

THE RECIPE

Written by

Quameiha Raymond-Ducheine

Based on, If Any

Address  
Phone Number

INT. JARED'S APARTMENT - DAY

STACY, 27 a usually polished young woman is frantically preparing a cake. She darts all over the kitchen. She reaches into the fridge for the eggs. JARED her perfectly poised boyfriend sips coffee in the kitchen.

JARED

I just don't think it will reflect well on me to have my fiancé giving me orders at work.

STACY

Won't reflect well on you?

Stacy cracks the eggs into the mix. Her eyes are glued on Jared.

JARED

Honey bun you know how the guys are at work.

Stacy's phone rings, she ignores it.

STACY

Yes I do, and I know that you are acting just like them.

JARED

Like what?

Stacy's phone rings again

JARED (CONT'D)

Who keeps calling you?

STACY

Like Don Draper.

Stacy cracks another egg but cracks some shells into the batter.

STACY (CONT'D)

Dammit. No. You're even worse, you're acting like Pete.

JARED

Oh please. You act like I've got you trapped in my house dressed in aprons, baking cakes and pies all day.

Stacy cracks another egg, and looks up at Jared. The two stare at each other for a moment.

INT. JOHNSON DINNING ROOM TABLE - EVENING

The dinning room table is gleaming with freshly polished expensive silver. Everyone is sophisticated and poised. Stacy picks at her food, uninterested in the conversation. Her boyfriend Jared commands the room.

JARED

So I am standing outside of Starbucks then out walks Bill Maher.

Jared's parents GAIL loving and apparently rich, 52 , and STEVE, fatherly and obviously rich, 54, are amazingly entertained

GAIL

The Bill Maher-

Stacy's phone rings, she ignores it.

JARED

So I walk up to him and I do my Mitt Romney impression and I say "If only we ran the government more like a business."

Gail and Steve burst into laughter

JARED (CONT'D)

Then, he yells....

(In a Bill Maher impression)

...No! Government is there specifically for the things that are not supposed to run like a business-

Steve yells out.

STEVE

GOVERNMENT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO MAKE PROFIT.

Everyone laughs except for Stacy. Stacy's phone rings again she ignore the call.

STACY

Well did anyone save room for dessert?

Everyone continues to laugh over Stacy. Stacy starts to cut the cake.

STACY (CONT'D)

So I made dessert. Would anyone like a slice?

\*

Everyone continues to speak over Stacy.

\*

GAIL

Oh Stacy, you shouldn't have- Really I already made a cake.

STACY

Oh. I am sorry.

STEVE

That's fine. We will start with yours Stacy. Would you hand me a slice darling?

\*

The room falls silent as everyone devours their cake.

\*

STEVE (CONT'D)

Gail. Honey. I think you've got some competition here!

JARED

Wow. Stacy this is delightful

\*

The room fills with moans of joy as everyone enjoys the cake. Suddenly Steve's body twitches as he lets out the most disturbing fart.

GAIL

Steve!! Excuse yourself from the table!

\*

Gail's body twitches as she lets out the second most disturbing fart! Gail puts her napkin over her mouth as if she is holding back vomit.

JARED

Mom! Dad! Could you show a little discreti-

Jared's body twitches as he lets out yet another fart. All three stand up and run for the bathroom. Steve gets there first but Gail pushes him out of the way.

GAIL

I refuse to shit myself in front of company!!

Defeated Steve runs up the stairs. Jared reaches for his father's shirt trying to slow him down. Steve lets out an atrocious fart leaving Jared in the dust

\*

STACY

Are you guys okay?- Jared?

Jared cringes in pain. Runs downstairs and bangs on the bathroom door

JARED

Mother! Please open the door

We can hear Gail's poops drop in the toilet as she lets out sighs of relief. Jared starts to unbuckle his belt and runs for the door

\*

STAY

Honey. What's going on-

Jared goes running towards the door but vomits on her instead.

EXT. STACY'S CAR- EVENING

Stacy is in the drivers seat.

STACY

I. am. So. Sorry. This has never happened before. I don't know what I did wrong. I'll make it up to you. Dinner at my house Saturday night? I promise I'll make it up to you guys!

\*

JARED

Okay see you then Good night Stacy!

INT. TABBY'S STUDIO-DAY

Tabby's studio is basically a dance studio. One of her clients lie with her legs open and her other client is between her legs. As Tabby watches them in the mirror her breezy gauchos flow beneath her.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

TABBY

Now relax! Allow him to guide his way around your lotus flower. Deep. Deep breathes.

Tabby's client's moan in the background. The phone rings.

TABBY (CONT'D)

Relax. Feel his fingers peeling  
back each layer of your flower.  
Slower Peter. Take your time. Feel  
your self drowning in her juices-

Tabby leaves the room

TABBY (CONT'D)

Well. Well. Well! Look who finally  
calls me back- When's the last time  
you talked to anyone in your  
family? \*

STACY

Tabs! I'm in serious shit here! \*

STACY (CONT'D)

So I had dinner with Jared's  
parents again-

TABBY

Hi Tabby! How are you? How are my  
beautiful nieces. I am fine Stacy  
so are the twins. Thanks for asking-

STACY

And I made them a cake with rotten  
eggs so they all shit all over the  
place and Jared vomited on me and I  
think they hate me and I have to  
make it up to them!

Tabby falls silent for a moment

STACY (CONT'D)

Tabs?

Tabby burst, out in laughter! \*

TABBY

Rotten eggs! Only you Stace!! Only  
you

STACY

What do I do now. I invited them  
over for dinner Saturday. \*

Tabby burst into laughter

TABBY

You really think they are ever  
going to go near your cooking  
again. \*

(MORE)

TABBY (CONT'D)

Look I'll give you and Jared a free session and he will have forgotten any of this happened-

STACY

Tabb! Seriously. I'm freaking out!

TABBY

Okay okay! So what's on the menu?

STACY

I don't know. You're the chef, mom never taught me how to cook.

TABBY

No! You were always studying, we tried to teach you.

STACY

A casserole! I can make a casserole

Tabby chuckles.

\*

TABBY

Poor girl done lost her way-

STACY

What's wrong with a casserole?

\*

TABBY

Make them something special.

\*

STACY

If only they could have had mom's Wild Duck Gumbo!

Tabby moans as if she can taste the gumbo.

TABBY

Girl he would make you his wife right then and there!

The line falls silent

STACY

Gumbo. I'll make gumbo!

TABBY

These folks don't know nothing about no damn gumbo Stacy!

\*

STACY

I'll make mom's gumbo!

Tabby lets out another burst of laughter

\*

STACY (CONT'D)

I'll have mom's cook book. So how hard could it really be?

TABBY

No. Aunty Tabetha has is it's down on the farm

\*

STACY

Aunt Tabetha? I thought you had it? You know she hates me!

TABBY

No she has had it since thanksgiving, you would know that if you had showed up, and she doesn't hate you. She just- doesn't understand you.

\*  
\*  
\*

We hear a woman moaning in the back, she gets louder and louder until-

TABBY (CONT'D)

And..... I am done for the day. Look I can take you down to the farm early tomorrow. Just please promise me you wont make a damn casserole.

EXT. AUNTY TABETHA'S FARM - MORNING

\*

The farm is small, but homey and well taken care of. It is quiet and feels empty. All you hear are the roosters

\*  
\*

Tabby and Stacy approach the screen door.

TABBY

Auntie Tabetha!! It's Tabby.

\*

Aunt Tabby comes to the door.

AUNT TABETHA

Tabby tabs! How ya' doing? Did you bring over the twins?

\*

TABBY

No, not this time. I'll bring them over next weekend!



AUNT TABETHA

Well I got something for them. Wait here

Aunt Tabetha darts out of the room

STACY

Wow! Is that really Aunty Tabby? \*

TABBY

In the flesh!

STACY

She still loves those nasty overalls huh. I see nothing has changed here. Nothing ever does

Stacy looks around the house \*

TABBY

What's that supposed to mean?

STACY

Stagnant. This family is always stagnant.

TABBY

What except for you?

Aunty Tabbetha comes back into the room with matching overalls for the twins. She has embroidered their names on each one \*

TABBY (CONT'D)

Pearl and Merl! Awww! Aunty Tabby they're going to love these. Thank you! \*

Aunty Tabbetha and Tabby hug. Finally Aunty Tabetha notices Stacy.

AUNT TABETHA

The devil is a lie-

STACY

Hi, Aunty Tabetha

AUNTY TABETHA

If you didn't know me by name I wouldn't have recognized you from Tom, Dick or Harry. \*

TABBY  
It's Stacy. My sister Stacy

AUNT TABETHA  
Ms.Princeton.

STACY  
Yale. Actually

AUNT TABETHA  
Well. Princeton what can I do for  
you.

TABBY  
We need to borrow mom's old cook  
book.

AUNT TABETHA  
What for?

TABBY  
We want to make her wild duck  
gumbo.

Aunty Tabetha falls silent for a moment. Then burst into  
laughter

AUNT TABETHA  
PRINCETON! Princeton want's to make  
my sister's wild duck gumbo?

STACY  
Yes I do

AUNT TABETHA  
Sorry but I can't do that for you

TABBY  
Aunty Tabby, she-

AUNT TABETHA  
Say what you want Tabby but I wont  
allow a stranger to walk in here  
and take my sister's famous cook  
book-

STACY  
I'm her daughter-

AUNT TABETHA  
Could have fooled me

The room gets quiet. Tabby and Aunt Tabbetha lock eyes.

AUNT TABETHA (CONT'D)

I tell you what. If you help me  
with all the farm work today I'll  
give you her cook book.

STACY

What kind of work

AUNT TABETHA

Oh just a few maintenance things.  
Nothing too crazy.

Aunty Tabetha observes what Stacy is wearing. She chuckles to herself.

AUNT TABETHA (CONT'D)

Nothing you can't handle

MONTAGE:

EXT. AUNT TABBETHA'S PORCH - MORNING

Tabetha brings out a small bucket and a towel. Gets on her  
knees and shows Stacy how to scrub the floors. Stacy  
reluctantly ties up her skirt, and starts to scrub the  
ground.

EXT. AUNT TABBETHA'S FARM - DAY

Aunt Tabbetha, Stacy and Tabby form an assembly line to stack  
the hay. Stacy is the only one that fumbles with the hay. She  
is the last one in line and misses the stack of hay. Tabby  
laughs but Aunt Tabbetha is not amused.

EXT. AUNT TABBETHA'S FARM - DAY

Stacy's knees buckle as she spreads around food for the  
chickens. A rooster runs towards her, Stacy screams, and runs  
out of the barn. The rooster keeps running after her. Only  
Tabby is amused.

EXT. AUNT TABBETHA'S FARM - DAY

Aunty Tabbetha is teaching Stacy how to brush and feed the  
Horses. Stacy smiles as she brushes and feeds them.

EXT. COW PIN - DAY

\*

Tabetha grabs a small stool and begins teaching Stacy how to milk a cow.

AUNT TABETHA

Now. You grab these two titties diagonal from each other. Massage them for a little bit. Pool down. Not too hard or you just might get kicked. You gotta be firm. Just point, squeeze and you got it.

\*

Tabby is at the cow next to their's, she grabs a stool and effortlessly milks the cow. Stacy steps up to the stool, screeching as her heels sink into the dirt. Stacy yells out!

STACY

These! I grab these?

\*

Tabby giggling and confused

TABBY

Stace! Why are you yelling. Relax! Just hold onto it and stroke, imagine its Jared's-

STACY

I wish-

\*

AUNT TABETHA

What? Are you too prissy to whip the magic stick-

TABBY

Not a fan of white water wristing?

AUNT TABETHA

You can't choke sir charlie 'till he throws up?

\*

All three women burst, out with laughter. They all laugh in similar ways.

\*

STACY

I wish you guys could just hear the shit his family talks about.

Stacy mocks Jared and his impersonation of Bill Maher

STACY (CONT'D)

... So I walk up to him and I say.  
Something about Mitt Romney then  
Bill Maher yells out "GOVERNMENT IS  
NOT SUPPOSED TO MAKE PROFIT"

\*

Stacy does an impersonation of their stiff rich man's laugh.  
All the women laugh.

\*

\*

The women go back to milking the cows. They fall silent.

STACY (CONT'D)

I never took that position.

TABBY

What position?

STACY

His law firm offered me a position  
above his. He said it would be an  
embarrassment to have his fiancé  
giving him orders at work.

\*

TABBY

So why are you working so hard to  
impress these people Stacy?

STACY

I wish I knew.

All the women go back to milking the cows.

INT. AUNT TABBETHA'S PIG PIT - EVENING

\*

Tabby picks up a bucket of food

AUNT TABETHA

Not you Tabby! This is all  
Princeton

Stacy slowly walks to the bucket of food. She treks right  
through the mud, lifts up the bucket of food and places it on  
the wooden gate.

AUNT TABETHA (CONT'D)

I wouldn't do it like that if I  
were you.

\*

Stacy lifts the bucket up on the wooden rail, she leans over  
to try and dump the food but she flips into the pig pin.

AUNT TABETHA (CONT'D)

She truly is Marline's daughter-  
ain't she

Tabby and Aunt Tabbetha laugh at Stacy but eventually run in to help her. Stacy reaches up for Tabby. As Tabby pulls up Stacy the two fall into the mud, bringing down Aunt Tabbetha too. The three repeatedly slip trying to help each other up. \*

INT. AUNT TABBETHA'S KITCHEN - EVENING \*

All the women are washed up now. Stacy is wearing Aunt Tabbetha's overalls and white T-shirt. She is comfortable. The women are drinking Whiskey and flipping through a family album.

AUNTY TABETHA

Buck eyed beaver berry we used to call this old fool. He was in love with your mother. Rich man from Mississippi. You're mother almost married him. \*

TABBY

Let me see. He is handsome, a little stiff- sort of like Jared. \*

STACY

Stiff doesn't even begin to describe him. \*

AUNT TABETHA

Do you really love that boy?

STACY

Of course I do. He got me through law school, I don't know where I would be with out Jared?

AUNT TABETHA

So what do you love about him? \*

STACY

He is driven, focused, hard working. He is where I want to be in the future.

AUNT TABETHA

You realized I asked you what you love about your fiance and you never once smiled child?

STACY

I mean. I love him. I know I do.

AUNT TABETHA

You sound a lot like your mother  
when bucked eyed beaver berry put  
that diamond ring on her finger.

\*

Stacy takes a big gulp of whisky.

AUNT TABETHA (CONT'D)

The grass ain't always greener on  
the other side. Sometimes what you  
got is really all you need  
Princeton.

TABBY

And the biggest sign of all. If the  
DICK ain't right! Then baby girl he  
ain't the one tonight!

The women all laugh and toast

TABBY (CONT'D)

To life changing dick!

\*

STACY/AUNTY TABBETHA

To life changing dick!

\*

\*

Stacy and Aunt Tabbetha

\*

\*

INT. STACY'S KITCHEN-EVENING

\*

Stacy is no longer polished, she darts around her kitchen in  
overalls and a stained white shirt. Her counters are full of  
diced vegetables, duck meat, and seasonings. Stacy opens the  
big pot of gumbo as the steam rises she takes a deep breathe.  
She is satisfied. Stacy reaches in for a taste just as her  
doorbell rings. Stacy looks through the peep whole, its  
Jared. He knocks and knocks. She ignores him and returns to  
the kitchen. Jared continues to knock as Stacy returns to  
taste her perfect wild duck gumbo.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

INT. STACY'S HOUSE- EVENING

Stacy is nervously watching everyone eat the gumbo. She  
watches in silence. No one responds.

STACY

So. How is it?

Stacy looks around still no one responds.

AUNT TABETHA

Princeton. This is almost as good  
as your momma's. She would be  
proud.

\*

PEARL, and MERL are slurping up the gumbo.

PEARL

AUNTY STACY! AUNTY STACY!! This is  
the best gumbo I've ever had!

MERL

Even better than grandma's

With their eyes wide open they dive back into their bowls

\*

TABBY

I thought this dinner was for  
Jared's family-

AUNT TABETHA

She finally came to her senses  
that's what happened.

\*

STACY

And- I took the position.

\*

TABBY

Really? Look at you Stace. A whole  
new woman.

AUNT TABETHA

I'm just glad you didn't make a  
damn casserole!

\*

Fade to black