

SCENE 1

"First Trap" [711]
10.29.20

"DARREN"
5 PGS

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

DRE (V.O.)
So Charlie hooked me up with his
BlAd boy Darren T. Gibson. You
know a Black man is important when
he uses his middle initial.

Dre flags Stevens down, within view of DARREN T. GIBSON
(Black, early 40s, professional) sitting in Dre's office. *

FYI

DRE
I've got a real promising candidate
for that exec position. Darren T.
(MORE)

DRE (CONT'D)

Gibson. I'm about to interview him
right now.

Dre motions to his office. Stevens looks and his face sours.

STEVENS

I met Darren before. We were on a
Men in Advertising panel together.

FYI

DRE

He must know his stuff then.

STEVENS

I actually found him to be a bit
uncooperative. Not much of a team
player.

(then)

Kind of surprised you got a shot
and picked him, but okay. I trust
your judgment.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Stevens pats him on the shoulder. Dre is clearly thrown off.

15 **INT. STEVENS & LIDO - DRE'S OFFICE - DAY (DAY 3)**

15

Dre reviews Darren's résumé with a fine-tooth comb.

DARREN

Right now I'm a VP at Culture
Collective. I'm leading some
really exciting campaigns.

DRE

Yeah, that's cool. But I also see
that you were only at Chiat\Day for
five months. What happened there?

DARREN

Culture Collective was closer to
home. My wife just had a baby, so
it was a blessing to be able to cut
that commute down.

DRE

Still... I'm a little surprised you
left one of the big boys to go to a
small firm.

DARREN

You know how it is for us at the
big firms, it's not always better.
(MORE)

*

START



DARREN (CONT'D)

But at Culture Collective I'm working on campaigns at a level I was never able to do before.

DRE

What are we talking, like gas station ads?

DARREN

Actually, it was the Kaiser Permanente campaign with Regina King.

DRE

Wait, that was you? How did I not know that? You're the reason I'm drinking more water.

DARREN

Well, you know, there's a lot of campaigns. It's hard to keep track of them all.

DRE

No, I should know what my fellow Black ad execs are doing.
(then, spiraling)
What has happened to me? One ding on you from a White man and I was convinced I couldn't give you this job. Hell, you showed up fifteen minutes early and I judged you for having that kind of free time.

DARREN

Excuse me?

DRE

I was scrutinizing you harder because I assumed you only did commercials where they rap about McNuggets. It's no wonder I don't know any Black executives, I'm too busy second-guessing whether they deserve to be here.

Dre takes a moment to feel this ugly truth about himself.

DRE (CONT'D)

That ends now. Brother, this job is yours. I'd love to have you on the team. Hell, I need you.

DARREN

Actually... I think I'm going to
stay at the rapping nugget place,
but thanks.

*

Darren gets up to leave.

*

DRE

Wait, don't go. Imagine what three
Blacks could do at this place.

*

*

Darren hurries out. Dre's more lost than ever.

*

16 **INT. JOHNSON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 3)**

STOP

16

SCENE 2

blackish
Shooting Draft
20 CONTINUED:

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27.
(III) 20

DRE (V.O.)
For me, it meant changing my
conditioning and scrapping the
White man's plan for a new one.

Darren, confused, takes the drink as Dre sits down.

START



DARREN
Look, I appreciate the opportunity,
but I just can't accept the job.

DRE
I'm not here to beg, I'm here to
bond. Now, can a brother be a BlAd
Man? *

DARREN
What's BlAd Man?

DRE
Your networking group. Charlie
told me about it.

DARREN
Man, that guy keeps trying to
change the name, but he won't pay
dues. *

DRE
Yeah, that sounds very Charlie. He
owes me three thousand dollars for
lunch.

Darren fist bumps Dre, welcoming him to the brotherhood.

STOP

END OF ACT THREE