

Bad Manners at the Dinner Table

"What happens when you invite your sins to dinner?"

Aalani Renee Necole

The Seven Deadly Sins

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Cast of Characters

First Lady Denise:

Pastor:

Sister Boast:

Sister Green:

Deacon Cash:

Elder Sammore:

Usher Mean:

Brother Luster:

Server/Death:

Singer:

Dancer:

SISTER MARLETTE::

ACT IScene I

*Sunday morning church service. Usher Mean stands at the podium.*

**USHER MEAN**

Good Morning Church  
(Awaits congregations reply)

(Repeats)

I said... Good Morning Church

**AUDIENCE:**

Good Morning.

**USHER MEAN**

It is such a blessing to be in the house of the Lawd on this fine Sunday morning, Amen?  
(awaits congregations reply)

(insisting a response with her hand gestures)

**AUDIENCE:**

Amen.

**USHER MEAN:**

First giving honor to God who is Lawd and Savior of my here life, Glory Halleluiah. He's brought me a mighty long way... from the parking lot.

We are going to stand in agreement that the Deacon board can come to a final decision on adding those Handicap parking spots soon, Amen?

I'll be reading the morning announcements, follow along in your programs if you will.

We will no longer tolerate children jumping into the baptism pool, this is NOT the YMCA, please control your children!

Pastor will be traveling to Houston, TX to Preach this week, all that are available to attend, he would greatly appreciate your support.

Also, next Wednesday the Senior Singles ministry will be hosting our first annual singles outing to the bowling alley, please wear appropriate bottoms. We will not be providing holy shawls to cover you.

Last but not least, our First Lady would like to meet with the Deacon Board and the Elders immediately after service in the sanctuary, she has a special announcement she'd like to share.

Let's allow the spirit to continue to move as Sister Marlette ushers us into the word with song.

*Usher Mean exits stage, Sister Marlette enters*

**SISTER MARLETTE:**

God is good all the time and...

**AUDIENCE:**

All the time God is good.

**SISTER MARLETTE:**

Amen.

*Music begins to play, Sister Marlette begins to sing.*

*Song Ends, Sister Marlette exits stage.*

MUSIC CONTINUES TO PLAY DURING SCENE CHANGE

ACT ISCENE II

**PASTOR:**

Hey baby, where are you?

*(First lady enters the dining room from the kitchen, whit ovenmit & apron on)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Yes babe, you called?

**PASTOR:**

Which tie? Black or Blue?

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Blue

**PASTOR:**

Black it is.

*(Pastor finishes buttoning his shirt ad putting on his tie.)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Really?

*(said with sarcasm)*

What time does your flight leave?

**PASTOR:**

5:45

*(checking his watch)*

Oh, I better get moving.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Yes, you know that airport traffic gets this time of day. Is one of the Deacon's driving you to the airport?

**PASTOR:**

No, I have already taken care of that. My Uber will be here in exactly 5 minutes.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Are you sure you have everything?

**PASTOR:**

Actually no...

*(reaching out his hand for her hand)*

I wish you would change your mind and go with me.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(pulling her hand away, moving to the other side of the dinner table, suspiciously)*  
 Now you know I can't do that. Besides, I would only be a distraction. You know the people of Texas are awaiting to hear a powerful word from a true man of God. You need to be 100% focused.

**PASTOR:**

Oh, I've got a word from God.  
*(walking toward her, seductively)*  
 You are beautiful, my darling  
 Beautiful beyond words.  
 Your eyes are like doves, behind your veil.  
 Your hair...  
*(interrupted by First Lady Denise)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

STOP right there, now you know that neither of us have time for this. You have a flight to catch and I have a dinner party to get ready for.

**PASTOR:**

Dinner party? You're throwing another dinner party. Who's on the guest list this time?

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Just a few friends from the church! I'm cooking up some good old soul food. Using my own special seasoning. It's just right for those, special Christians, you know what I mean.

**PASTOR:**

Yea, and knowing you, it will be extravagant, maybe a bit too much for folks from the church.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

You know I don't do anything minuscule, always grand and Spectacular!!!

**PASTOR:**

Yes, baby, I know all about your Grand and Your Spectacular!

*(First Lady Denise laughs and a girlish tone.)*

*(Uber arrives)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Well love, you better get going!

**PASTOR:**

You're right. But, tell me again, who all did you invite to this here dinner? You know how I feel about us getting too close to the members of the church. Just make sure you keep an eye on them while they are here. Especially Deacon Cash, if he shows up you better lock things up.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Honey, no worries, I got this. Now, get out of here before you miss your flight!

**PASTOR:**

Can a brother get just one squeeze before he leaves?  
*(he reaches to embrace her, but she pushes him away again)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

You know we don't have time for that, but when you get back I'm all yours!

**PASTOR:**

Now, that's what I like to hear. So, you better be ready when I get home.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

I got you babe!

**PASTOR:**

*(Pastor grabbing suit case & heading for the door)*  
 Oven-mit & apron on deck.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Don't forget the stiletto's  
*(as she blows him a kiss and waves good by as he leaves through the audience.)*

CURTAIN CLOSE

ACT IScene III**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

My husband is the man. Women swoon over him. Men want to be him and me; well I am his pride and joy. Yes, my husband; Pastor William C. Hamilton III is the great Pastor of First Baptist Holiness Church and I am his wife. First Lady Denise Hamilton. I love to get all dressed up on Sunday morning, pull up to the church in our brand new 550 Mercedes Benz step out in a bad pair of shoes and walk hand in hand with the finest man in the church, the most powerful man in the pulpit and the wealthiest man in our county.

Yes, I take Pride in that. Every Sunday he throws down a powerful message, "God is trying to tell you something", he'd say and the ladies would throw up there dollies and shout Amen! The men would stomp their feet and clap their hands in agreement. The people of God love our church and I love their generous contributions. It keeps me living in the lap of luxury and keeps all the haters throwing shade in every direction! Those ladies are so cute in their Sunday's best until I roll in dressed to impress. And I do too! Have their husbands looking twice and hugging the first lady a bit too tight; but I don't mind it a bit.

One flash of the eye and twist of the hip and I knew I could grab any of those deacons right up on off the center pew. My husband always wanted me to be more involved with his ministry but, for now I'm just fine with being First Lady Denise Hamilton of First Baptist Holiness Church!

Once, when my husband first began his ministry we were struggling pretty badly. First Lady \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ came over to visit me. She was such a beautiful lady and always represented her husband so well. She'd come over to encourage me to stand strong in my faith. To continue to be a helpmate to my husband as times would only get harder before they got better, but that the Lord was on our side. But, the entire time she was talking I could only see how put together she was. How she was almost flawless and all I wanted to do was to be that, to have that! And that's what I strive to get. Now look at me... I

know you wish you could be more like this. But, honey you could never be me.

Now we're wealthy and at any time I want I can go get the desires of my heart & I do. Coach Bags, diamond rings new cars. I love shiny things! Whether it is clothes, shoes or attention, it's all mine whenever I want and however I want! And I dare anyone woman to try and take my place! Yeah, I see those women running up to the Pastor after service, drooling over him. Telling him how the sermon just touched their hearts, how they need private prayer. Telling him all their problems and asking him to lay hands on them! Heifers! I'm warning them, they don't want to mess with my man...no honey, the wrath that would invoke me would be a force to be reckon with! Snapped wouldn't have nothing on me! Now don't get me wrong, I ain't bout to fight over no man, no ma'am, especially since I can have anyone I want; but it's what comes along with *this* man that I need. That I'd fight for, that I'd die for.

Um excuse me, sometimes I get a little overwhelmed when thinking about losing all I've come to gain. Oh Lord! I've been standing here running my mouth like I don't have guest coming over at any second. I've prepared a little meal for some of my closest friends at the church and they'll be here any second! You're welcome to stick around meet a few of them if you want, you might even know some of them.

[SCENE]

ACT IIScene I

*First Lady Denise and her server are preparing the table for the dinner party.*

*There is a knock at the door.*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Um, someone's early; I wonder who is showing up now. Dinner doesn't start for a half hour.

*(First Lady Denise opens the door)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Well hello Brother Luster. What a pleasure, please do come in.

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Absolutely!

Thanks for having me... is the Pastor here?

*(Looking around reluctantly to see if the Pastor is home)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

No, he's out of town speaking at a Men's conference. I've just invited a few of you over tonight for a little fun and fellowship.

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Fun indeed. Come here girl.

*(Pulling the First Lady in closely to get a better smell of her perfume)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Brother Luster...

*(Giggling, but pulling away as to control herself)*

Not now I have so much I still need to prepare before the other guest arrive.

*(Giving him a flirty wink and switching her hips as she leaves the room)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Can't that wait, just a few minutes. There's something else I'd like to taste.

*(Reaching out as to grab her arm, but missing)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Now, you just hold on a second and I'll fix you a plate...

*(First Lady Denise leaves the room to )*

*(finish preparing for the other guest to arrive)*

*(Death appears from back room to take Brother Luster's Coat & hat, hangs I ton the coat rack and leaves towards the kitchen without saying a word)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

*(Noticing the audience and introducing himself)*

Hi, I'm Brother Luster, wow, didn't know that I would see so many familiar faces.

*(Looking at a lady in the crowd)*

how are you tonight, long time no see! Well for those of you who don't know me, and I know many of you do, I am here to fulfill your every desire, some only know me through word of mouth, but most sexually, I am here to be your side piece, your mister your boyfriend number 2 and your immoral investor. So, how bad do you want me? Because I know you do.

I'll satisfy your deepest cravings, the ones you keep to yourself, the ones you want tell your mate about. I know you've seen me before; I walked across your thoughts last night and stood behind you before you walk through these doors.

First Lady Denise, well she's always been dear tome. She's one of my favorites. Don't worry; you're in my top ten!

*(Pointing at another woman in the audience)*

See, all those men at the church can't stay away from First Lady Denise, they love her warm first lady smile how it's so inviting, the curves in her first lady gowns and the way she crosses her legs before she covers them with her towel. She's such a tease and I love that.

*(Sits down at the table and begins to adjust his tie)*

See, First Lady Denise and I, we've got a long history. We met my first Sunday visiting First Baptist Holiness Church. I couldn't help but stare at her, she was beautiful. She batted those long eye lashes at me and I was hooked. One night after choir rehearsal after everyone had left; I went to let her know that everyone was gone and that I was going to lock up and head out. She didn't want to be left alone so I stayed to comfort her like a good man would... I think you know the rest of the story. I'm

not sure why anyone else was invited tonight, but I'm sure none of them will be staying for night cap except for me. If you know what I'm saying?  
*(Smirks)*

*(First Lady Denise enters back into the dining room setting place settings at the table when the door rings)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Can you get that please?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Of course baby, anything for you.  
*(Grabbing at her waist as if he didn't want her to leave the room)*

*(Opens the door)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Oh Sister Boast, welcome. Please come in and have a seat. Dinner will be ready shortly, make yourself at home. You know Brother Luster correct?  
*(Sister Boast giving Brother Luster the side eye as if she knows his presence means something fishy is taking place)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Hi Sister Boast, I didn't know you would be joining us tonight?  
*(Giving her a flirtatious smile and kissing her hand; helping her through the door)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

I didn't know you'd be joining us either Brother Luster  
*(snatching her hand away and wiping it off with her handkerchief)*  
 is the Pastor here?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

No, he's off at a conference teaching the good word.

**SISTER BOAST:**

I see, and you and First Lady are here alone?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Not anymore.  
*(First Lady Denise enters back into the dining room setting place settings at the table when the door rings)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Can you get that please?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Of course baby, anything for you.  
*(Grabbing at her waist as if he didn't want her to leave the room)*  
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**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

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**BROTHER LUSTER:**

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I didn't know you'd be joining us either Brother Luster  
*(snatching her hand away and wiping it off with her handkerchief)*  
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**SISTER BOAST:**

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**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Not anymore.

**SISTER BOAST:**

humph.

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Well, have a seat.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Why thank you, don't mind if I do. Brother Luster...  
*(She says with a slight arrogance)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

How are you this evening?

**SISTER BOAST:**

I'm well, as always. Blessed and highly favored.

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Blessed you are!

*(Sister Boast gives him a sideways glare as he pulls out the chair for her to sit and checks her out)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

Dinner smells delicious First Lady.  
*(She's yells into the kitchen to speak to the First Lady)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(Coming out of the kitchen to speak more directly to Sister Boast)*  
Thank you, it should be ready shortly, please tonight, I'm just First Lady Denise! None of that First Lady jazz. We're just going to have some fun and relax, enjoy each others company and talk about a little church business later.  
*(Death appears from back room to take Sister Boast Coat, hangs I ton the coat rack and leaves towards the kitchen without saying a word)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

I certainly will.  
*(Acknowledges the audience)*  
Where are my manners, please excuse me for not introducing myself. Well, I'm sure you all already know who I am, but for those of you who fail to recognize greatness when it stands in front of you, I'm Sister Boast. Now, don't get me wrong, some of you I know very well, especially you born and bred in ministry; I visit you more than anybody else.  
*(Giggles with a cocky under tone)*  
Oh you don't believe me? I was there when you lied about the amount of tithes you paid, because you didn't want *Sister Nosy* to know that you weren't making as much money as her, and I was there when your children went without food because you were too embarrassed to come to the church and get food from the food pantry.

Yeah, I know you. Look like you've got it all together; but don't worry I won't tell anybody. That's our little secret. Just like I keep First Lady Denise's dirty little secrets. About how she came from nothing, just a backwoods country Carolina bumpkin before that Pastor picked her up and cleaned her off. I be danged if I'm gonna let her go back to slummin', so whatever it takes, I'll keep her up on the high horse, even if it kills her.  
You see, First Lady Denise and I have been friends

for quite some time and rumor has it that she's befriended a few others in the church. Now, don't get me wrong, she's a grown woman and can befriend whomever she wants, but the BFF name title, is mine. I'd be danged if I'd let someone come in and take it. That's why I'm here tonight to make sure nobody's messing up our good thing we've got going at the church. I'm well on my way to becoming First Lady's arm bearer and with that comes tons of perks. I've got to keep up the image you know we've got a reputation to protect. We'll see who else she's invited tonight that might interfere with that.

*(First Lady Denise bringing out a pitcher of water)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Whooo, it's getting hot in here.

*(Fanning herself as she brings out dishes top lace on the table - roles and butter)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Yes it is!

*(Begins to sing "Hot in Here, by Nelly")*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(Giving Brother Luster a side glance)*

Well, there's water here, this should cool you off.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Yes, Brother Luster have some water. We wouldn't want you getting over heated now would we?

*(Dipping her hand in a cup of water and splashing it in Brother Luster's direction)*

*(Usher Mean enters storming in making her way through the audience stomping her feet, stopping to check people along the way, slamming things around once she sits at the table)*

*(Doorbell rings)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

I'm so sorry, excuse me for just a second please...

**USHER MEAN:**

Well are you going let me in or just stand there staring at me like you're crazy?

**First Lady Denise:**

Um. Ok, welcome Usher Mean. C'mon in and have a seat. Make yourself comfortable with the other guest. Dinner is almost ready just make yourself at home.

*(Usher Mean brushing by Sister Boast & )*

*(Brother Luster to get to her seat)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

Excuse me!

**USHER MEAN:**

You're excused, now move on up out the way!

**SISTER BOAST:**

You've got some nerve; do you know who I am?

**USHER MEAN:**

Don't know, don't care.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Simpleton

**USHER MEAN:**

Who you calling simple you fake Tyra Banks. Thank you all that, you ain't nothing!

**SISTER BOAST:**

I'm not even going to waste my breath on something so worthless.

**USHER MEAN:**

Oh, I got your worthless  
*(removing her earrings, pulling Vaseline  
out of her purse)*

*First Lady Denise walking out to place more food  
on the table*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Petroleum jelly; one of my favorites.  
*(Smirking)*

**SISTER BOAST & USHER MEAN:**

ooh, you nasty. *(Grimacing)*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Yes, I am!

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(Smugly under her breath; smirking)*  
Yes, he is

*leaves with a twist in her hips back into the  
kitchen*

*Sister Boast and Usher Mean look on as if to  
pretend they didn't just hear what First Lady  
Denise said*

*Usher Mean, stops and notices the crowd*

**USHER MEAN:**

What, what the heck ya'll looking' at...shoot ain't any of ya'll no better than me...um (*smacking her teeth*). Yeah, I'm mad so what, got reason to be too...  
Everybody always so darn cheerful, for what?  
Especially ya'll Christian folk, like they ain't got no problems, make me sick!

Bouncing' around here talking' bout they got the Holy Ghost, and then cuss you out as soon as they leave the sanctuary. So mad about everything and don't even know why, then look at me like I'm crazy. Um, (*yelling at Sister Boast*) Move! Don't you see me trying getting some water! Uppity tale!

(*Sister Boast looking extremely annoyed*)

How do I know First Lady Denise... well? She couldn't be First Lady Denise without me. She puts on that First Lady front, but I know the real First Lady Denise. The spiteful, deceitful do anything to anybody to get what she wants First Lady Denise. I love that go getter!

(*Smirking*)

I've seen her straight up make some of the women in the church have several seats and not in compassion either, straight G-gangsta!

She don't put up with no mess when it comes to getting her way. Me, well I'm like her front man, her body guard her means to an end. What she gives me is **power!**

She gives me the power to refuse the right of anyone around us the right to sympathy, encouragement or consideration. Where do they get off thinking that they are due that? Needy Christians.

I know that Brother Luster is up to something, I'm here tonight to find out just what that is. Oh shiesty tale!

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Usher Mean, welcome. You know Brother Luster & Sister Boast correct? If not, they are also members of the church. The church has grown so much over the last year, I'm not sure who knows who! Just wanted to make sure that everyone was properly introduced; please feel free to make yourself at home!

**USHER MEAN:**

You ain't got to tell me what to do, I know where to sit. I've been here before.

**SISTER BOAST:**

So Rude!

**USHER MEAN:**

Was I talking to you?

**SISTER BOAST:**

No, but I'm talking to you!

*Wrath grabs a wine bottle and acts as if she's going to hit Pride with it!*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Now ladies, let's pull ourselves together. I'm here to comfort anyone in need.

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Now, now... There's enough room at the table for everyone! Whew, it's getting crowded in here.

*(Elder Sammore makes his way through the audience, smacking on a snackin hand, acknowledging the audience members as he walks to the door)*

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

I hope she got enough food for all these folks up in here. Shoot, better make my tip out plate first!

How ya'll doing?

*[Acknowledging and speaking to the audience before making it to ]*

I'm good myself.

Come to see what First Lady done whipped up tonight. You know that lady can throw down up in the kitchen. Let me get in here, I smell something good.

*(Knocks on the door; welcome by Sister Boast; she turns up her nose)*

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Well, how you doing Sister Boast? I didn't know you would be here tonight.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Nor you Elder Sammore. Couldn't wait for dinner huh?

*(Referencing his half eaten snack in hand)*

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

*(pushing past her noticing the candy dish on the table).*

*(Acknowledging the crowd)*

I know ya'll don't understand, but I love food, it satisfies every part of me, when I'm sad, mad, depressed. See, some of ya'll got me wrong, you think Elder Sammore is all about over eating, but I can consume what some would say is more than required of me, more money, more sex, more food, more anything. They say you are what you eat, and let's jus tsay my cup never runnith over, cause I keep it empty...how full are you?

Pastor

*(Speaking to the resident Pastor in the audience)*

say, uh can I have one of those mints? Why he the only one that get to snack in church... water and stuff... shoot!

First Lady Denise is my girl, because we've got the same desires of heart. I want more and she needs it. Friend or enabler? You name it, we just work well together. Not to mention the girl can throw down with those pots & pans. Word on the street is that Sister Boast is trying to take First Ladies spot and you didn't hear this from me, but I heard she couldn't boil water, so ain't no way she be inviting any of the rest of us over dinner if she is after Pastor. But, I guarantee, as long as I can still waddle around the church, I ain't gonna let that happen!

I know what you're thinking... but; listen don't let the small package full ya! Never judge a book by its cover because gluttony of the soul is much worse than gluttony of flesh and since your judging; what's on your plate?

*[Grabbing a roll and spreading butter on it]*

**USHER MEAN:**

Do you have to be breathing all heavy over all the food?

**SISTER BOAST:**

*(speaking to Usher Mean)*  
Do you always have to give your input or two cents?

**USHER MEAN:**

oooohhh girl, you gone make me snatch you!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Now ladies, if anybody needs a spanking, I'm the one who should do it?

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Now, what time does dinner actually start, I'm hungry.

**USHER MEAN:**

When are you not hungry?

**SISTER BOAST:**

See there you go again.

*(First Lady Denise walks in on all the commotion)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Hey, hey, hey... what's going on in here?

*(All the sins begin stating their cases as to what is happening at the dinner table)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(screaming)*

**ENOUGH!**

*(Composing herself)*

I'm trying to have a civilized dinner with a nice conversations and great food. I thought we could even have a little fun afterwards by celebrating my announcement with a little bubbly, so could you all at least try to get along?

*(Knock at the door; interrupts her)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Ugh! What now?

*(She opens the door to)*

**BISHOP CASH:**

Greetings!

*(He steps in the door, suited from head to toe, flashy rings, fancy watch and cane).*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Oh! Bishop Cash  
*(with a hungry look in eye)*  
 please do come in.

*[Death appears from back room to take Bishop Cash's Coat & hat, hangs it on the coatrack and leaves towards the kitchen without saying a word]*

**USHER MEAN:**

*([stating under her breath])*  
 who is that creepy little girl lurking around here?

*[No one answers or even acknowledges the server]*

**BISHOP CASH:**

Don't mind if I do. I think I'll take this seat right here!

*(Sitting next to Sister Boast)*  
 First Lady Denise, I bought a nice party gift, I hope you don't mind.

*(Handing First Lady Denise a bottle of wine)*

**ELDER SAMMORE :**

You only brought one of those? Did you know how many people she was having up in here tonight?

**BISHOP CASH:**

Don't worry, there's always more where that came from.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

See, a man prepared. I like that.

*(Stuffing more food in her mouth)*

**BISHOP CASH:**

*(acknowledging the crowd)*  
 Wow, well hello. Didn't gather she'd have this many guest tonight! Me, how do I know First Lady Denise? OH she's my ace! My day one, my ride or die, my hitta ... my ... Well, you get the point! See, whenever it

goes down, First Lady Denise is the one I call. She to get the job done and she ain't got not a moral conscious about it. We need money for new shoes; the collection plate is but a call away. New car smell is the favorite ...oh isn't it time for a First Lady Appreciation.... You get the point. She knows how to get what she wants, and together...we make an amazing team.

You see, by any means necessary, motto. I'm gone have what I want, when I want and do absolutely anything to get it. That's right, lie, steal, cheat and kill whatever it takes to satisfy my addiction.

*(Looks at someone in congregation and says)*  
how much you want for that, man?

*(Speaking to a gentlemen in the audience)*  
I'll even buy your wife....and for a good price I know some of ya'll will sale her tome. So, name your price.....

**BISHOP CASH:**

*(whispering)*

I hear that Brother Luster's got his eye on the First Lady Denise, I heard that he's out to scoop her up and away from t he good Pastor. But, if he does that well, let's just say the congregation and their sweet donations won't follow either one out the door. So, I've got to m ake sure no funny business is going down tonight!

Cash rules everything around me, dolla dolla bills ya'll. And if you ain't caking' then you ain't baking. Making it rain is a daily occurrence where I be and if you ain't got but singles, you need to stay the hell away from me!

*(Sister Green walks unannounced without being notice, takes a minute to acknowledge the audience)*

**SISTER GREEN:**

Did you see that Lexus outside, I wonder who pulled up in that. Shoot, I deserve a new car more than anybody up in here. It seems like I should be the one receiving all these blessings. That's okay though, because when I get my new ride, ain't nobody get up in it. I've been told that a sound heart is life to

the body, but me, I'm the rottenness to the bones, and rest assured until I get what I want ain't nobody gonna have a sound mind, heart or body! So move out my way, because I'm on my way to snatch hers, yours and his!

First Lady Denise... well I guess you could call her a friend. I've known for a long time. As long as I can remember she's a go getter, always reaching for the stars and achieving most of the time too. She hates to see someone doing better than her. I guess that's what I love about her too. See a long time ago when she had first met the Pastor and they were trying to build all of this, she welcomed me into her life. She'd met First Lady \_\_\_\_\_ . I can remember her talking about how First Lady \_\_\_\_\_ was always dressed so nice, how she drove that fancy car, how she was always the talk of the town. I'd sit around with First Lady Denise for hours and ponder over what all these other church women had, I guess she got tired of wondering and went out to get it. That's how I believe she met that ole' Sister Boast. She gets on my nerves ole' high satiety self!

Needless to say after First Lady Denise gained all she'd hope for, well... she kind forgot about me. I couldn't believe, I was the one helping seduce, I was the one helping her manipulate, I was the one who helped get in the door at the church and now she walks around every Sunday like she doesn't even know who I am. I don't even know why she invited me to this dinner. I'm only here for the food. I guess you could call us friendemy's, I mean. What good would it do me to not try and befriend the Pastor's wife? Not to mention, maybe she'll come to her senses one day and share all her wealth with an old friend. (*Sister Green rings the door bell and enters the house*).

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

*(bringing more food to the dinner table w/ the help of the server)*

*[Server sticks around for the duration of the scene; never speaking but making facial gestures as she pours more water and places dinner items on the table]*

Dinner will be ready soon. Just a few more minutes, we're waiting on a few more guests to arrive. Oh,

well hi there Sister Green, I didn't know you had arrived.

**SISTER GREEN:**

*(smooches First Lady Denise on the cheek)*  
nice place you have here.  
*(Smugly)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Thank you, I've put so much work into it. It's still a work in progress.

**SISTER GREEN:**

I can tell.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Sister Green.  
*(With a nasty disposition)*

**SISTER GREEN:**

Sister Boast.  
*(With a nasty disposition)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

How have you been?

**SISTER GREEN:**

I'm excellent, how are you?

**SISTER BOAST:**

Wonderful, did you see my new Lexus outside?

**Sister Green:**

Lexus? I didn't even notice.

**DEACON CASH:**

Lexus? Who has Lexus?

**SISTER BOAST:**

That would be me!

**USHER MEAN:**

That would be me*(mocking Sister Boast)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

Here you go again; no one was even talking to you.

**USHER MEAN:**

But I was talking to you?  
*(Sister Green laughs at Usher Mean's comment to Sister Boast)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

and what's so funny?

**SISTER GREEN:**

You! You act like you're the best thing since slice bread and if it weren't for First Lady no one would even know who you were!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Oh, kind of like you huh?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Oh, I know who Sister Green is very well.  
*(Sister Green cuts Brother Luster the eye)*

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Oooh, things are getting juicy now!  
*(Sipping on some juice)*

*(There is a knock at the door)*

**ALL SINS:**

Who is it?  
*(Angrily)*

*(Minister C.P. Tyme opens the door and enters)*

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

My apologies! I'm late. I left early and everything! This weather, the traffic, not to mention I overslept, but I'm here now to God be the Glory!

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Come on in Minister C.P. Have a seat, the meal will be served shortly and we can eat.

*(Minister C.P. giving his salutations to all of the other guest)*

**USHER MEAN:**

About time you got here. Not that I expected you to be on time. You're late for church every Sunday; don't know why this event would be any different.

**SISTER BOAST:**

That's so tacky; never be late to the house of the Lord.

**SISTER GREEN:**

Oh we know, you're always early that way everyone can notice your shiny bright new toy sitting the parking lot as they enter the church.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Oh, so you did know that was my Lexus.

**DEACON CASH:**

Which means you ought to be putting a little more funds in the collection plate than you are.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Amen to that, the food pantry could use so more items.

**USHER MEAN:**

wouldn't need no more items if you'd pass the food out instead of eating it.

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Usher Mean, you need me in your life to help relieve some of that stress.

**USHER MEAN:**

Honey you couldn't handle all this!

*(Gets up, pushes the chair from the table and drops it like it's hot)*

**SISTER BOAST:**

well, I never!

**SISTER GREEN:**

and you never will!

**SISTER BOAST:**

I'm just about sick of your co-signing remarks. I'd pay for someone to just get rid of you!

**DEACON CASH:**

How much are we talking?

*(Minister C.P. Tyme just now getting herself together)*

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

*(Clears her throat as to get the other sins to be quiet)*

As I was saying. It took me such a long time to get here I feel like I've missed the entire dinner party. Well, to be honest. That's not out of the ordinary for me. You see, I'm Minister C.P. Tyme. I'm pretty sure I've been invited to this dinner tonight to discuss the churches new building fund. You see, First Lady Denise has been on me for quite some time now about the lack of eagerness to push upon the

congregation to raise money and give to this fund. However, there's just not enough time in the day to get it done. I mean. Better yet, I just really can't find the time. I mean, I'll get it done eventually; I just kind of need her to get off my back. Every time I turn around, every Sunday she's in my face asking me about how much money we've raised, what goals we are setting to make this happen. I'm not sure if she's interested for the churches benefit or for her own, but I can tell you this. I'm quite tired of it. I wish there was a way I could just get her off my back, off my case about this. I'll get to it when I have time.... I believe her and that Deacon Cash have been plotting and scheming for some while; if I could just get Deacon Cash to stop pressuring her into this then I could finally have some peace to do exactly what I love to do...which is absolutely nothing.  
*(Finally getting settled in at his spot at the table)*

**DEACON CASH:**

Awww, Minister C.P. Tyme, just who I was hoping to see on this fine evening. I believe we've got some church business to discuss.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

*(urging to get away from Deacon Cash)*  
 I hardly think this is the time or the place for such a conversation, do you Brother?

**DEACON CASH:**

Well, there's no time like the present. The word says, "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is **richly supplied!** Amen.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Amen, Brother... I didn't even know you knew the word like that?! Hallelujah  
*(catching the spirit; quickly then coming back to her senses)*

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

Yes, my brother I do agree but the word of God also states, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs"! Praise God!

**SISTER GREEN:**

Yasss Minister Preach! To God Be the Glory!  
*(She shouts loudly; then composes herself looking directly at Sister Boast as to )*

(mock her)

**DEACON CASH:**

That's right brother even Satan knows the word of God.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

that's right and the love of "**Cash**" is the root of all evil...

*(First Lady Denise seeing things getting hot tries to defuse the situation)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Dinner is served!

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Well, I think I've just about lost my appetite.

**ALL SINS:**

Really?

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

All of the appetizers were so delicious.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

Oh, I missed appetizers.

**SISTER BOAST:**

There were no appetizers, Count Large-a-la just sampled all the mints on the table and ate up all the rolls.

**SISTER GREEN:**

yeah, as if no one else wanted anything.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Well, it ain't my fault you all are slow eaters!

**USHER MEAN:**

Good Lord, how much longer do I have sit here and deal with all of you ingrates!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Ingrates! You've got some nerve coming in here with your ghetto mentality! Angry at everyone because you can't figure how to deal with the problems in your life; anxiously hanging around our First Lady as if she's the one who can help you out of slump.

**OTHER SINS:**

oooohhhh....

**USHER MEAN:**

Oh honey, you've done it now. (*Reaches in her purse a gun*) You ain't even seen ghetto!

**OTHERS SINS:**

(GASP)...

*[begin to duck and hide behind their chairs and under the dinner table all except for Deacon Cash & Brother Luster]*

**DEACON CASH:**

Now, I'd pay money to see a show this good!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Fabulous! Ghetto Fabulous! I love a chick fight!

**USHER MEAN:**

You've got some nerve talking about anyone hanging around the First Lady in need of something, aren't you after status? Racing to be by her side every Sunday, holding her purse... Fixing her water to drink when she ain't even thirsty. Seems like you're the thirsty one.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Speaking of thirsty, can a brother get something to drink?

*(Coughing as if her throat is dry)*

*[Server comes to pour his drink and shakes her head at the nonsense taking place at the table, then leaves back to the kitchen]*

**SISTER GREEN:**

Preach! Usher Mean! Preach!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Oh, that's right jump on the bandwagon, you're just mad because she traded you in for a better look which just happened to be me!

**SISTER GREEN:**

I don't need you, her or anybody at this church to do anything for me! I can handle my own. Ain't nobody at this table got a Heaven or Hell to put me in. But I can sure tell you half of you ain't gone make it to heaven!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Ladies, Ladies! All the hostility leads me to believe

that you are in need of some prayer, please let me lay hands so that we can become at piece.

**SISTER BOAST:**

Don't you put those filthy no good hands on me! For thus says the Lord, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do know God! Hallelujah!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

The bible also says, that anyone who thinks he is something when he is nothing, deceives himself. Sounds like you're in denial Sister!

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Please, please everyone let's try and get along! We can sit here and throw bible scriptures at each other all night. But, that's not going to benefit anyone? Right!?

**SISTER GREEN:**

Especially not you right First Lady? Why do you have all of here anyway? Seems like you'd know putting all of your secrets together in a room could be severely dangerous don't you think?

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Well, I would hardly call you all secrets. More friends. Wouldn't you say Sister Green?

**USHER MEAN:**

She's right. Seems a little suspicious to me that you'd bring us all together, what's this dinner for anyway?

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Well, this dinner is actually to tell you all that....

*(Lights go out, there is rumbling) (Lights come up; First Lady Denise is dead at the table)*

[SCENE]

**ACT II:****Scene II - [Backstabbers]**

*[First Ladies body in the chair, upper half of body sprawled on the kitchen table covered by a white sheet w/knife still in her back]*

*[Sins are panicking; unsure of what to do; scrambling for answers and beginning to blame one another for the death of their "beloved" First Lady]*

**SISTER BOAST:**

Oh Lord, the Father! Somebody, call Pastor!

**SISTER GREEN:**

and tell him what? That his wife is dead with a house full of church folk and no one knows who did it?

**SISTER BOAST:**

Exactly, isn't that the truth?

**USHER MEAN:**

Well, is it? Somebody in here knows how the first Lady got a knife in her back!

**SISTER BOAST:**

She's always had knives in her back, mainly from those of you sitting right here at this table!

**USHER MEAN:**

Oh, and you would know because?

**SISTER GREEN:**

Surprised have more knives in her back seeing how she was the one throwing daggers! Let's not sit here and pretend that we didn't know what type of woman First Lady Denise was.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

First time I've heard something that made any kind of sense all night. She was a crooked woman. But, no thanks to likes of you heathens sitting right here at this table!

**DEACON CASH:**

Oh, Minister Tyme let's not play innocent here. I believe you had a hand to play in the deception of the people as well. Am I right?

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

You're right, I'm not innocent. I can easily say right now out of a soul of repentance that I've been negligent in my responsibilities as a Christian. But, I tell you what from this day forward that will no longer be.

*{{Grabs her things and leaves}}*

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Is there a reason why we are just standing around pretending like there's not a dead woman at the dinner table? Now, you all can get all holier than thou right now if you want to, but the real question at hand in this moment is who killed her. And since we are the only ones left standing in this room, it's safe to assume that the killer is still here!

**USHER MEAN:**

You ain't never lied, but I'm ready for ya! If you think you coming' for Shirley Mean you better be ready to TURN UP!

*[[Pulling her gun out of her purse again]]*

**DEACON CASH:**

What you pay for the peace of Steel?

**USHER MEAN:**

I got the Peace from the Almighty, but the piece of steel I got off 73rd and Judgment lane and it ain't for sell!

*{{Sliding gun back into her purse}}*

**SISTER BOAST:**

I should have known it was you all along! You're such an idiot, clearly she was stabbed in the back! That would mean the weapon is a knife! Not a gun!

**SISTER BOAST:**

well, smarty pants, who was the last one in kitchen, because I only see butter knives on this table.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

*[Coming from the kitchen with a sandwich]*

Anybody know if First Lady keeps Dukes Mayonnaise; this Miracle Whip stuff is disgusting!

**OTHER SINS:**

*[[Gasp]]*

it's was you!

*[Pointing at him]*

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

There's some more sandwich meat in the kitchen, ya'll ain't got to get all upset! I figured since she's already dead she wasn't going to be serving us no dinner and shoot; I was hungry again, so I made a sandwich!

Ain't nobody got time for this guess who game, I'm starving! So, I don't mind if I do

*{Takes plate from the table& leaves}*

**DEACON CASH:**

They say money is the root of all evil, but I ain't taken the blame for this one! So, I'm out

*{Grabs his things to leave}*

*{Grabbing the First Ladies purse on his way out}*  
She won't be needing this!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Well, isn't this convenient? All the heathens running from the Lord's house?

**USHER MEAN:**

You call this the Lord's house, honey you're all messed up, huh?

**SISTER GREEN:**

Well, I think she got what she deserved!

**ALL SINS:**

We knew it was you!

**SISTER GREEN:**

Hold up, I ain't never like the heifer, but what you ain't gone do is blame her death on me! I was sitting here with you all when the lights went out and believe me there are a lot more people with motive sitting at this table! I'll let you guys and the cops figure this one out, they got questions, they know where I live! I'm outta here!

***{Grabs her things to leave}***

**Usher Mean:**

Well, Sista ain't no fool! That's right, cops got questions you send them right on to 8974 Judgment

Lane, I'll be sitting on the porch waiting on em'!  
Me, Jesus and this peace of Steel! I'm gone!

**{Grabs her things & leaves}**

**SISTER BOAST:**

Oh Great! That just leaves me and you. So, who's gonna call Pastor?

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Ummm, you got that!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Figures, you'd coward out! Just like an adulterer, love the crime hate the punishment!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Looks like the criminal has paid for her crime, don't think I need to stick around for this outcome!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Like I said, coward!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

So, what you think because I had a physical relationship with her I should be responsible for her death? I never wanted her dead! She was my good thing. If anyone would want her dead it'd be you.

First Lady Denise has told me all about how you are trying to win her spot! How you so desperately want to be first lady. How you are always questioning her about the ends of outs of church business, how you are always asking questions about Pastor. Personal questions at that!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Excuse me, I never!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

You never what? You never thought about what it would be like to be in her shoes, to sit in her spot! No wonder you stayed at odds with Sister Green, she saw right through you and you hated her for it!

**SISTER BOAST:**

That's a lie!

**BROTHER LUSTER:**

Is it? I tell you what! I'll make that call to the police for you and the good Pastor! I'm sure you'll

have a lot answers to the questions they'll be asking  
anyway!

*{Grabs his things and leaves}*

**SISTER BOAST:**

*{Sits down next to First Ladies Body at the  
table}*

I guess you reap what you sow; First Lady.

*{Grabs things and leaves}*

[SCENE]

**ACT III:****Scene I: [The Wages of Sin are Death]**

*{Server appears from the kitchen, sits quietly beside of the body of the First Lady & begins eating a plate of food} {Looking smugly at the body and the audience}.*

**SERVER/DEATH:**

I've served this table all night. Quietly keeping watch on the guest. Watching the strategic movements how they interacted with the First Lady. Trying to understand the mission I'd been sent on. The First Lady... wow. Dead right here at her own dinner table. Surrounded by the "people of God". No one was praying, no called on the name of Jesus once. They pointed fingers at one another and blamed each other. They spoke of her as if she wasn't even in the room. They skimmed and plotted against her and her position and they lied and deceive for their own motives! But, who would be surprised, that's what sins do and First Lady Denise, well. She invited them all to sit at the dinner table of her soul. To eat and sup with her, to feed her spirit daily.

So, when I received my assignment, I was surprised that there were no Deacons, Usher's, Sisters or Brothers on the list, just the First Lady. Wow, that made a twist! A must admit, she sat a beautiful table! Everything was gorgeous, don't you think. The silverware was polished, the meal cooked to perfection, the table setting shined so you could see your reflection. But, when you look into yours tonight, what do you see. Do you see the well put together person you want people to see, or do you the real you?

You see, it wasn't exactly one deed that did First Lady Denise in. It was the multitude. No sin is greater than the other, but they all wage the same result.

Death.

So tonight, my assignment was simple. Lay First Lady to rest, rid her of the sins she possessed. Don't get me wrong, she's got to answer for the rest. But, my job here is done...or is it?

How many sins did you invite to your dinner table tonight?

*{Server/Death goes to the coat rack, grabs her grim reaper cloak and puts it on and walks through the audience stopping to look over the crowd as to gather who may be next}*

*[SCENE]*

ACT III

Scene II

*Dancers commence seductive dance. To "Hollowing  
Wolf's - Spell On You"*

**ACT III****Scene III: "The Clean-up Woman"**

*{Pastor sitting at the Dinner Table, preparing to have some dinner}*

**PASTOR:**

It's been almost a year since First Lady Denise past away. It's crazy how someone can be here one moment and gone the next. I loved that woman with all her flaws and I wouldn't wish death on anyone. But, God's word is true and all that is done in the dark will come to the light.

I can't say that I was completely surprised at some of the terrible things that came to light once First Lady First Lady Denise was gone, but I can tell you that the fruits of wicked labor have definitely made her pay the ultimate price. But, she wasn't the only who suffered. It's seems like she left a path of destruction behind her. Of course after the murder the church started talking and well, let's just say even though her death is still under investigation, there are a whole lot of "unusual suspects". First Lady Denise didn't have to die so young. Her life was cut way too short. I often remind myself of the good old days when we were a young couple just starting our work in God's vineyard. And then I ask myself what happened? It blows my mind to think how fast we strayed away from our true purpose, the plan God had for both of our lives. We were so good together; we had plans to change the world. She was the love of my life, even with all of her flaws. I know exactly when she started to stray. It was about a month after Brother Luster joined our congregation. I knew it was something about him when I first laid eyes on him, but he too is one of Gods' children, so I had to love him also. But my stomach would turn every time I saw him near her. I kept hoping and praying that God would fix her, make her whole again. Each day I watched her sink lower and lower, but couldn't do anything to stop it. Oh, don't get me wrong, I tried, but nothing I said or did worked. It's was kind of like that movie "The perfect storm". However, First Lady Denise's battle was within, the constant struggle of her soul. No matter how many times she tried to escape, her deep cravings for the things of this world would always draw her back in, by over taking her spirit and reason never had a

chance. She was never able to conquer the waves.

It's hard to say how the turn of events has affected me; I know that God is intentional in his ways. I knew for a long time that First Lady Denise wasn't quite the same person she was when I fell in love with her, but I never knew that to this extreme to get what she wanted. Using the church Deacons and Ministers to con her way into success and using me as a decoy to rip off the people of God is disgusting, shameful and to be quite honest with you.... A master plan. But, no plan outweighs the ultimate predestine plan of God.

*(He looks at a photo of First Lady Denise)*

My love you are sadly missed, but life does go on... Needless to say First Lady Denise's death did turn the church upside down. Deacon Cash was fired after an audit of the church finances showed that he was embezzling the children's church fund money for new suits, shoes and booze. Usher Mean left the church shortly after arrested for shooting at a police officer who came to question her about the First Ladies murder. Elder Sammore well, the ole' gal has checked herself into a weight loss rehab in hopes to return her temple back into a vessel of God.

What happened to Sister Green you ask? Well, last I heard she'd purchased a new Lexus. Word is she's been early to every service since she's purchased it; parking it right at the front doors. Minister C.P. Tyme well, I hate to say she passed away shortly after all this nonsense went down, heard her casket arrived 2 hours late for the funeral. Crying shame.

Brother Luster, well let's just say his shiesty tale ran off with his tale tucked between his legs. Couldn't even face me like a real man! I later found out he was shot and killed at one of the other "sisters' homes after her husband came home early from work. Autopsy report said his hands were greasy with a petroleum like substance.

Oh, I guess your wondering what happened to Sister Boast, well...

*{Entering Dining Area from the Kitchen; in long lingerie robe & a glass of wine}*

**SISTER BOAST:**

Dinner is served.

*{Pastor Smiles and lights go dim}*

*Lights Dem, scene closes to exit of Pastor and  
Sister Boast - Clean Up Woman"*

*[SCENE]*

**ACT III:****Scene I: [The Wages of Sin are Death]**

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(mock her)

**DEACON CASH:**

That's right brother even Satan knows the word of God.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

that's right and the love of "**Cash**" is the root of all evil...

*(First Lady Denise seeing things getting hot tries to defuse the situation)*

**FIRST LADY DENISE:**

Dinner is served!

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Well, I think I've just about lost my appetite.

**ALL SINS:**

Really?

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

All of the appetizers were so delicious.

**MINISTER C.P. TYME:**

Oh, I missed appetizers.

**SISTER BOAST:**

There were no appetizers, Count Large-a-la just sampled all the mints on the table and ate up all the rolls.

**SISTER GREEN:**

yeah, as if no one else wanted anything.

**ELDER SAMMORE:**

Well, it ain't my fault you all are slow eaters!

**USHER MEAN:**

Good Lord, how much longer do I have sit here and deal with all of you ingrates!

**SISTER BOAST:**

Ingrates! You've got some nerve coming in here with your ghetto mentality! Angry at everyone because you can't figure how to deal with the problems in your life; anxiously hanging around our First Lady as if she's the one who can help you out of slump.

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