

FLOW Project

Traffic Stop

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INT. CAFE

Scene opens to the sound of the chatter at a moderately busy cafe. **EMMA** (19), an insecure college student, fixated on her phone.

EMAIL:

"We regret to inform you that your scholarship for Fall 2022 will be revoked due to unmet GPA requirements."

Emma is visibly distraught at the sight of the email. Enters sweet southern **JESSICA** (32) with a red Gucci dress. Emma quickly turns off her phone, sets it on the table, and forces a smile.

EMMA

You came right on time. Our server just brought out the coffee.

The aroma of Dior fills the air as she sits down in the booth

JESSICA

It's been like forever since I've last spoken to you. You're as beautiful as ever.

Emma blushes and fidgets at the compliment

EMMA

You're the real beauty. Looks like leaving the diner helped you flourish.

JESSICA

You still work there?

EMMA

Sadly... I need to pay for culinary school somehow.

JESSICA

That's right, how's that going along?

EMMA

I wonder if it's worth it sometimes. College in general is crazy-expensive

JESSICA

Yeah I know, I just paid off last semester's bill.

Jessica tries to look nonchalant but as Emma congratulates her, she's beaming with joy.

EMMA

Wait, you're going back to school?
That's great! You always talked about
it at the diner. I'm so happy for you.

JESSICA

Thanks. I really owe it to WIC.
They're the ones that landed me this
job. I can finally afford to go back.

EMMA

WIC?

JESSICA

Women In Charge. It's this women
empowerment group that shaped me into
the woman I am today. It helped me
turn a hobby into a high-paying job. I
make 150k a year now!

EMMA

Wow, that's amazing. What's it take to
join?

JESSICA

The hardest part really is making it
through summer camp. It breaks you
down so that you can be ready to learn
the mindset of a successful woman.
It's 100 percent worth it though.

EMMA

Does it cost?

JESSICA

Just the flight there.

EMMA

Ehh, money's kind of tight right now.
I would ask my parents but we're not
on the greatest terms.

JESSICA

I can cover the cost of the flight if
you need me to.

EMMA

I couldn't possibly ask you to do

that.

JESSICA

It's nothing really. We go way back so I don't mind. Plus you can pay me back with the stipend they give you.

EMMA

There's a stipend?

JESSICA

Yes ma'am, 2k a week. It's essentially seed money, and they teach you how to grow it. Sound like something you'd be interested in?

Emma's phone vibrates on the table and as it lights up she reads

EMAIL:

"Your new balance for Fall 2022..."

EMMA

Yeah, is it too late to join for this summer?

JESSICA

Nope, I'll contact the manager to add you to the roster.

EMMA

You have any advice for me?

JESSICA

When you feel like giving up, just remember hard work pays off.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS

One year later

Scene opens on **IMANI** (21), an ambitious college student, sitting on the bench reading an Instagram post of the disappearance of Emma. She looks up at the sound of designer heels rapidly hitting the floor.

JESSICA

Did class end early or something?

IMANI

Yeah, It ended like 5 minutes ago.

Jessica sighs and sits down.

JESSICA

So I rushed over here for nothing huh?

IMANI

Haha, unfortunately. But I'm glad I got to see your outfit of the week. You know how much I admire your style

JESSICA

Awe, thanks hun.

IMANI

Just so you know, I'd out style you in a heartbeat

Imani sighs

IMANI

If only I could afford my dream wardrobe

JESSICA

I wasn't always able to afford this style. It's honestly because of this group called WIC: Women In Charge. It's a women empowerment group that focuses on shaping women into moneymakers.

IMANI

This is a campus organization?

JESSICA

No, its more like a community program that focuses on financial literacy. It starts off as a summer camp but then leads into a lifetime of sisterhood.

IMANI

Does it cost?

JESSICA

Quite the opposite. They give you a stipend every week. Usually, you'd have to pay for transportation to the campsite but this year it's close enough that I'll drive participants.

IMANI

Sounds like a paid vacation to me.
What's the catch?

Jessica thinks back the beaten up face of Emma, she blinks it away with a smile

JESSICA

It's the biggest catch of the season-
the Marlin of opportunities. It'll
have you quitting that job at The
Kingsman Club in no time.

IMANI

How'd you-

Imani stops as she sees her ride pulling up

JESSICA

You were asking something?

IMANI

Nah, it was nothing. WIC sounds pretty
interesting. I'll hit you up later.

Imani gets into the car.

INT. CAR

As Imani gets into the car, she whips out her phone to look up WIC. Nosey and overprotective **MOM** smiles as she turns to speak to Imani.

MOM

Who was that?

IMANI

A classmate of mine. She was telling
me about this great opportunity. This
women's empowerment program that
focuses on financial literacy.

MOM

A new campus org will do you some
good. Especially if it teaches money
management.

IMANI

It's not with the school. It's a camp
out of state.

MOM

It costs?

IMANI

Even better it has a weekly stipend.
The website says two thousand!

Imani looks at Mom with excitement

MOM

Where's the camp again?

IMANI

She didn't say and neither does the
website...

MOM

Mmmm, I don't trust it. They could be
trying to kidnap for all I know.

IMANI

I've known her for a while. She
wouldn't do that to me. It seems like
a really great opportunity Ma.

MOM

It's not always some sketchy people in
a white van. It's usually people you
know and trust who rip you from the
world you love. They'll sweet talk you
into going with them somewhere for
some purpose. You should report your
conversation

IMANI

I don't think it's that serious. Do
you even realize how that'll look when
she finds out!?

MOM

Better safe than sorry. She's got
nothing to worry about if the program
is as great as she claims it to be.
I'm sure they'll be able to keep you
anonymous.

IMANI

I guess that's true. I did find it
weird she knew I worked at The
Kingsman Club. I don't normally tell
people that.

MOM

See, your gut knows something's fishy.
Call 311 right now, it's a non-
emergency law enforcement line. Let's
get this out the way right now.

Imani dials the number and scene fades out

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - PRESENT DAY

One week later.

Imani is walking on the sidewalk when she feels her phone
vibrate. she looks at her phone to see a text from Mom.

Is this the lady you were talking
about before?

Attached is an article in which Imani reads the headlines.

HEADLINES

"Police find evidence that proves
recently arrested human trafficker
Jessica Miller is connected to the
disappearance of Emma Smalls"

Astonished Imani texts back

IMANI

Yeah, that is. Wow that's crazy. I
could've just as easily ended up like
Emma.

MOM

Aren't you glad you listen to me?

Baffled, Imani puts the phone away and starts walking again
shaking her head.

IMANI

Wow...

FADE OUT