

A SINGLE F*CKING RETWEET

A 10-minute Digital Play

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

DEJA, straight cis Black woman, mid-late 20s. Kenan's best friend.

KENAN, gay cis or trans Black man, mid-late 20s. Deja's best friend.

SETTINGS

The play takes place over FaceTime/Zoom. The play is set in late July 2020, United States of America.

DEJA'S HOME, neat, artistic, cozy

KENAN'S HOME, a little messy, bougie, cozy

A SINGLE F*CKING RETWEET

DEJA sits on her computer waiting for KENAN to join the call. She sits bored, scrolling on her phone. Ideally, she is calling him through Facetime. She can also be in a Zoom room.

Finally, he joins. It's clear by the vertical orientation of his video and the way the camera moves that he is on his phone.

DEJA

Hey hey, what did you want to-

KENAN

Bitch!

(Deja knows this means there's tea.
She snaps to.)

DEJA

Oh no, what happened?

KENAN

Biiiiitch, listen up

DEJA

What? What??

KENAN

I'm so fuckin'

(Kenan drops his phone for dramatic effect. Deja bursts out laughing. If the phone lands face up, we see Kenan pacing the floor putting on theatrics. Finally Kenan picks the phone back up.)

KENAN

She got me fired!

DEJA

What?

KENAN

Kimberly got me *FIRE*D! Ol' ugly ass beak-nosed bitch. Drug store hair dye, crispy bacon lipped Becky-

DEJA

She can't do that!

KENAN

She did. Ran straight to the school board. And I knew she was gonna do it but I didn't *know* she was actually gonna do it.

DEJA

I thought she'd at least wait a while. Give it a month to make up some other fake reason why you should be let go.

KENAN

Oh no. She didn't even waste the weekend. I came in today to do some planning and all my severance paperwork was filled out, HR was ready to go-

DEJA

Bitch, no.

KENAN

Bitch, YES!

DEJA

I... I'm speechless. Tweets. You got fired over tweets.

KENAN

A retweet! Singular! I got fired over a single fucking retweet! And for doing my job by defending my students.

DEJA

Holy shit.

KENAN

And the severance ain't worth a damn.

DEJA

Yeah, what does severance pay for an assistant drama teacher even look like?

KENAN

Depressing when you work in public school.

(They sit, the reality sinking in.)

DEJA

I'm so sorry, Kenan.

KENAN

Thanks. It's okay. I got side hustles.

DEJA

You know, the youth director at my church just checked into rehab. They'll need someone to direct the Nativity this winter.

KENAN

Thanks, girl. I just gotta make it through the Fall first.

DEJA

On the bright side: you can smoke weed again. No more random drug tests.

KENAN

I don't even want to. Honestly, I've been more creative without it. I do feel like I need a fuckin' drink though.

DEJA

Let's do it then! Now!

(Deja dashes off screen. We hear rummaging and clinking. She returns with a bottle of tequila and a shot glass. She pours a shot.)

DEJA

Shots! C'mon, we're drowning our misery.

KENAN

"Our" misery?

DEJA

Not to minimize your pain but: the world has been a giant fucking dumpster fire for everyone the past few months.

KENAN

You're right.

DEJA

So, go get some tequila. We're doing shots.

(Kenan takes his phone into the kitchen and sets it on the counter as he searches for liquor.)

KENAN

All I have is Tito's.

DEJA

Vodka seems appropriate for misery.

(Kenan pours some vodka into a measuring glass. Deja laughs.)

DEJA

Bitch, what the fuck?

KENAN

All my shot glasses are dirty, miss me with the judgement!

(They laugh and hold up their respective glasses.)

DEJA

To misery.

KENAN

To misery.

DEJA

And, as dumb as it feels: to hope. Things are gonna get better. For both of us. For the world. I can feel it.

KENAN

Lord, I hope you're right.

(They knock back their shots. They sit in silence for a moment. Then Deja chuckles.)

DEJA

So, I guess this isn't a great time to ask if I can hold a couple dollars?

KENAN

I know Deja "Scrooge McDuck" Arnold does not need to borrow money. The girl with three budget apps? And the spreadsheets?

DEJA

She might need to borrow some if her car insurance found out she started driving Uber.

KENAN

Girl, you didn't tell them?

DEJA

No. It was just supposed to be temporary, a few weeks until I could go back to work at the daycare but then...

KENAN

It turned to months. And they didn't reopen.

DEJA

Yeah. And the daycares that did reopen aren't hiring. So.

KENAN

How did they find out?

DEJA

I got into an accident with a passenger in my car.

KENAN

When?! Are you alright?! You didn't tell me!

DEJA

It was this morning. It was just a fender bender, I'm fine physically but... I don't know what I'm gonna do. Since I was doing rideshare, none of my coverage applies. And the accident was my fault, so I have to pay for my damage, their damage, the passenger's damage, and they're raising my rate.

KENAN

"The passenger's damage?"

DEJA

She claims she had some "back pain" after the crash.

KENAN

"Back pain?!"

DEJA

Like, bitch, the fuck? This tiny ass blonde woman trying to cash in on my accident.

KENAN

Damn.

(They sit in silence briefly, then Kenan pours more vodka in his glass.)

KENAN

To misery.

(Kenan knocks back the shot while Deja drags straight from the bottle. A beat. Deja picks up her phone and starts scrolling.)

KENAN

Excuse me, am I not entertaining enough?

DEJA

I'm checking to see this retweet because I don't remember it being termination worthy.

KENAN

It wasn't just the retweet. It was the confrontation afterwards.

DEJA

(reading)

"If you're an educator who profits from using Black students and you've been silent this summer: speak up or quit your job." There's nothing in there that warrants being fired.

KENAN

The official reason for my termination was "violation of the educator code of conduct." But get this bitch, all the code mentions is following students. I don't follow him! It came across my timeline because one of the alumni I follow retweeted it.

DEJA

What does school policy say about retweeting?

KENAN

Not a damn thing. And when I mentioned that, she said "sometimes the boundary has to be crossed before we know we need to establish it."

DEJA

So in other words, "Pack your bags, go fuck yourself."

KENAN

I'm telling you, it was the face-off afterwards. Hurt dogs holler. Kimberly knew that tweet was about her because she's been silent about BLM all summer. She didn't even do Blackout Tuesday.

DEJA

It really was the bare minimum anyone could do to prove they're not racist.

KENAN

Exactly! And she didn't do it! But she had the nerve to program *Hairspray* and *Fences* for this year's season.

DEJA

Don't y'all only have like, six Black kids?

KENAN

Yes, and Evan, the kid I retweeted, is one of them. I tried to explain to her that regardless of the code of conduct, our students are watching and her silence is violence. They need to know we stand with them. But all she heard was me calling her racist.

DEJA

I hate when white people take everything so personally. No one is calling you racist!

KENAN

No, I did.

DEJA

What?

KENAN

I told her that her silence and her reaction to the tweet were racist. And now here we are two days later and my ass is fired so.

(Deja bursts out laughing.)

DEJA

You called her racist, oh my god. You didn't tell me that the first time you told me about everything.

KENAN

That's because it didn't happen yet. The "racist" thing happened in the DMs a couple hours after we spoke.

DEJA

It sounds like you need to keep your ass off of Twitter.

(They laugh.)

KENAN

I'm gonna miss my kids though. I actually care about them, especially the Black kids. Like, Evan, he's so damn funny.

(Deja returns to her phone.)

DEJA

And woke by the looks of it.

KENAN

He is. They all are. I love that about them. They give me hope for this country. They are just as angry and scared as us, but they have all this energy to try and change it. To burn it down if they have to.

KENAN (CONT'D)

I really love them and I know they love me. I don't know when they're gonna announce my termination-

DEJA

I think they already did.

KENAN

What?

DEJA

Kenan, they started a hashtag. #KeepMrKenan. Evan used it six times already, he's going in about Kimberly and the school.

KENAN

Shut up.

DEJA

They're all going in! Bro, there's over a hundred tweets under this hashtag already. "Kennedy West Drama is nothing without Mr. Kenan," "The only thing keeping KW drama from the brink of blackface is Mr. Kenan," "My mom just got an email that the only teacher who gives a shit isn't coming back. 2020 please just finish me."

KENAN

Holy shit.

DEJA

I know. This is crazy.

KENAN

No no no, holy shit.

DEJA

What?

KENAN

Kimberly's calling me.

DEJA

Holy shit.

KENAN

What do I do?

DEJA

I don't know! I don't know!

(Kenan begins frantically pacing.)

KENAN

Holy shit, holy shit, holy

DEJA

Answer it!

KENAN

What?! No! Bitch, I'm scared!

DEJA

You didn't do anything wrong. And it's not like she can fire you again. These kids are going hard for you right now, just... answer it! I have a good feeling.

KENAN

You and these damn feelings.

DEJA

Things are gonna get better for us. We drank to it.

KENAN

We did.

DEJA

Now hurry up before it goes to voicemail!

KENAN

Okay. Okay. I'll call you back after.

DEJA

You got this.

(The call ends.)

END OF PLAY