17 CONTINUED: (2) 17

Alicia, stumped and shamed, has no answer. Denise goes to leave, before she does...

DENISE (CONT'D)
I'll do my best. But if you're saying them believing me depends on me talking a certain way, then you're part of the problem.

This lands on Alicia as Denise exits, disappointed.

Scene III →

18 **INT. MONDALE SCHOOL - A/V ROOM - DAY (D2)** 18

START

Wendy and Rainbow review footage of Rainbow's story. They both wince. Rainbow hangs her head in defeat.

WENDY WHITEMAN
A lot of people have a natural talent for this. You do not.

RAINBOW
Well, I am more interested in--

WENDY WHITEMAN
That! Pursue that. It doesn't matter what that is. Follow your heart.

RAINBOW
It's science.

WENDY WHITEMAN
Honestly, I bet you'd be really good at that.

RAINBOW
Well, I'm already a commune weirdo. I can't stack "science nerd" on top.

WENDY WHITEMAN
If you love science, go for it.

RAINBOW
Sorry Miss Whiteman, but you'll never understand. You're perfect and beautiful.
(MORE)

7/10

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18 CONTINUED: 18

RAINBOW (CONT'D)
You get to be yourself everyday and everyone adores you. I'm just a weird mixed girl.

But as Rainbow moves to leave...

WENDY WHITEMAN
I'm sorry I didn't tell you this earlier, but I'm also a weird mixed girl.
(then)
Well, I'm not weird, but I am mixed. My dad is black.

RAINBOW
I thought you were white.

WENDY WHITEMAN
Everybody does. Look, back in the sixties, my mentor told me to keep that a secret because he thought it would hurt my career.
(then, brightening)
Luckily, things are different now. So say it loud, you're a mixed science nerd and you're proud!

RAINBOW
If things are so different now why don't you tell the truth?

WENDY WHITEMAN
It's just that people already think one thing about me. I'm not sure it's a good idea to switch things up.

RAINBOW
But it was all built on a lie. How can you tell me to be proud of who I am when you're scared of what we are?!

WENDY WHITEMAN
Rainbow--

RAINBOW
I can't believe I looked up to you.

Rainbow leaves. As Wendy's failed attempt lands on her...

END ACT TWO

STOP

9/10

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21 **INT. JOHNSON HOME - DEN - CONTINUOUS (N2)** 21

The whole family, minus Santamonica, is seated and ready for the show. Santamonica enters. Paul nods proudly at her big girl move. Santamonica sits next to Johan.

SANTAMONICA
Hey, can I sign your cast now?

JOHAN
Of course.

Johan pulls a Sharpie out of his cast, hands it to Santi.

JOHAN (CONT'D)
I saved you the best spot. Just keep it PG, okay?

SANTAMONICA
Fine...

ALICIA
Shh! Here it is!

Scene III → START

ANGLE ON TV: Wendy sits behind the anchor desk, shuffling papers as they do. Next to her is a male CO-ANCHOR.

WENDY WHITEMAN (ON TV)
...And congratulations to the Mondale School's Lady Roadrunners, who ran away with the state championship in volleyball. To tell you all about it, is Mondale student Rainbow Johnson.

Onscreen, Rainbow's face pops up, surrounded by the Volleyball Team.

RAINBOW
I'm Rainbow Johnson--

Back to Wendy at the anchor desk.

WENDY WHITEMAN
She sure is. All of us here at Eyewitness Nine News want to recognize Rainbow for her intensive research, strong writing, and ability to say her name.

Wendy sets down her papers, takes a deep breath. She sheds a layer of professional polish to speak from the heart.

9/10

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21 CONTINUED: 21

WENDY WHITEMAN (CONT'D)
I got into journalism to report the truth. But this charming, dynamic young woman made me realize how harmful it is not to live the truth.

MUSIC CUE: DIANA ROSS, "I'M COMING OUT"

WENDY WHITEMAN (CONT'D)
I'm half black.

The Co-Anchor does a spit take.

WENDY WHITEMAN (CONT'D)
I kept that a secret because somehow I thought that was for the best. But hiding who you are doesn't do the world any favors. Each of us has a gift to give. That's my story. Thank you, Rainbow.

BACK TO:

THE DEN:

Rainbow takes this in, vindicated. Alicia, proud mama, shares a congratulatory look with her baby girl. *

DENISE
Is this supposed to be a surprise? I knew that girl was mixed ever since she said "irregardless."

22 **INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY (D3)** 22

MUSIC CUE: DIANA ROSS, "I'M COMING OUT" CONTINUES

At the arbitration, Alicia and Harrison watch as Denise testifies. She gesticulates naturally, expressing herself fully. *

BOW (V.O.)
So even though code switching sometimes feels necessary, if we do it too much we lose who we are.

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