

# BODY

Genre: DRAMA / FANTASY

SCREENPLAY  
written and created  
by  
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FADE IN:

A beautiful BEARDED IRIS comes into focus. The FINGERS of a child gently wrapped around the flower's crimson pot. Its purple petals fill the screen. Our background: clusters of colorful orbs dancing on the air -- too blurred to be determined but our setting appears to be an amazing garden.

The only sound we hear is that of a child's voice reciting a poem that is wise beyond her years. --

IRIS (O.S.)

Body. Body of a woman or body of her child, whether a baby girl or a baby boy; no two bodies are the same. God's precious design to be prized and never shamed. Whether conceived from sweetness or born from something sour; every body comes to love, cry and empower. Every body has purpose and gifts to shower. Every body is divine like every blossomed and withering flower. ...Body.

The orbs come into focus, revealing that our setting is a mob of protesters in Brooklyn, wailing anti-abortion signs that exhibit horrific images of dead fetuses.

As CAMERA does a slow 180 degree wraparound the FLOWER, we realize we're in a window pane -- inside of an abortion clinic --

INT. ST. FRANCIS PLANNING CENTER - WAITING AREA -- CONTINUOUS

CAMERA's wraparound stops, and our new background comes into focus -- an extreme close up of the child holding the flower. This is IRIS, an adorable African American 5 year-old filled with wonder and joy, standing in her chair, lifting her flower into the sun's rays; oblivious to the protester's purpose.

Iris' environment comes into focus. This greater reveal shows women waiting to be called, all masking themselves with big hats and magazines.

SLAM! Iris is startled -- looks over -- a frantic man kicked open the entrance door -- now BOLTING towards the corridor. We are limited to Iris' POV, only seeing the back of the man. Only knowing he's young, African American, wearing a kufi, white dress shirt, jeans and colorful sneakers.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN

ALICIA! ALICIA! Where's she!  
Alicia?!

A security guard stops him -- his hand on the man's shoulder.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, you have to calm down--

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN  
 (pushing the guard)  
 Don't fuckin' touch me!  
 (punching - knocking  
 him out cold)  
 Don't you fuckin' touch me!  
 (runs down the corridor)  
 ALICIA! ...ALICIA!

Iris is afraid while listening to the man call out Alicia's name again and again -- hearing him kick open door after door ...eventually letting out a BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM --

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 ALICIA, NOOO!!!!  
 (uncontrollable weeping)

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. WASHINGTON DC -- DAY

Sunrise. Three weeks ago.

The voices of a political TV show emanates as we get AERIAL VIEWS of the White House -- Capital Hill -- bustling traffic -- wealthy neighborhood -- lastly Lauren's multimillion dollar luxury home. We hear dialogue as we DESCEND upon it...

ORISA (O.S.)  
 Bank of America, Ben & Jerry's,  
 Charles Schwab, Allstate, Converse,  
 Craigslist, Exxon Mobil, Expedia,  
 Nike, Pepsi, General Electric,  
 Verizon, Starbucks, Pfizer, Global  
 Com, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo --

CHRIS MATTHEWS (O.S.)  
 Excuse me. Did you say Global Com?

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY

TIGHT ON THE T.V.: We learn that we've been listening to an MSNBC program hosted by Chris Matthews where Orisa Hemmingway, a fiery 43 year-old African American attorney, Democrat and pro-choice advocate, may be a little too much for Republican NY SENATOR JOHN SCHNEIDER to handle. The debate continues --

ORISA (ON T.V.)  
 Yes I did, Matt.

CHRIS MATTHEWS (ON T.V.)  
 I wasn't aware that Global Com was a supporter of Planned Parenthood.

ORISA (ON T.V.)

Global Com has been the biggest supporter there is for over 20 years.

SENATOR JOHN SCHNEIDER (ON T.V.)

And like you, Global Com and every other corporation you've mentioned so eloquently, are all pro-choice. These guys are all on your side. So why are you so fired up?

CHRIS MATTHEWS (ON T.V.)

I have to agree with him, Hemmingway.

ORISA (ON T.V.)

Because I support a woman's right to choose. However, Global Com and the aforementioned corporations have a different agenda.

SENATOR JOHN SCHNEIDER (ON T.V.)

(laughing)

Uh-oh, Matt. You may have to rename your show *MSNBC's X-Files*.

CHRIS MATTHEWS (ON T.V.)

I know where you're going with this, Hemmingway. Unfortunately, we don't have the time to give that topic the kind of attention it deserves. But before we go, can you answer the question? Will you or will you not be running for New York State Senate?

ORISA (ON T.V.)

Haven't decided, Matt.

We begin Lauren's story here.

Meet LAUREN HUNTLY. The 48 year-old African American CROSSING camera with a smartphone to her ear, hot coffee to her lips and her attention on the T.V. She's the attractive, hard nose business type. She's dressed and ready for the day.

LAUREN

Calling my phone at sunrise isn't very attractive, Geena. I'm feeling a lack of respect for my personal space.

GEENA (ON THE PHONE)

They want you here at 2pm sharp. A face-to-face. This is serious, Lauren.

LAUREN

And you couldn't call my office during business hours to tell me that?

Lauren's home phone starts RINGING. She ignores it.

GEENA (ON THE PHONE)  
That's them, Lauren. Book a flight  
and get your ass over here.

A young and beautiful African African woman in silk pajamas enters the room. This is CELINE, Lauren's wife, who's wiping the sleep from her eyes while placing a brochure on the table (in vitro fertilization and third party pregnancies).

CELINE  
Did you look at this yet?

LAUREN  
(nodding 'not yet')  
You guys woke my wife up.

GEENA (ON THE PHONE)  
Lauren, please!

Lauren hangs up and pulls Celine close.

LAUREN  
Sorry, sweetheart. Coffee?

CELINE  
Isn't it a little early for that?

LAUREN  
(turning T.V. off)  
That's old stuff. I'm streaming.

CELINE  
How old?

LAUREN  
About 12 hours. Gotta keep my finger  
on the pulse, right?

CELINE  
(refers to phone call)  
What was that about?

LAUREN  
Global Com. They're not happy with  
me, so ...shit is hitting the fan.  
I'll be back before dinner.

CELINE  
You're going to New York? I thought  
you had a big thing on the Hill today?

LAUREN  
Apparently this takes precedence.  
Those guys own the controlling  
interest of seven Fortune 500  
companies. I have to.

Celine's look says *'tell me more'*. Lauren's look back says *'you know I don't like to talk about business'*.

CELINE  
(joking)  
Your life sucks.

LAUREN  
(laughing with a kiss)  
Tell me about it.

INT. ORISA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

We begin Orisa's story here.

That same morning. Brooklyn, NY.(Fort Greene area)

Meet ORISA HEMMINGWAY, the fiery woman from the MSNBC program. We open at a close-up of her sleeping, facing us, wrapped in white linen with her back to a window -- where the vibrant purple flowers of a JACARANDA TREE can be seen blooming.

Suddenly MICHAEL ASCENDS from behind her -- peaking to see if she's awake. He's her very masculine, fit, 52 year-old African American husband, and he's in the mood.

MICHAEL  
(kissing her shoulder)  
Baby. Baby ...you asleep? Baby?

ORISA  
Not anymore.

Michael turns her on her back, slides on top of her, talks with his mouth to hers --

MICHAEL  
Oh-my-lord. You feel that, Baby?  
It's about to get lit up in here  
this morning.

She smiles, finally opening her eyes -- kissing him.

ORISA  
You think so?

MICHAEL  
Oh I know so. There's nothing like  
breakfast before breakfast.

ORISA  
(opening her legs)  
I know that's right. Bad breath and  
all.

They laugh as Michael starts to penetrate her. But wait!  
He feels something -- pulls the sheets back.

REVEAL: NUTURI, their 4 year-old, sleeping at the foot of the bed.

MICHAEL  
(comical whispering)  
Oh no. No!

ORISA  
She just needs some time to get use to things. Rain check?

MICHAEL  
Baby, do you see this? Uh-uh. Not this time.

ORISA  
(teasing)  
I told you about messing with those pills.

MICHAEL  
Oh, no. This is all na-tur-ral morning glory in desperate need of my amazing, intelligent, and incredibly beautiful wife's skilled attention.  
(a beat)  
We're just gonna have to be creative.