

CHAMELEON

Written by

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EXT. GIGI'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

A sign displays "Luxury Living" for this multi-story complex.

Shaped like a coke bottle and dressed to flaunt it, GIGI WHITCOMB, 20s, throws clothing, shoes, and accessories down from a balcony towards RUSS, 20s, a rugged young man. Gigi yells.

GIGI
Take your stuff and go.

Russ struggles to catch small items while dodging the big stuff.

Conservatively dressed and not-as-shapely, NAENAE WASHINGTON, 20s, passes shoes to Gigi.

NAENAE
Show him, Gi. Show him he can't dog
you out.

Gigi aims and throws.

GIGI
Walk your no-good ass home!

NaeNae makes faces when the shoes whack Russ on the head. He dashes to the stairs.

Gigi dials cell on speaker-phone. The DISPATCHER answers.

DISPATCHER
911, what's your emergency?

GIGI
You better grab your stuff and run.

Russ freezes on the stairs, turns and retreats.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Never mind, he's gone.

RUSS
This ain't finished!

GIGI
Oh, I bet your goat-ass it is.

Russ gives Gigi the finger. NaeNae grabs Gigi and pulls her into the apartment. The door slams.

Russ sprints with an armful of possessions to a run-down sedan.

INT. GIGI'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

NaeNae blocks the door. Gigi attempts to wiggle past her.

NAENAE

Gi! Quit. Enough is enough.

Gigi turns and points at the wall.

GIGI

Look at that! Look what he did.

Words are scribbled on the wall: bitch, slut, and whore.

NAENAE

He's the whore. We'll make it go away.

GIGI

I keep choosing the wrong guys. I think my picker is broken. I always pick and fall for jerks.

NAENAE

Yeah, you invite this drama.

GIGI

I am through with these no good --

NAENAE

-- You don't need a man! Good or otherwise.

GIGI

You say that 'cause you have one. I'm going to get a good man. Watch.

NaeNae shakes her head and drags Gigi out of the room.

NAENAE (O.S.)

I've heard that before.

Water runs. Pots and pans clang.

LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They return with soap and water, scrubbing the words away.

SERIES OF SHOTS - GIGI IN HER APARTMENT

-- Alone in her apartment, Gigi picks at food.

-- Gigi has pizza delivered. Empty boxes are stacked.
 -- Gigi comes in her door and flops on the couch.
 -- On the couch, Gigi stares at the TV.
 -- Gigi browses dating sites on her laptop.
 -- Pizza is delivered. Gigi adds to the empty boxes.
 -- Gigi reclines on her bed. Her cell phone sounds the
 "Friends" theme. She does not move.

INT./EXT. GIGI'S APARTMENT - LIVINGROOM - DAY

There is a knock on the door. Gigi drags herself off the couch. When she opens the door, NaeNae pulls her out.

NAENAE

Girl, who are you hiding from? You
 have got to get out of here.

Gigi laughs.

GIGI

You said I don't need anyone. I'm
 never alone when I'm with myself.

NAENAE

Come on nut-bush.

GIGI

I asked you to stop calling me
 that.

NAENAE

I will. When you stop acting like
 one.

EXT. HIGHLANDS HILL PARK - DAY

A large wooded part with a hiking trail that curves upward.
 NaeNae drives into the parking lot.

EXT. HIGHLANDS HILL PARK - HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Gigi and NaeNae trudge up the trail. The wind blows trees,
 branches, and leaves. The TREES whisper.

TREES (V.O.)

She's back.

GIGI
Yeah, I know. Get over it.

NaeNae looks around and at Gigi. They walk towards the trail.

GIGI (CONT'D)
We were here when I broke up with --

NAENAE
-- Levi, Tonto, Nick, Bronze --

GIGI
-- Okay, I get it.

Gigi and NaeNae stop. RUNNERS jog by. They glance at Gigi.
Gigi hears whispers.

RUNNERS (V.O.)
No, she doesn't.

NAENAE
No, you do not. You're still in the
valley.

NaeNae continues up the trail. Gigi dashes to catch up.
Behind them, Russ's car cruises the parking lot then speeds
off.

Gigi and Naenae continue to huff and puff their way up the
winding trail. A breeze gusts. The TREES whisper.

TREES
She still hasn't got it.

GIGI (V.O.)
They don't know.

NAENAE
Girl, are you losing your mind?

Gigi ignores her. They continue to huff and puff their way up
the trail.

EXT. TRAIL - HALF-WAY UP - DAY

Gigi lags behind. She takes deep breaths and sweats. NaeNae
has not broken a sweat.

Hundreds of feet below, the parking lot appears tiny. Out of
breath, Gigi stops.

NAENAE

Here we go again. You're halfway to the top and you've pooped out. Look at me!

Gigi turns to face NaeNae.

NAENAE (CONT'D)

This is where we are --

GIGI

-- I know the drill. We've done this way too many times.

Gigi points up the trail towards the hilltop.

GIGI (CONT'D)

That is where I want to be. I have been slumming in the valley. Taking the easy way. I am not at the top.

They hug, then NaeNae holds Gigi at arms length.

NAENAE

Gigi, it's like the climb. It's not getting easier. Something different has gotta happen.

There is a gust of wind. The TREES AND BUSHES move, whisper, and echo.

TREES AND BUSHES

I hope she gets it, or something different has to happen.

Gigi looks around her. NaeNae ignores her.

NAENAE

Gi, I need to make a call.

NaeNae walks out of Gigi's earshot. Gigi peers up the trail.

INT. SUV - DAY

"Mr. Big Stuff" ringtone plays. Parked in front of a pool hall and smoking a cigarette, sits a suave and handsome man, SOCRATES, 30, answers the cell.

INTERCUT

Socrates is in his SUV and NaeNae on the hilltop. She whispers.

SOCRATES

Hey babe. What's up?

NAENAE

Your plan is up. You have to show her that she can't keep trusting all these guys.

SOCRATES

So you're ready to try it my way? Your talking hasn't changed anything? I told you.

NAENAE

I only want her to see that she keeps doing the same thing and it is not working. Don't hurt her.

SOCRATES

Nothing like that. She needs to learn she can't trust everybody. Men are dogs. You can trust me.

NAENAE

Okay, we'll be at the mall.

INT. NAENAE'S CAR - DAY

Gigi and NaeNae are in the car at a stoplight. Gigi looks over at a guy in another car. Her car window zooms up. Gigi's head spins to look at NaeNae.

GIGI

Really?

NAENAE

Haven't you learned anything?

GIGI

I was only looking.

NAENAE

You're always looking.

GIGI

I'm sorry. I want something better.

NAENAE
Maybe you don't need anything.

GIGI
When am going to meet this
imaginary man of yours?

NAENAE
Sooner than you think. You have to
pass the test.

Gigi sighs. The stoplight changes to green.

NAENAE (CONT'D)
But first, we go shopping!

INT. MALL - DAY

Gigi and NaeNae stroll the mall. Hot mannequins in cool clothes are all around. Gigi turns to see a handsome man observing her. It is Socrates.

NAENAE
Do you see that!

GIGI
What? See what?

Gigi whips her head around to see NaeNae pointing at a stylish mannequin behind a shop window. Gigi sighs in relief.

GIGI (CONT'D)
Oh, no. That is a nice outfit.

Gigi looks around. Socrates is gone.

INT. MALL - LATER

Socrates reappears walking at distance parallel to Gigi. Gigi smiles at him. He ignores her. Gigi pouts.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Gigi and NaeNae drop clothes on the counter. Gigi looks over. Socrates strides past, sporting a wide grin. Gigi maneuvers herself to keep him out of NaeNae's sight.

NAENAE
What are you looking at?

GIGI
Nothing. Clothes.

NaeNae smiles. She watches Gigi's strange actions.

NAENAE
Oh, you're up to something.

INT. MALL - LATER - NIGHT

Keeping Socrates in her sights and out of NaeNae's view, Gigi plays a game of cat-and-mouse. She hides behind pillars or in a doorway, then prances to the next hiding spot.

NAENAE
Gi! What are you doing?

GIGI
I'm just having fun. Isn't that
what we're supposed to be doing?

NaeNae grunts.

NAENAE
Why does it seem like you're having
all the fun?

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Gigi and NaeNae walk to the car. Gigi looks around.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

NaeNae's car begins to back up then slams to a halt.

NAENAE
What the helluva driver is this?

Socrates's SUV blocks them in. NaeNae taps her horn. He hops out and swaggers over to Gigi's side of the car.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Gigi's finger pushes the window button to keep it down.

SOCRATES
No need for that foxy ladies. I can
toot my own horn.

NAENAE

Do you remember what I said?
Sometimes you are tested.

GIGI

Go on with that. This might be it.

Gigi ignores NaeNae. She gawks at Socrates. NaeNae sits with her head cocked. She studies them. His introduction snaps Gigi out of her daze.

SOCRATES

I'm Socrates. You know, like the famous philosopher.

GIGI

Gigi... like Gigi.

She reaches out to shake his hand. He takes it and kisses it. NaeNae leans over looking at Socrates.

NAENAE

Oh no, you didn't. You think we're in France or Italy? We are not.

NaeNae huffs and sits back.

GIGI

That's NaeNae. She's grumpy because she has an imaginary friend.

NaeNae shakes her head and whispers to herself.

NAENAE

Oh hell-uva no, she did not!

SOCRATES

Could I call you, get to know you?

GIGI

Of course.

Gigi fumbles with her cell phone like she has butterfingers. Socrates grabs it and dials.

SOCRATES

I'm calling my cell. I'll have your number and you'll have mine. Is that cool?

Gina smiles and bobs her head. Socrates' ring tone plays "Mr. Big Stuff."

Returning the phone, he holds Gigi's hand. NaeNae leans over.

NAENAE
Are we through here?

Electricity POPS between their fingers when he lets go.

GIGI
Wow! You are electrifying.

NAENAE
Gigi! Have you already forgot?

MALL PARKING LOT - LATER

Socrates' SUV is backed into an isolated spot in the mall.

INT. SOCRATES' SUV - NIGHT

The glow of a cell phone screen illuminates his face.

His finger slides across the display searching Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. Scrolling down, Gigi's profile appears under Facebook, Linked-In, and Google+ sites.

SOCRATES
Gotcha! Let's see what you like.

MONTAGE - GIGI AND SOCRATES

-- Socrates is at the car door to assist Gigi like royalty.

-- Gigi is being wined-and-dined at a fancy restaurant. Both of their cell phones take turns playing ring tones. Neither of them answer. They laugh and power the phones off.

-- They rock climb at an amusement park. He makes no effort and allows Gigi to win. She holds her arms up in victory. Their cell phones take turns playing ring tones. Neither of them answer.

INT. NAENAE'S APARTMENT - LIVINGROOM - DAY

NaeNae sits on her couch, her cell phone next to her. She recalls Socrates's last words.

SOCRATES (V.O.)
Nothing like that. She needs to
learn she can't trust everybody.
Men are dogs. You can trust me.

She heaves sobs.

EXT. PIER AT BEACH - SUNSET

Gigi and Socrates are silhouetted by the setting sun.

GIGI

Wow. You take me all the places I
love. You know me so well. How?

Socrates shushes her with his fingers to her lips.

SOCRATES

Our time is now.

Gigi leans forward softly kisses his fingers. He pulls her to him and kisses her lips. She leans in to continue.

"Friends" ringtone plays. Gigi stops and sighs.

GIGI

Dang Nae, bad timing.

She takes out her phone. NaeNae's face flashes. He grasps her hand and swipes decline.

SOCRATES

I'm sorry baby. Your friend is
stealing our moment.

His "Mr. Big Stuff" ringtone plays. Gigi eyeballs him.

GIGI

Aren't you going to answer that?

He avoids Gigi's glance.

SOCRATES

No baby, this is our time.

He moves forward to hold her. She backs up.

GIGI

You don't want to talk because you
don't want to be heard. Who is it?

His cell flashes NaeNae's picture. He tosses it to the ocean.

SOCRATES

There is no one but you baby.

Gigi falls into his arms. The sun sets behind them.

EXT. GIGI'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

NaeNae's car is parked in front of the complex.

INT. NAEENAE'S CAR - DAY

NaeNae beats a photo of Socrates displayed on her cell phone.

INT. BAR AND POOL HALL - NIGHT

Socrates is setting up a shot. Gigi sits at a booth. She strums her fingers loud enough to catch his attention.

SOCRATES
I cannot concentrate.

Socrates glares at her. He places the pool cue over her fingers and pushes to stop her strumming.

NaeNae's face flashes on her phone and the ringtone plays. She does not attempt to answer. Her eyes tear, she snatches her hand from under the cue and runs to the bathrooms.

At the entrance, Russ strolls in. Socrates shakes his head and motions for Russ to leave. He silently mouths the words, "Get out!" Russ scurries out.

Gigi strides up to Socrates.

GIGI
Take me home.

SOCRATES
But baby --

She takes places her fingers on his lips just as he had done.

EXT. GIGI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gigi puts up her hand to stop Socrates from entering. After her door closes, he hits the wall hard with his fist.

INT. GIGI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The TV is on, yet Gigi sits on the couch staring at the cell in her hand. She selects the visual voice mail from NaeNae .

NAENAE (V.O.)
Gigi, what's happening with you? We need to talk. Call me.

Gigi calls NaeNae. INTERCUT GIGI TALKING TO NAENAE

GIGI

Hey Nae, I'm so sorry I haven't called. You know, Socrates and I.

NAENAE (V.O.)

I know. Gigi, you cannot tell him what I am going to tell you.

GIGI

What Nae?

NAENAE (V.O.)

The man I was seeing. It was Socrates.

GIGI

No. Are you serious? What the fuck!

Her jaw drops. She looks down at NaeNae's picture.

NAENAE

I can explain.

She pushes "End call," selects "Reject call," then powers the phone down.

She lies on the couch, closing her eyes.

FADE OUT.