

SIDE 4

JEZEBEL: You know better than anyone that the distance between us ain't no figment of mine. But I'm glad to see you.

JOSEPHINE **(peers at her)**: Well, I'm glad to get verbal confirmation of the latter, at least.

JEZEBEL: Sure.

(Pause. Awkward silence)

JOSEPHINE: One day you'll have to come visit our apartment, Jez. You'll love the view. Remember, on the swings, how you used to marvel at the sky? There's nothing like it—you can see the whole city! Of course, Little Marie loves it.

JEZEBEL: We'll see...been busy between my last years of schooling and helping Ma out, you know. **(Pause, with a small smirk)** Don't answer that; the answer is that you don't.

(JOSEPHINE goes still for a moment. A little tear blossoms on her cheek.)

JOSEPHINE: Why do you never forgive me, Jez? The move, *it was so I could provide for our family!*

JEZEBEL: Oh, you just *had* to provide a million miles, sure. **(softens a little)** Hey, hey. I guess I just don't

appreciate you creeping back here after a few years of radio silence and all the sudden you're telling me what I should treasure and what I shouldn't from our childhood because of your little scamp! That was *our* time, Jo. *That was us!*

(A brief silence. After a moment Josephine finally speaks up)

JOSEPHINE: You know what, Jez? Honestly after you got older and whatnot you didn't do too much botherin' to reach out to me either.

JEZEBEL: Wow I can't believe you're playing the victim-

JOSEPHINE: I'm not trying to play the victim I'm just being honest-

JEZEBEL: ANYTHING to make yourself look innocent.

JOSEPHINE: That's the problem Jez. You don't *listen*. No one understands how hard it was at first being a Black woman moving to a new city by herself trying to find her way; but I just put a smile on my face and talk all "uppity" because if I express that there's anything wrong I'm told to suck it up. So I'm sorry, that I wasn't there for you all the time. But I had to figure out my life, and that took more time than I thought.

[BEAT]

JEZEBEL: **[sighs]** I know. You've been through a lot.

JOSEPHINE: It's fine. You have too.

JEZEBEL: we all gotta do better at checking on one another.

JOSEPHINE: Ain't that the truth

[they share a short laugh]

[JOSEPHINE and JEZEBEL hug. She lets a few more tears fall, and then pulls back]

JOSEPHINE: We're at the market. See you tonight.

JEZEBEL: Ok.

[Exit JOSEPHINE. JEZEBEL meets with her friends, Willy and Myra, in their usual spot.]

JOSEPHINE: We're at the market. See you tonight.

JEZEBEL: Ok.