

CO-WORKER #1
Let's just ask Issa. Issa, what's
"on fleek?"

Issa pours her coffee. She's used to this.

ISSA
I don't know what that means.

Her co-workers look disappointed, as Issa takes her coffee
and leaves the break room.

ISSA (V.O.)
I know what that shit means. But
I'm not giving them the
satisfaction. Small victories.

END MONTAGE:

START

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Issa stands in front of a bored 6th grade classroom as Frieda
hands out brochures for "WE GOT YOU!" the educational non-
profit company they work for. The school's counselor, JUSTIN,
mid-30s, Asian, stands next to her.

ISSA
...WE GOT YOU! offers after-school
tutoring, mentoring programs,
community service, standardized
test coaching, Big Brother/Big
Sister and general filling in the
cracks. Whatever it is you need to
succeed, WE GOT YOU! As the Youth
Liaison, I can assure that we'll
always have your back. Questions?

Silence.

ISSA (CONT'D)
Don't be shy, guys. Fire away.

A 6TH GRADE GIRL raises her hand.

6TH GRADE GIRL #1
Why you talk like a white girl?

Other students snicker. Frieda does, too. Issa is unsure how
to answer that.

ISSA
(with a "BLAC-cent")
Haaa...you caught me. I'm rockin'
Blackface.

She laughs. Nothing. She turns to Frieda for something. Frieda mouths, "That's racist."

ISSA (CONT'D)
Any other questions?

Another 6TH GRADE GIRL raises her hand.

6TH GRADE GIRL #2
What's up with your hair?

ISSA
Um, I don't know what you mean?

6TH GRADE GIRL #2
My cousin can put some tracks in it. Unless you like it like that.

Issa reaches for her hair insecurely.

6TH GRADE GIRL #3
You rude. She African!

ISSA
We're all from Africa, guys.

JUSTIN
Let's stick to questions about the program.
(to Issa)
Sorry.

A 6TH GRADE BOY raises his hand.

6TH GRADE BOY #1
Is this what you always wanted to do?

This question actually catches Issa off guard.

ISSA
Um...No. But...I got this job after college and it fit my interests at the time.

6TH GRADE BOY #2
Are you single?

ISSA
I don't think that's appropriate.

6TH GRADE BOY #2
(to his friend)
She's single.

ISSA

Ok, since you guys are SO interested in my personal life. Here it is: I'm 28-- actually, 29, today's my birthday. I've been with my boyfriend for 4 years. I came from a great family. I have a college degree. I work in the corporate world, but I like to give back. And I did this to my hair on purpose. I hope that covers everything. Does anybody have any questions about WE GOT YOU?

6TH GRADE MIXED GIRL

Why aren't you married?

ISSA

I'm just not. Right now.

6TH GRADE MIXED GIRL

My dad says nobody is checking for bitter ass black women anymore.

END

Everyone except Justin laughs.

CUT TO:

BATHROOM: Issa lapses into a rap rebuttal:

ISSA

*That's why yo daddy ain't shit
I'm surprised you know him
Old Kanye muthafucka
Bet he found his Kim!*

CLASSROOM: A calm Issa stands as Justin intervenes again.

JUSTIN

Dayniece, that's detention.
Apologize! Now.

6TH GRADE MIXED GIRL

Ugh! Sorry.

ISSA

That's OK. And tell your dad that black women aren't bitter, they're just tired of being expected to settle for less.

A moment of what seems like thoughtful silence turns into an eruption of laughter.