeah. She goes here.

KANISE

Do I know her? Even though I know
she not prettier than me, maybe I
can hook you up?

William gets up and walks over towards Kanise. She sees him.
She smooths out her skirt around her hips and stares at the
floor.

WILLIAM

Well, since you feel that way,
there is something I need to tell
you.

KANISE

Really? What is that William?

William steps right up and kisses Kanise on the lips. She
takes a deep breath and stands on her tip toes. She closes
her eyes and kisses him back just as Imani enters, textbook
in hand. She sees them and drops her book.

IMANI

Kanise!!! You cheating bastard!!

Imani runs over to Kanise and slaps her face.

KANISE
Owww!!! Imani, that really hurt!!
Girl, are you crazy?

IMANI
No hoe, are you crazy?? Did you
think I was just gonna let you get
away with kissing my boyfriend?

WILLIAM
Ummm, ex-boyfriend. And barely
that.

IMANI
(turns to William)
And you, you skank of a man... how
dare you come between me and my
best friend???

Imani lunges at William but Kanise holds her back.

KANISE
Imani, it's not like that!!

IMANI
Really, you broke sisterhood but it
wasn't really like that. You take
his side and it ain't like that!!!

WILLIAM
Ummm, ex-boyfriend... and I think
it's important that that's been
said.

Kanise turns to William and waves her hand in front of her
neck.

KANISE
Will, don't help!!

Kanise turns to back to Imani and takes a deep breath.

KANISE (CONT'D)
We were just talking and the kiss
happened. And I would never take
his side over yours, and you know
that. You have to understand.

William steps around and gets between Kanise and Imani.

WILLIAM

Why? I'm not her boyfriend. We talked for 3 weeks. She can't lay claim to me. I am a person and I can play with who I want.

William turns to Imani and looks directly into her eyes.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

And I want to play with Kanise. You are just gonna have to deal with it. You're nice and all, but I can tell she likes me too.

William turns back to Kanise.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You do like me right?

Kanise shakes her head in affirmation.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

So if you were any kind of friend, you would want her to be happy.

Imani steps back and looks William up and down. She frowns her eyebrows.

IMANI

Oh really? Really? Now all of a sudden you want to be happy with someone. When we were together you were more concerned with basketball.

Imani looks Kanise up and down.

IMANI (CONT'D)

And now that you're ready for a relationship, you choose her!

They all stand silent around the room. Imani takes a few deep breaths and paces back and forth. She stops and walks over to Kanise.

IMANI (CONT'D)

Well Kanise, is that how you feel? You're gonna talk to him whether I like it or not, is that it???

Kanise looks down at the floor as she rubs her cheek.

KANISE

It's not really like that! I have wanted to talk to him ever since I stopped crying about Khalil.

Kanise grabs Imani's hand and rubs the back of her palm.

KANISE (CONT'D)

I just didn't want to say anything because I know that y'all talked and I didn't want to hurt you. You know that I would never hurt you. Not after all we have been through.

IMANI

Good. 'Cause I was the only person to stand beside you when your brother killed that girl and then himself in Leakin' Park two years ago.

William pauses and raises his eyebrows high. His mouth hangs open and he looks back and forth around the room.

WILLIAM

What?!?!?

KANISE

I know. But more than that... you are my sister. I love you and I would never hurt you. Not on purpose.

Imani takes a deep sigh.

IMANI

You didn't hurt me and you know I don't get hurt! I just hope I didn't hurt you.

Kanise rubs her hand against her cheek.

KANISE

Well, you did just slap the bejeezus out of my face.

IMANI

Well, you deserved it, but I'm sorry anyway. Let me know if he gets out of line, OK? You know I will bust his head to the white meat?

Kanise and Imani both laugh.

Imani picks up her textbook and leaves.

KANISE
Well, that was...

WILLIAM
Yea, it was. Girl, she slapped the
cowboy shit outta you!!! Is your
face OK?

KANISE
Yea, it only hurts a little.

WILLIAM
Good. Because I won't let anything
else happen to this beautiful face
ever again.

KANISE
You promise??

William cups his hands around Kanise's face. She kisses his
hand and wraps her hands around them. They take a moment and
look into each others eyes.

KANISE (CONT'D)
Except you felt yours way, way, way
before I felt mine.

WILLIAM
I know, right. Let's not make a big
deal about it, OK?

Kanise smiles. They hug.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
What was that I about your brother
and Leakin' Park?

KANISE
Well...

Cut to BLACK.