

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY 1

Silence. The hallways are empty. And then the bell RINGS. Students pour from classroom doors, flooding the halls with laughter, gossip and hormones. The make-up is predominantly African-American. We find a girl, HOLLI --17, holding court with her TWO GIRLS, then a GROUP OF BOYS eyeing the a GIRL that passes, and then a BOY kissing his GIRL. And finally the CAMERA finds SUMMER ATKINS, 18, a teenage mother, walking with JUANITA THOMAS, 17, beautiful, and a player, and LAMONT, an 18 year old student/athlete, playfully wrestling Juanita over her stick of gum. They stop at Summer's locker. She pulls it open. KIYAH JACKSON, a cute and socially aware 17 year old, approaches.

KIYAH

Hey y'all, what's good? They answer, "Nothing."

SUMMER

Y'all heard about the blood drive? Tamecka in the office said they couldn't use like half the blood 'cause it had AIDS in it.

LAMONT

That's 'cause all them high school girls are messing with them grown men.

KIYAH

Y'all are stupid. Don't you know that's just a rumor?

SUMMER

Then how come some lady is coming to talk to all the gym classes?

JUANITA

Well I ain't going to gym then 'cause I'm not trying to hear nobody talk about AIDS for an hour.

LAMONT

You better be in class.

JUANITA

Why's that?

LAMONT

(flirtatious --)
'Cause I always like to know where my girl is.

SUMMER
Girl, you sprung.

KIYAH
Sprung.

JUANITA
Please, he the one that's wide-
open.
(then --)
But anyway, what we on after
school?

KIYAH
I want to hit up the Triple A, get
something cute for tonight.

SUMMER
What's for tonight?

KIYAH
Oh nothing, Ant just stopping by a
little later, that's all.

JUANITA
Kiyah, what you think you're gonna
get with four dollars that's gonna
impress that rich boy.

KIYAH
Girl you gotta quit playin' with
me.

JUANITA
What?

KIYAH
I am not playin' with you.

JUANITA
I'm just sayin', you know you ain't
got no money.

KIYAH
Why you always sayin' I'm broke?

JUANITA
'Cause you broke!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY 2

Kiyah, Summer and Juanita lounge on the bleachers as their fellow students loudly find seats. Their GYM TEACHER claps for their attention.

GYM TEACHER

Alright class, settle down. Have a seat. Thanks for showing up on time, guys. Alright guys listen up. OK, quiet down. We have guest speaker here today, she's gonna talk to you about HIV and AIDS, alright? So I want you to pay attention and listen up. If you guys don't think you're mature enough to handle this conversation, please save us the time, stand up and leave right now, OK? [to MS. BROWN] Alright, they're all yours.

MS. BROWN

Hey guys, what's up, how you doing? I'm Ms. Brown and I'm about to get real personal with you. Who here has ever been sexually active?

MALE STUDENT

I ain't had sex yet, but I'll let you be my first.

MS. BROWN

And out of all of you, how many of you have had unprotected sex?

Two students raise their hands -- a BOY and Juanita. Juanita glances around, then --

JUANITA

Ooh, y'all know ya'll be lying, boy.

MS. BROWN

OK, first off I appreciate your honesty. But I gotta say ladies and gentlemen, every time you have unprotected sex you are putting your life at risk. And not just your life, but your partner's life as well.

BOY

But uh, when I did it, it was with my girl and I know she ain't burning.

MS. BROWN

But you can't always be sure. Have you two been tested?

BOY

Nah, but I ain't got no lumps or nothing like that.

KIYAH

That doesn't mean anything. You might have it and not show symptoms for years.

MS. BROWN

That's right. That's why you must get tested regularly.

BOY

Whatever man, I still say you could tell.

MS. BROWN

When I was seventeen I had a boyfriend. And he was the star basketball player at our school, and he was fine, and I loved him. I trusted him, so we never used protection. And then one day I went to the doctor just for a routine check up and found out that I'd been infected with HIV. And he'd been sleeping with my best friend behind my back. So I guess we share something else now, too. [to a girl who raises her hand] Yes?

MAYA

Even if you do get it, it's not a big deal anymore, right? They got drugs and stuff. I mean, look at you.

MS. BROWN

I don't want to scare anybody from getting tested because you can live with the results. You know, I have a job, I have my friends...well, most of them.

(MORE)

MS. BROWN(cont'd)

And the drugs are getting better. But living with this disease is really hard--physically and emotionally. Every day I wake up with the fear that the drugs are gonna stop working. And unfortunately, one day they will. It could be ten years from now, it could be four months from now.

So when I say get tested and use protection, I'm not trying to mimic some public service announcement. I'm trying to give guys you information I wish somebody had given me.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY 3

ANT

What's up, lil' mama?

KIYAH

Hey.

ANT

What's goin' on, Juanita?

JUANITA

You gonna let us push that Navigator over to Triple A?

ANT

Sorry, I got class. [to Kiyah]
I just stopped by to holla at you for a minute.

ANT (CONT'D)

So you thought about what we talked about?

KIYAH

Yeah.

ANT

So you ready for me?

KIYAH

Yeah, I think so.

ANT

So, I guess I'll be over later on then.

KIYAH

I'll see you a little later.

ANT

Well, take this, [handing Kiyah two fifties] buy yourself something nice.

KIYAH

Alright, see you later. [to Juanita] Look like I ain't got four dollars now.

JUANITA

Shut up. Girl, what you gonna get?

INT. KANE/SUMMER'S APARTMENT - DAY 4 4

SUMMER

Hey, baby.

KANE

What's up baby?

SUMMER

[to the baby] Hey man, how was your day? [to Kane] You call my Uncle about that job?

KANE

Man, now you know I make more money in one night than your Uncle makes in a week, and I ain't haulin' no bricks. I'm a hustler, that's how my daddy made a living. That's all I know.

SUMMER

Yeah, and you barely know your Daddy 'cause he's in and out of jail so much.

KANE

Whatever...

SUMMER
[picking up and answering Kane's
cell phone after he leaves the
room] Hello?

HOLLI (O.C.)
Hello? Let me talk to Kane.

SUMMER
Who is this?

HOLLI (O.C.)
Is *this* Kane?

SUMMER
Holli? What you doin' calling my
baby daddy's phone?

HOLLI (O.C.)
Correction, Boo-boo, *our* baby
daddy. Yeah, that's right. I'm
pregnant.

SUMMER
Yeah? Well good luck finding the
father. But um, don't call his
phone no more.

KANE
[coming back into the room] Man,
what you doing with my phone?

SUMMER
(with attitude --)
So you still messin' with Holli,
huh?

KANE
Man, when I got time to mess with
Holli?

SUMMER
Probably when you out all night.

KANE
I'm out all night getting us money
so our son can eat.

SUMMER
So now she pregnant?

KANE

Look Summer, I ain't been with
Holli in a long time and even if I
was I stayed strapped up, so it
can't be mine. She lyin'.

SUMMER

She better be lyin'.

INT. KIYAH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

ANT

You know I'm really feelin' this
blouse you're wearin'.

KIYAH

Thank you. But you know what Ant?
You need to stop givin' me so much
money.

ANT

You know I don't mind doin' stuff
for you. Soon as I get degree,
we're gonna move down South where
my family's got some land, and I'm
gonna build you a house from the
ground.

KIYAH

Why?

ANT

Why do you think? It's 'cause I
love you.

KIYAH

I love you too.

ANT

What's wrong? You scared?

KIYAH

No. Umm, you got a rubber?

ANT

No, baby, it's your first time. If
I put on a rubber it's gonna hurt.
I', not tryin' to hurt you. Don't
worry I'm not gonna get you
pregnant.

KIYAH

No, it's not that. It's just...

ANT

What? You think I'm dirty?

KIYAH

No.

ANT

Then what? You know what, sometimes I wonder why I mess with you. You're still a little girl. Look, I'm sorry. I love you. I wanna feel the real you. Don't you want our first time together to be special?

KIYAH

Yeah...

INT. SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY 8 8

JUANITA

[to the gym teacher] My stomach...ugh. Sorry. [to Kiyah and Summer as gym teacher walks away] Y'all remember that boy J-Roc?

SUMMER

Yeah, what about him?

JUANITA

That boy got talent.

KIYAH

You slept with him? Girl, you a slut.

JUANITA

Just because you a virgin and too scared to give it up don't make me no slut. I'm just secure in my sexuality.

KIYAH

For your information, I'm not a virgin. Me and Ant made love last night.

SUMMER

What!

JUANITA
Girl, was it good?

KIYAH
Girl, why you doing Lamont like that? He's good to you.

JUANITA
I'm sure he messing around, too.

KIYAH
Well not all boys are dogs. My Ant's not.

JUANITA
Girl, you just now started having sex with him. What you think he been doin' before then? Huh? He got money and he in college. I show 'em no love, Boo. 'Cause you better believe they don't love you. They love what they can get from you. I'm in it for the fun, just like them.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER 9 9

GIRL [O.C.]
There she [Summer] is right there, Holli. So what she say?

HOLLI
When I called Kane phone last night she answer like, "good luck finding the father." Like she don't know what's good. [to Summer]
Yeah, you know what's good.

SUMMER
No, I don't. Let me know what's good.

HOLLI
Our baby daddy last night. Now that was good.

Summer shoves Holli against the lockers. The girls get buck, quickly drawing a crowd. TWO SECURITY GUARDS run up on them and pull them apart.

SECURITY GUARD 1

Hey! Break it up! Break it up!

SECURITY GUARD 2

[to the crowd] Get outta here!
Leave right now before I send all
y'all home! Leave!

DEAN OF STUDENTS

What's goin' on here, what just
happened?

HOLLI

She jumped on me and I'm pregnant.
[to Summer] Yeah, that's right, you
goin' to jail!

SUMMER

She's trying to say my man's the
father!

DEAN OF STUDENTS

You need to go see a doctor. Let's
go call your mother, sweetie.

HOLLI

No, no please don't call my mama.
I'm not pregnant. Please don't call
her.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

This doesn't make any sense. Am I
to understand that you all are
fighting over a guy that both of
you are sleeping with? Did you all
listen to anything that the AIDS
counselor told you last week? Come
on ladies, let's go. Let's go to
my office, come on.

EXT. KANE/SUMMER'S APARTMENT - LATE DAY 10 10

KANE

Man, why you fight that girl?

Summer stares at him, tired. Finally --

SUMMER

She ain't just gonna lie and say she's pregnant if she hasn't at least been messin' with you. I can't keep doin' this, Kane. You living foul, and you got me acting stupid. It's not the kind of example I wanna set for my son.

KANE

Our son.

SUMMER

You either wanna be with me or you don't. And if you do, I won't have to fight for you.

KANE

Summer, I love you. Holli came at me, I slipped up. But baby I swear to God from now on things gonna be different. It's gonna be you, me, and Ty. Baby I'm serious, I swear to God on my mama, things are gonna be different. And I'll take that destruction job. It's just hard. I wanna be a good example for my our son. Baby I'm serious though, on my mama, and God, everything. I love you. You feel me? You there?

INT. LAMONT'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATE DAY 11 11

Juanita and Lamont lay on his bed, kissing.

JUANITA

[as Lamont goes to put on a condom]
What you doin'? You don't need that.

LAMONT

I think I should strap up.

JUANITA

Don't worry. I trust you.

LAMONT

Um...I know you been...with other dudes, so...

INT. KIYAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 12 12

KIYAH

[leaving a voice message for Ant]
Ant, I keep callin' you. Why you not answering my calls? I mean if it's somethin' I did we can fix it. You know what, just call me back when you get the message, OK? Bye.

INT. ALMA CLINIC - WAITING AREA - DAY 13 13

KIYAH

I still can't believe he just cut me off like that.

JUANITA

So you got played. 'Still don't know why we here. It ain't like you juiced him raw or nothin'. [in response to Kiyah fidgeting] What? Ain't this something. And all those lectures you gave us?

SUMMER

Leave her alone. We all been dumb. I mean, Kane told me condoms were for hoes and that I was his wifey. What if I...what about my son...

JUANITA

You know what, I don't wanna know.

KIYAH

We all agreed we'd do it together.

INT. ALMA CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

NURSE

[to Kiyah] OK, can you open up a little? Alright.

NURSE

[to Summer] Alright, open up...little more. Thanks. And up...around...there we go.

NURSE

[to Juanita] Alright, why don't you open your mouth for me...thanks.

(MORE)

NURSE(cont'd)

Almost done. Alright, I'll have your results in twenty minutes, OK?

EXT. ALMA CLINIC - LATER

SUMMER

So...why ain't nobody talkin'?

JUANITA

Well I'll go. The lady told me I was negative.

SUMMER

Me too. I thought I'd be happy, but I just feel stupid, like why did I take all those chances, you know?

JUANITA

Please, I *am* happy. But I knew I was clean the whole time anyway.

SUMMER

[to Kiyah] Why you so quiet, Kiyah, what's wrong with you?

KIYAH

He burned me.

SUMMER

What? What did he give you girl?

KIYAH

HIV!

SUMMER

Oh my God, Kiyah.

KIYAH

Oh my God! Why's this happening to me?

SUMMER

Calm down, Kiyah, calm down. It's gonna be OK. Calm down. Calm down. Yes, it's gonna be OK. Oh my God...we love you, we here for you Kiyah.

KIYAH

Why's this happening?

KIYAH (V.O.)

She's dying, and it just ain't right, she's crying every night. One couldn't begin to explain the pain, or even the love she felt for a man she thought was real, so she gave in to his needs when he said he wanted to know how she really feels.

She's dying, a quiet death, but to the average eye she's in perfect health. And it's such a shame to trade a moment of pleasure for a lifetime of pain. All for him and his games.

She's dying, before she got a chance to live her life, dying to be his girl, dying to be his wife, yet all he ever gave her was lonely nights, and a disease that would claim her life. It's crazy what life will take you through, and it's funny what love will make you do, like contract a disease from a man you was faithful to, but he never felt the same way for you.

She's dying, women like her are dying, leaving their children crying. And as she glances in the mirror before her is an empty reflection, pondering on the fact that she should have used protection.

She's dying, we are dying. No matter how things seem, we share the same thing, dope fiends, teens, even our African queens...

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

JUANITA

"...It's time we wake up and see what sex really means.

So please if you respect yourself, protect yourself, because we're dying!"

That was written by one of my best friends. She was infected with the HIV virus when she was seventeen. Watching her fight for her life for the last six years was a huge wake up call for me. She's the reason I'm here today. (takes a deep breath --) So, I'm about to get real personal with ya'll. Who here has been sexually active?