

A beat. He nods.

OWEN

It's okay. You can ask...

...

They died...Car wreck. I was really young...

CASSANDRA

Wow. I'm so sorry—that's really intense.

OWEN

Yeah—not your fault... but I realize that's, like, what you say...

She nods. A beat. It's a little weird.

OWEN

Gah. I didn't mean for this to get weird...could we just go back to having a good time?

CASSANDRA

Who said we weren't?

**START**-----A beat.

CASSANDRA

I guess it makes sense, though.

OWEN

*What does?*

CASSANDRA

Don't worry about it.

OWEN

What? Come on! Tell me.

CASSANDRA

Well. Why you're into black chicks.

OWEN

What?

CASSANDRA

You dated that girl Kim from our bio lab. And then Vivian before that...

OWEN

I'm not— I mean, obviously I am, but I'm not like—it's not all the time— shit. I mean, I'm just into what, *who* I'm into, OK?

CASSANDRA

Yeah. Sure. OK.

OWEN

What? So, you're only into white guys 'cause you have a white cousin or something?

Cassandra laughs.

OWEN

Why are you laughing?

CASSANDRA

'Cause you're funny, fool.

OWEN

I am? Huh. Yeah.

A moment or two of silence between them.

CASSANDRA

The funny thing is... people call me white all the time. You wouldn't be the first.

OWEN

I'm not, though. I'm not calling you "white." I wouldn't say that. I mean, I don't know why even has to be a thing. You're you and I'm me, and I like you, and yeah—that's it, right? But I really wasn't—I don't want you to think. I respect you, you know... ahhh...and now I'm just...

CASSANDRA

It's OK.

OWEN

People have said that kind of stuff to my sister and my brother. It's weird—because it's weird, in general, and weird 'cause they're my family. And, *well*, look at me.

CASSANDRA

(Looks him up and down)

You look *fine*. (Catches herself) I mean... you know what I mean. It's a backwards way of saying "educated," that's for sure... like why can't I be black and fucking intelligent? 'Cause guess what, I am.

OWEN

*People can be so stupid.*

CASSANDRA

Yeah...

There is one bright side to all of that stupidity, though.

OWEN

There is?

CASSANDRA

You're kind of sexy when you get like that.

OWEN

Like what?

CASSANDRA

All worked up.

He smiles, but doesn't know what to do with that. A beat. When he says nothing:

CASSANDRA CONT'D

Ohhh. OK. I see how it is.

OWEN

What?

CASSANDRA

I mean, if you're not into this, you can just say it, save us all some time.

OWEN

No no no no no. This (whispers the word) *weed* is too strong. It's fucking everything up!! finally work up the courage to ask you out and then I get high off my ass from one freakin' toke, bring up my dead parents, and all this other—total buzzkill— and ruin my chanc/es--

**END**-----