

ISAIAH, MAYBE IT'S YOU

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[Comment: People with a platform, giving advice they themselves
can't follow]

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INT. PODCASTING STUDIO - AFTERNOON

Looking fabulous, successful. Three women in their 20s sit in lofty armchairs. Each manifest her own, bubbly brand of pizazz before a mic.

Cheeks are contoured flawlessly, eyes are sharpened, eyebrows plowed, lips bouncy, sipping wine and expressing themselves with aplomb.

The podcast belongs to DORA and GEORGIA, South London born-and-raised cousins with roots in Sierra Leone.

ISAIAH (27yo), our lead, is their guest. She has her hair pulled back clearing the view for a set of heavy earrings.

* Aspect Ratio is Vertical (9:16), stylized à la Tik Tok with Closed Captioned dialogs. We catch them mid-convo, their back and forth is fast paced ;

DORA

And so what's the wildest thing you've done for a Man?

GEORGIA

Oh I don't know...

ISAIAH

I've paid his rent.

DORA

Are You Crazy!!!

GEORGIA

Isaiah???? --

DORA

(teasing)

-- OMG !! You see this glass??? --

GEORGIA

-- My parents would kill me --

DORA (CONT'D)

-- I will throw it at your head!

* Aspect Ratio switches to standard Widescreen (16:9), as we cut to Isaiah ;

ISAIAH

...I know, trust... Old me, what can I say...

DORA

That's wild. But so you're in a relationship now, yeah?

ISAIAH

I am, few months now.

DORA

And how d'you meet?

ISAIAH

Mmm, like that, at a party.

GEORGIA

Old school, I like it.

ISAIAH

I'm an old soul

DORA

And so to bring it back a bit, prior to the relationship you're in, were you a *dater*?

ISAIAH

... I mean I was yeah, I've seen, I mean I've dated a lot of shit. Let's put it that way.

DORA

Same

GEORGIA

-- so what advice would you give us, girls that are out here navigating the landscape, tryna find a prince.

ISAIAH

That's a good question, hummmm.. one thing that I would say is... one of the best thing that I would say is... don't force it like, don't force shit --

DORA

-- No, that's how I got my first
hemorrhoid bruv.

ISAIAH

Stop it!! No, you're too quick. That's why
you own a banging podcast now, Ayyyyy!

DORA

Ayyyyy!!

The three snap fingers, SNAP SNAP SNAP ;

ISAIAH

No, but really like... Don't go looking for
it, d'you know what I mean? Let it happen,
cause I feel like when you're constantly on
the search and on the prowl, and on the
apps...you'll just get a lot of shit.

GEORGIE

FROGS

ISAIAH

Like yeah, when it's supposed to happen --
Exactly! When it's supposed to happen it
will happen. You'll find yours, babe.

DORA

Not even frogs... you get SLUGS bruv!

GEORGIA

(laughing)

You get SLUGS, init!?

DORA

Them DUTTY SLUGS.....

The three burst out laughing, it's contagious. Loud and Free.

CUT TO, A SHORT MONTAGE:

INT. TUBE, CIRCLE LINE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Isaiah holds onto the handle of a train making a fast turn. The cars behind her curving, disappearing and reappearing one by one.

INT. BATHROOM / KITHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Isaiah removes her heavy set of earrings, washes her eyes, lips and cheeks in the bathroom mirror... gracious, moving on ;

She lifts the toilet seat and REACTS to something deep in the bowl... Disgusted. She flushes, takes out her phone, sighs, sits, pees, is on her phone, quick gas, then flushes.

She gets up, looks down again... *it's* still there, now she's insulted.

INT. KITHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT - MONTAGE CONTINUES ;

At the kitchen counter, she's eating scrolling thru various clips on Tik Tok.

She empties her plate in the bin and notices the washer is full of wet clothes, she takes out a shirt, smells it -- is pissed.

Allan, her *man* (20s, tall, built) arrives slapping her butt, and kisses her cheek... she's not here for it ;

ALLAN

What was the podcast saying? Shared any gems?

Isaiah stays quiet for a BEAT, putting the shirt back in the washer ;

ALLAN (CONT'D)

You're good?

He moves to the sink and washes his hands ;

ISAIHAH

You left clothes in the washer...

ALLAN

...oh...

ISAIAH

Now they smell...

ALLAN

I forgot. I'll do another wash.

Allan grabs a pod ;

ISAIAH

... It's still there...

ALLAN

What is... No swear I flushed it this morning!!

ISAIAH

I thought you'd take care of it.

He pops the pod in and starts another wash...

ALLAN

(laughing, taking it lightly)
No, the log is back??

ISAIAH

It's been a week...

ALLAN

I know, still.... It'll go. Has to....

ISAIAH

I wanna throw up.

She stares at him, he moves to the fridge and grabs leftovers ;

ALLAN

Trust me. No, Isaiah :)

ISAIAH

No bruv... You need to care of it.

ALLAN
....take care of what...

ISAIAH
Or that's it. I'm done.

BEAT, taken by surprise ;

ALLAN
Huh...What...?

ISAIAH
Yeah.

He munches, leaving a BEAT ;

ALLAN
Are you hearing yourself? You're
gonna end us over a deuce...?

ISAIAH
yeah?

ALLAN
Do you understand what you're saying?
Isaiah, it's ridiculous, you're --

ISAIAH
-- I'm a professional fucking songwriter.
I know exactly what I'm saying.

ALLAN
I got money coming in, y'know? I meant to tell u

She stares at him, he back at her ;

ALLAN (CONT'D)
You're done paying my rent, swear down.
I've patterned it.

ISAIAH
I just want this shit out of my house.

ALLAN
Ok then... I got you.

He moves to the kitchen counter, vexed, but she moves in his step... left... then right... then left ;

ALLAN
... what... Move! My god...

BEAT on Isaiah, daggers in her eyes ;

ALLAN (CONT'D)
What???????

They stand in silence for another BEAT ;

ALLAN (CONT'D)
I don't even think it's mine, y'know?
... Mine don't come out like that.

ISAIAH
I don't care

ALLAN
I'M EATING!!!! FLIPPING... Isaiah. Look
at me. You're a joker... No Way.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER... Allan is crouched over the toilet... Looking down at the log... He glances back at Isaiah by the door...

ALLAN
What is this?

Nothing from Isaiah ;

ALLAN (CONT'D)
What are we doing.... You're enjoying this?

She's cold, arms crossed, silent ;

He takes a deep breath, grudgingly, then goes for it... he tucks one arm inside a plastic bag... and reaches in ;

ALLAN
.....ok bruv.... you can do this...

She cringes... As he fiddles around... Until:

ALLAN
EURGHFFFH!!

ALLAN JUMPS BACK AS IF HE'D SEEN A GHOST ;

ALLAN
NO. NO. NO....IMPOSSIBLE.

ISAIAH
ALLAN? ????????

ALLAN
IT MOVED! NO WAY, I'M NOT DOING THIS.

ISAIAH
Is it out??

Allan GAGS, followed by Isaiah, both URRRRRGHH... ;

QUICK CUT TO:

EARLIER - Back to podcast...

ISAIAH
I'm so evolved now...

DORA
Amen!

ISAIAH
No like, I used to be the provider in my relationships. And it's not to say there's anything wrong with that per say. But like, I was so embarrassed. Like... I got in the habit of lying about it, to my friends, family. It's superficial and dumb, but... I dunno, like I really was!!! Like....

DORA / GEORGIA

Right.

ISAIAH

Like I was the one that was taking care of them, from cleaning to like... transferring funds into their accounts when they were running low. And it's not to say there's anything wrong with that but especially when you get to a point in your life where you're trying to better yourself, lift your standards, and say save for a mortgage, this and the other, you need somebody who is on that same journey and that can match you at that.

DORA

So right.

ISAIAH

So yeah, now that.... with the relationship I'm in, I'm there. Happy, finally.

CUT TO:

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Allan and Isaiah are in bed... Allan's on his phone while Isaiah folds the clothes... She stops, deep in thought ;

ISAIAH

I'm not happy.

ALLAN

Watch this

Allan shows her a tik tok, she watches but gives no reaction... meanwhile, he laughs on and on and on...

ALLAN

...Bro, I'm dead. This guy's too funny...

ISAIAH

We never should have met... Hinge was a mistake...

ALLAN

Flipping, that's mine...

ISAIAH

I can't keep lying... ignoring the red flags.

ALLAN

It's poop, Isaiah. Let it go. This is mine. You've put it in your pile...

He grabs his shirt and puts it in his pile, then back on his phone.

BEAT on Isaiah, disgusted with herself... Nauseating at the thought of... ;

CUT TO:

EARLIER - Back to podcast...

ISAIAH

Protect your energy, focus on your growth.

DORA

I mean...!

ISAIAH

No literally, like the best advice I could give is... the worst thing you can do is lie to yourself. And entertain dumb scenarios in your head like, we'll get better. And he can surprise me, and it'll get better. BECAUSE it's NOT! You literally won't, trust me, it's shit.... If it's shit...

DORA / GEORGIA

Fact...

ISAIAH

Like if he's not right, NO LIKE...GOSHHH WHAT AM I SAYING... IF HE'S DUMB...AND HE'S NOT SUPPORTING YOU AND HE LIKE, LEAVES CLOTHES WET IN THE WASHER TYPE SHIT - YOU SHOULD DUMP HIM. LEAVE HIM! FLUSH, GOOD BYE!!!

DORA / GEORGIA

Right, yeah.

ISAIAH

NO, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T, DO IT. CAUSE MAYBE YOU'VE MOVED IN WITH HIM... AND YOU'VE MOVED ON BUT IF YOU'RE THERE STILL PAYING HIS RENT OVER AND OVER MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF, BEING GOOD. AND BEING TOO GOOD LIKE, NO LEARN TO SAY NO. TEACH YOURSELF. CAUSE LIKE, I'VE EVER ONLY BEEN DUMPED IN MY LIFE. AND THAT'S NOT TO SAY I HAVEN'T ENDED THINGS, BUT I JUST DONT KNOW HOW TO SAY NO WITHOUT MAKING A FOOL OUT OF MYSELF, LIKE I STAY AROUND, AND I SIT THERE LIKE FLIPPING, FLUSHING AND FLUSHING AND FEELING LIKE SHIT AND YOU KEEP FLUSHING BUT NOTHINGS CHANGING, LIKE NO! THIS KINDA BEHAVIOR NEEDS TO GO! THIS SHIT NEEDS TO GO, LIKE.... No, Isaiah.... TAKE CARE OF IT...y'know? Girl... You need to take care of it, y'know?

It's quiet in the studio... DORA and GEORGIA glance at each like oh-uhmmm... Isaiah revealing her truths left the room Awkward... 'til DORA picks it up ;

DORA

- Yeah, no you're right like it's Not going to happen. Like I say I don't have a type.. But then like, I start dating someone and, no Like I Do Have A Type and I need to write it down because... Why Am I Branching Out And Experimenting And Trying to Change and Adapt When I Know I'm Not Going To Fucking Like You.

GEORGIA

Exactly.

Isaiah stays quiet...

DORA
Like What I Am Playing At?

BEAT on Isaiah... withdrawn in herself...

CUT TO:

LATER, after the podcast, Isaiah puts on her coat... chatting with Dora while Georgia and the producers chat on...

DORA
Thank you so much for coming in, really.

ISAIAH
Could we not air the part when I kinda...

DORA
Oh --

ISAIAH
-- Yeah, could you edit that out? I don't think --

DORA
-- Yeah, no definitely girl. Of course.

ISAIAH
Thanks.

DORA
Of course. No worries. At all, really. You're good?

ISAIAH
yeah, yeah. Thanks :)

DORA
Come on girl, look at you. Big up yourself!

ISAIAH
Haha I know, no I know. Thanks tho.

DORA (O.C.)
Yesss gurl! C'mon, please. You look amazing by the way.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

... Isaiah wakes up... taking it all in... BEAT.

She grabs her phone, in bed... On instagram, she scrolls for a bit before landing on:

We watch her watch it ;

The CLIP of her revealing her truths on the podcast... it's ONLINE, and she's watching it... at first overwhelmed, silent ;

AUDIO OF CLIP: "AND YOU FLUSH BUT NOTHING'S MOVING AND YOU KEEP FLUSHING BUT NOTHINGS CHANGING AND NO! THIS SHIT NEEDS TO GO, LIKE.... No, Isaiah.... TAKE CARE OF IT...y'know?....."

INSERT, we watch the view count rise: 2,000 > 2,052 > 3,001... She jumps on Tik Tik, first clip is of a young girl (13yo) lip syncing to the audio of her breakdown.

ISAIAH

...Bitch....

She jumps on WhatsApp texting "WTF?????" to the group chat with Dora and Georgia followed by the "🤔" emoji x 4... but doesn't send, she "selects all" and deletes.... as notifications start pinging her phone... BIZZZ. BIZZZ.

She looks to the ceiling ;

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

.... idiot...

BEAT... The sound of the toilet FLUSHES...

Allan steps in the bedroom... phone in hand... He stands there... boxers only...

Awkward BEAT...

ALLAN

What....

ISAIAH

Did you really take a shit?

ALLAN

Where should I go, Costa?

Isaiah sighs deeply, not believing they've released the clip...

ALLAN (CON'T)

....Isaiah...

Allan steps across the room, getting dressed...

ISAIAH

.....what....

ALLAN

(he laughs, sneering)

Your dumb-ass. It's everywhere.

ISAIAH

Uh...??

ALLAN

You're going viral. The podcast? Rich sent me...

ISAIAH

I didn't mean it.

ALLAN

Yeah..... No..... I think we're done.

ISAIAH

...yeah...

ALLAN

On A PODCAST? Do you know how embarrassing
this is for ME??????

ISAIAH

..... Embarrassing for YOU????

Allan grabs his things and leaves the room, at the door ;

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

You're a piece of shit, you know that?

ALLAN

Well, now it's gone.

(BEAT)

I'm flushing myself out.

BEAT on Isaiah.... nonplus.

He exits... Isaiah has a moment....

Then reflex: she jumps and runs to the bathroom TO SEE.... SHE SEES IT, AND YELLS AT ALLAN ;

ISAIAH (CONT'D)

IT'S STILL THERE!!!!!!!

The END.