

SCENE 1

EXT. KADUNA RESTAURANT - MORNING

The day has broken as we see the edifice of a new restaurant. The metal gate is down, protecting it, and yet holding in the possibilities. Outside the gate on crates sit...

...JAMES, any age, voluptuous and hard edge - so very Brooklyn and next to her is FATIN, a millennial, gendering bending and cool as a fan, murdering a croissant.

He offers her a bite. She swats it from her face.

START →

FATIN

What?! It's gluten-free.

JAMES

Is it carb free? Shiiiiid.

She sneaks a peek at the flaky piece of heaven; halfway in love and halfway in disgust; at her body not the carbs.

FATIN

Straight up, 'ppreciate you hooking me with this gig...

JAMES

...Potential gig.

He looks as if to say, "what?" She rolls her eyes.

FATIN

...I'm just glad to be rocking wit him. I liked him on The Chef. (Beat) James, the knife skills though!?! And then when he pickled those strawberries - I'm like whaaaa...

JAMES

Right?!? Like, who does that? But brilliance under brown skin is harder to see if it ain't likable - that why he didn't win.

FATIN

Damn he really ain't likebale? (She nods affirming) Who is he?

END →

She sighs.

SCENE 2

MOON
Alyssa coming?

FAITH
She always shows up for you, does she not? (Beat) You need a pen?

He walks away.

MOON
I'll do it.

FAITH
When?

MOON
When I do it.

FAITH
When?!?!?

He's gone.

INT. KADUNA RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

Moon addresses his new team in the pre-plan portion of their meal prep. James and Fatin are in their chef coats with notepads writing and completely uninspired by the menu.

Faith is listening and taking notes as well.

START →

MOON
So everybody got the first two courses?

They nod.

MOON (CONT'D)
Third course, I'm thinking...

JAMES
...tuna crudo?

MOON
Look at you James, come through for knowing the menu.

She rolls her eyes.

FAITH
(Unamused)
With the dill mustard reduction and the rosemary fig jam?

MOON

~~Come through team! Come through!~~

FAITH

~~I'm not on the team, I'm just
helping you with these wine
pairings.~~

JAMES

And for the final course, I'm
assuming a shrimp in the brown
butter sauce with the tortellini?

MOON

It's lit.

(Beat)

Any questions about the menu?

JAMES

(Raises hand)

Can we not cook any of this shit?

MOON

What?

JAMES

(To Faith) No shade to your husband
Faith, but (To Moon) I'm not
Keeland.

FAITH

Tread carefully sis.

JAMES

No shade for real, but I'm not just
gone sit here and cook whatever you
say cook and not question shit.
This whole menu - been done - a lot
of times - by you - including on
TV.

MOON

My food is my food.

JAMES

Where's the elevation? When you
gonna push past yourself and create
a memory. This ain't it.

The gravity of what James says is rushing through everyone.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Figure out what you wanna say
through food, and we'll help you
say it.

END →

Everyone is held captive to the thoughtful silence in his head. Moon's mind begins to rush with the emotion. Drums.

