

A DIFFERENT WORLD (2025 REBOOT) SPEC PILOT

written by

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COLD OPEN

1

INT. HILLMAN DORM ROOM - NIGHT

1

Top 40s Hip Hop blares loudly in the Hillman male dormitory halls. Co eds linger in the hall, nodding to the music, chopping it up and drinking from red solo cups. The music comes from one of the rooms, which is the one we enter:

As a FRAT BROTHER in Hillman Maroon and White, with arms around a HAZEL (quirky, smart, a young Missy Elliot type), exit the room. She whispers in his ear. He grins.

Inside is a dorm room party: beds pushed to the sides, tables filled with red solo cups, several jugs of fruit juice and a bottles of SVEDKA VODKA.

Inside we meet:

---KOJO (20, razor sharp) holding court.

--DEBORAH (19, pretty and affable)

---SHAQUILLE (20, GQ looks but he knows it) who tries to game up a PRETTY SORORITY SISTER sorority sister. She waves him off like "Boy, Please!".

—And a host of other students having a good time. Shaquille covers his missed holler and sits on his bed, sipping from one of the red solo cups. As he scrolls through Instagram on his phone, he spits out his juice

SHAQUILLE

Bro, have you seen this?

He holds his phone for them to see. On his phone screen is a video of OMAR JACKSON plays

OMAR JACKSON (O.S)

We can no longer stay in the land of white America. Our people need something of our own. Land that we own. Schools that teach our children their heritage and history. Trade and an economy of our own.

MALE STUDENT

He's tripping... aint he the guy that said black guys shouldnt date white girls?

(CONTINUED)

SHAQUILLE

Yeah. That's the guy. He's coming to Hillman in two days. Its going to be HUGE.

MALE STUDENT

I bet the sistas are going to love him.

Rashida (19, Queen energy) enters.

RASHIDA

Love who?

MALE STUDENT

Omar Jackson.

DEBORAH

We convinced Professor Welsing to convince Dean Washington to get him on campus to speak to the Black Student Union. It's been forever since we've had a real speaker. Im tired of hear yall two argue about who's better....Lebron or Kobe...

SHAQUILLE

What about the comedian who came last year? And the answer is Kobe.

KOJO

Trippin'. Lebron.

Shaquille glares at Kojo.

DEBORAH

He wasn't funny. Plus he was 41, hitting on the freshmen. Eww. Not cool.

KOJO

You guys are going to want to see this..

The group turn to him. He stares down at his phone, shocked.

GROUP

See what?!

CU of his PHONE - A Shade Room Instagram Post:

"Omar Jackson Caught 'White-handed'---Sources say Controversial and Prominent Pro-Black Activist has a "second family with 'Becky'".

SHAQUILLE

Bro... this cant be real?

(CONTINUED)

KOJO

Its right in front of you. In black...
and white.

CU ON paparazzi styled photos of Omar Jackson and a white
women (the aforementioned "Becky") exiting a hotel room,
kissing, hand in hand.

RASHIDA

I refuse to believe it.

END OF COLD OPEN.

ACT ONE

2

INT. DAWN'S OFFICE - DAY

2

PROFESSOR DANA DAWN, 40s but her black dont crack, sits at her desk. Across from her is Rashida, Deborah and Kojo.

DAWN

I think Cameron's visit will bring a much needed dialogue to Hillman.

RASHIDA

Yeah... my fist in her mouth. That sista... if she can even call herself a sista, is the anti christ.

DAWN

You're being overly dramatic Rashida. Cameron Olson is a respected media personality who shares a perspective Hillman so desperatly needs.

RASHIDA

Any black women who makes a living tearing down her people, spouting racist conservative rhetoric and has date nights with Donald Trump is the spawn of satan.

KOJO

This is not what our ancestors died for.

DAWN

Black people are not a monolith. Our ancestors would want us to express a diverse range of view points and perspectives. Which is why we are so lucky to have Cameron visit and speak on our campus in place of...

(hard to say)

... that man.

RASHIDA

Well its not a good idea.

DAWN

You should all know that we haven't had a speaker of this caliber at Hillman since Farrakhan visited in '88...

They grumble as she goes into a diatribe.

OUTSIDE OF OFFICE - LATER.

(CONTINUED)

The group walk through the Political Science floor which is mostly empty. They pass a few students walking to class / working on laptops.

KOJO

I like Minister Farrakhan. But I can't forgive him for what he did.

RASHIDA

Kill Malcolm?

KOJO

That's a rumor. And no. Walk around for 50 years with that slicked back hair cut. Looks like my Auntie Marcia.

No one laughs. A beat. They are all on edge about Cameron's guest speaking arrangement at Hillman.

DEBORAH

What are we going to do about "Cameron-Diaz Rice"?

They pass by an old large framed photo of Civil Rights Activists engaging in a sit-in.

RASHIDA

I've got an idea.

INT. LECTURE HALL — DAY

History 102: The America's.

Kojo, Shaquille, and Deborah sit in the middle of the lecture hall as PROFESSOR HERALD CLARKE (60s, wise, prone to tangents) drones on.

CLARKE

The Europeans is a colonizer unlike any other. They disseminated their rule over the people across the different diasporas—

In the back of the lecture hall, Kojo, Shaquille and Rashida speak in low tones.

KOJO

You want us to stage a sit-in? Girl this is 2025, not 1965.

RASHIDA

Sit-ins work. Especially when you have crazy pro-right lunatics like Cameron Olson who spout hate.

(CONTINUED)

SHAQUILLE

She ain't that crazy. Plus shes kinda cute... for a conservative.

RASHIDA

Conservative or not-if she steps foot on Hillman there's going to pandemonium.

Clarke spots the group whispering.

CLARKE

Would you three musketeers like to share with the class whats is so important you have to speak during this lecture?

They smiles sheepishly and shake their heads.

CLARKE (CONT'D)

Good. As I was saying... what was I saying?

FEMALE STUDENT

Something about how we can see clear evidence of the atrocity of the colonizer with their conquest of native peoples of the Americas. They raped, pillaged and killed--

CLARKE

Yes. That's right. And if any of you fools even so much think as to whisper about we speak about in this class, Ill fail you so fast your head will spin.

SHAQUILLE

(whispering)

Hes going to get fired speaking how he does. Its too extreme. Remember professor Little? They fired him after that student posted the video of him speaking about interracial couples.

RASHIDA

Like Olsen. Shes married to some white tech millionaire.

SHAQUILLE

Shiit. You can be a hater all you want but I say "you go girl" and get yo money.

Kojo chuckles. Rashida does not.

(CONTINUED)

KOJO

You really want us to do something about it, huh?

RASHIDA

Well, don't you?

KOJO

Alright... how about we go to the event but turn the script on her. Make her look like the lunatic she is. You know shes going to be filming it for her YouTube channel. This way we kill tow birds with one stone.

RASHIDA

We attend the event and appease professor Dawn while also showing her and the rest of Hillman's...

(disdain)

Black conservative student body that shes Hitler in the body of Halle Berry.

KOJO / SHAQUILLE

Bet.

CLARKE

Your forefathers, ancestors...

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Hazel sits on the toilet. On the counter next to her, is a empty pregnancy test box. She looks down at a pregnancy test. It reads "Positive". She taps it against the counter, checking if the result is real. It is. She slumps against the wall.

KNOCK KNOCK.

FEMALE COED (O.S)

Anyone in here?

HAZEL

I'll be out in a minute.

She rises from the floor, slowly then checks looks at her reflection in the mirror. Turns on the faucet and splashes water on her face. Dries it then opens the door. Female co ed enters, wearing a shower bonnet and towel wrapped around her, pinching her nose.

FEMALE CO-ED

I hope you weren't taking a number two.

(CONTINUED)