

OFF THE ENDZ

Bola Agbaje

SHARON: WHO'S THAT?!

The knocking continues.

I'M COMING, I'M COMING.

She comes onstage wrapped in a towel.

I'M COMING!

She gets no reply and the knocking continues.

I'M HERE, STOP BANGING!

The knocking continues.

I'M HERE! WHO IS IT?

The knocking continues. She begins opening the door.

ARE YOU DEAF? I SAID -(She opens the door, leaving the chain on.) DAVID! OH MY GOSH!

DAVID: Hey, how are you doing?

SHARON: When did you get out?

DAVID enters the house, battered and bruised.

SHARON: What happened to your face?

DAVID: Nothing.

SHARON: Look at your face!

DAVID: It's nothing, man. How are you, babes? Long time no see.

SHARON: How can you say it's nothing ...?

DAVID: OK, it's something.

SHARON: You are treating this as joke. The wound looks fresh - are you OK?

DAVID: A smile a day keeps the doctor away.

SHARON: That's not a saying!

DAVID: How are you, love?

SHARON: I'm OK. Wh-

DAVID: You look good by the way.

SHARON: DAVID.

DAVID: Yep?

SHARON: Why you not answering my question?

DAVID: What question?

SHARON: What happened to you?

DAVID: Nothing.

SHARON: Let me take a look at it.

DAVID: I'm good. Can I have a drink?

SHARON goes over to the fridge and gets him a drink.

SHARON: Pineapple juice?

DAVID: Just like the back of your hand.

SHARON: What's that?

DAVID: How well you know me.

SHARON: Yep, and I know you wouldn't have come here if you didn't want some help, so please let me take a look at your face. It looks infected.

DAVID: I'm fine, man.

SHARON: You don't look fine, you look hurt!

DAVID: What, this little scratch?

SHARON goes to pick up a first-aid box. She goes over to DAVID to help tidy his wound. He does not stop her.

DAVID: Ouch! Careful, man!

SHARON: I thought it was a scratch?

She continues to tend to DAVID's wound.

DAVID: You guys have done real well with this place ... What scam's Kojo running?

SHARON: He is not running any scams, thank you!

DAVID: Where'd you get all this stuff from?

SHARON: We bought it.

DAVID: Full price?!

SHARON: Of course. Where have you been staying? When did you get out?

DAVID: I was in a hostel ...

SHARON: But ...

DAVID: How do you know there was a but?

SHARON: Cos I am guessing that is how you got this on your face.

DAVID: Yes and no.

SHARON: You haven't changed one bit!

DAVID: No need to!

SHARON: I'm listening.

DAVID: What?

SHARON: Finish the rest of your story.

DAVID: I came here to check you, not to tell tales. You give me jokes.

SHARON: Why's that?

DAVID: Always trying to fix something that's broke.

SHARON: Is that a bad thing?

DAVID: Not all the time. Where's Kojo?

SHARON: Work.

DAVID: What time he finish? I need to go check him.

SHARON: You need to go to hospital for them to do some X-rays.

DAVID: Babes, I am not going.

SHARON: Why not?

DAVID: Look like you done a great job on me already.

SHARON: I'm only a nurse. A doctor needs to look at you.

DAVID: I trust you.

SHARON: I will make you a deal.

DAVID: No deal.

SHARON: If I let you stay here -

DAVID: How do you know I want to stay here ...?

SHARON: Promise me you will get this checked out properly.

Pause.

DAVID: I'll think about it ...

His attention is glued to a cartoon that pops up on the screen. He turns the volume up and begins singing along.

Oh my days, sharon, you remember this cartoon?

SHARON: Yeah, I ...

DAVID: It sooo sick ... I can't believe ...

He turns the volume up louder. A popular nineties cartoon appears on-screen. He begins singing along. He points the remote for SHARON to sing into it. She joins in reluctantly. He gets off the couch and begins performing and they dance around the room. He falls back onto the couch, satisfied with his performance.

DAVID: Oh my days, I can't believe this cartoon is still on.

SHARON: Yes, it's on every day.

DAVID: Shut up ... no way. But how did it just pop on the TV like that?

SHARON: I Sky Plus it and put it on auto -

DAVID: Sky what?

SHARON: Are you being serious?

DAVID: You forget I've been away.

SHARON: Why is everything a joke to you?

DAVID: The only sky I see is the one outside my window.

SHARON replies sarcastically.

SHARON: Ha ha!

DAVID: ... You and Kojo are not playing when it comes to kitting this place out.

SHARON: Rewards you get for working hard.

DAVID: Didn't think you guys would still be here.

He drags SHARON down to the couch. She resists.

SHARON: We're not gonna be here for that much longer.

DAVID: What, the council giving you another flat?

SHARON: Excuse me! Kojo and I are buying a place. We have found a three-bedroom house, put in an offer and -

DAVID: Where ...?

SHARON: None of your business!

DAVID: Hmm, I love feisty women.

SHARON: Shut up!

Silence.

DAVID: You lot are really getting out of here.

SHARON: Yep, and we're not looking back!

DAVID: Good!

SHARON: You don't believe me?

DAVID: I said good!

SHARON: Good!

She stares at him and he stares back.

DAVID: You are so sexy ...

SHARON: ... Stop it!

DAVID: I'm only playing.

SHARON: We can't play like that no more.

DAVID: What's that supposed to mean?

SHARON: I am with Kojo now!

DAVID laughs.

DAVID: Babes, you got a dirty mind.

SHARON: No I don't, you was the one that -

DAVID: Do you miss me, SHARON?

SHARON: No.

She begins to pack up her things.

DAVID: That's OK. Pause. I missed you. Pause. Thanks.

SHARON: For what?

DAVID: Always being there.

SHARON: You're welcome.

She goes to give him a hug.

DAVID: Oi, you been eating too many pies or something.

He taps her on the stomach.

SHARON: That's not nice, you know.

She strokes her stomach.

DAVID: Wait a minute ... Ha ha ha, no way!

SHARON: I have to get to work. I don't want to be late.

DAVID: Rah, wait, I was only playing. Silence. Things really have changed.

SHARON: Yeah, I guess they have.

DAVID: Is it a boy or a girl?

SHARON: I don't know yet.

DAVID: I bet it's a boy!

SHARON: I hope it's not.