

Screenplay THE RESTAURANT/ FOOD 4 THOTS/ MECK'S PLACE

Written By

PRINCESS NNENNA IBEH

A SITCOM based on food and relationships. Created by
Melchizedek Amponsah

C.2022

nnenaibeh@gmail.com

EPISODE 1- BREAKFAST

1 INT./EXT. DAY. RESTAURANT.

Soundtrack is soothing in the background, on this bright, sunny Thursday. The waitress, ABENA hurries to work, wearing a chiffon blouse and jeans.

NARRATOR V.O.
Breakfast is also known as
heartbreak. Welcome to the first
episode of The RESTAURANT.

CUTS TO different corners of the restaurant EXT. Scene FADES INTO the INT.

2 INT. DAY. RESTAURANT LOUNGE AREA.

Soundtrack is conspicuous. ABENA drops her bag at the bar.

WAITRESS ABENA
Thank you Lord. No one is around.

She pulls her uniform out of the bag, and heads into the convenience.

CUTS TO the MANAGER. He walks in to find the bar empty.

MANAGER FRANK
What epitome of locomotive
combustion and negligence!

He looks around and rushes to the kitchen

MANAGER FRANK
This is 9:45am. And still nobody?
Preposterous! Or, are they
gossiping in the kitchen?

He walks off.

Few seconds later, ABENA returns, clad in her uniform. She hums to a funny song and sets to arrange the menu and other accessories in the bar.

3

INT. KITCHEN. DAY. CONT. CHEF KWAME AND MANAGER

CHEF KWAME cleans the top of the gas cooker and other surfaces in the kitchen

CHEF KWAME

This KWASI is too dirty. I need to train that boy to be better in the kitchen.

He laments as he wipes off a cluster of dust and reacts

CHEF KWAME

No way! AH HH. What's all this? This boy.

CUTS TO THE slabs/table tops. He wipes with a napkin.

MANAGER FRANK walks in. CHEF KWAME continues to clean. Frank clears his throat to get his attention.

MANAGER FRANK

Good morning Kwame

CHEF KWAME

Good morning Frank

MANAGER FRANK

Manager Frank.

CHEF KWAME

Sorry

MANAGER FRANK

Where's your boy?

CHEF KWAME

(continues to clean calmly)

He's not here yet

MANAGER FRANK

I see. Hmmm

MANAGER FRANK wipes the table tops for any sign of dirt or dust, it's dirty. He tries to throw his weight around

MANAGER FRANK

Why such filth? What is going on with your kitchen?

CHEF KWAME

As you can see Frank, I'm cleaning. I'll get there shortly

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER FRANK
You do realize I'm your Manager
Kwame?

CHEF KWAME
(sarcastic)
I know Sir.

MANAGER tries to throw a punch at him, KWAME dodges

MANAGER FRANK
(cuts in)
Put some respect on my name. We
have staff meeting in 20 minutes.
Be there, on time.

CHEF KWAME
(uninterested)
Okay. No problem.

MANAGER FRANK walks out of the kitchen like the general in
the army. And CHEF KWAME shakes his head

CHEF KWAME
Truly, Power corrupts. Humble Frank
of yesterday. Small promotion, and
he has turned to Commando. Kwasiaa

Scene fades on him

4 INT. CONT. BACK TO THE LOUNGE

MANAGER walks in. ABENA is on the phone. There are no
customers around.

WAITRESS ABENA
Oh you are still on your way?

She pauses for a few seconds and responds

WAITRESS ABENA
Okay. You are lucky. I'm not sure
he's around yet. I haven't seen him

Brief pause

WAITRESS ABENA
Let's see. I'll cover for you but
get here soon.

She drops the call. And proceeds to clean a few tumblers.
MANAGER clears his throat, behind her. Startled; she almost
jumps out of her skin. She panics and breaks a glass

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS ABENA
(startled)
Jesus!

MANAGER FRANK
Abena? consider 15% evacuated from
your salary.

WAITRESS ABENA
Oh Boss

MANAGER FRANK
Evacuated. Excavated. Pulled out!

WAITRESS ABENA
It was a mistake.

MANAGER FRANK
Removed!

He pulls out his jotter and pen in his pocket to take note.
ABENA stares at him with a sober face

WAITRESS ABENA
Oh Boss. I'm sorry Sir. You
startled me

MANAGER FRANK
I startled you? Interesting. When
did you arrive this premises?

WAITRESS ABENA
(lies)
Oh Sir, I've been around for more
than an hour now

MANAGER FRANK
(stunned)
Abena!? Why tell such a lie?

WAITRESS ABENA
(more lies)
Sir. I was in the washroom. I'm not
lying Sir. I don't know what I ate
last night. Honestly

MANAGER FRANK
(suspicious)
I see.

WAITRESS ABENA
Sir? (puzzled)

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER FRANK
Oh So where is Kwasi?

WAITRESS ABENA
He went to get some eggs for the
breakfast. He'll be here soon Sir

MANAGER FRANK
Eggs eh?

WAITRESS ABENA
Y-yes Sir

MANAGER nods and looks around. He walks into his office and
reappears with a picture frame **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**.
There's a blank face with a huge question mark, on it.

He hangs it on the wall around the lounge, and whistles a
high-life tune.

ABENA dusts the bar and arrange a few items here and there.
She glances at the photo on the wall, when CHEF KWASI
strides in, casually dressed. With a bag across his
shoulder, not wearing his uniform. He is not under any
pressure to hurry at all.

CHEF KWASI
Good morning Boss.

MANAGER FRANK shakes his head

MANAGER FRANK
What is good about the morning?
President Kwasi? 10 a.m.? Is this
is the best time to resume?

CHEF KWASI
Eiii. Bossu. There was heavy
rainfall at my place. I had to use
a speed boat. Thank God I arrived
safely.

MANAGER FRANK
Where are the eggs?

CHEF KWASI
Ah, the egg seller didn't come
today

MANAGER FRANK
Such balderdash and cacophony! Is
that why your shoes are like this?

Camera pans down to his shoes...

(CONTINUED)

CHEF KWASI
(in pidgin English)
Oh. No.

MANAGER FRANK
(rolls his eyes)
extremely boisterous! You guys tell
too many lies. Staff meeting in 10
minutes. My office.

He walks off, and they make jest of him

CHEF KWASI
Plenty problem. Abena baby

WAITRESS ABENA
But Kwasi, why do you always resume
late? Why?

CHEF KWASI
I was thinking about you while
dressing up. It took all my time.

WAITRESS ABENA
But you don't miss sending me those
your funny good morning messages at
5:30 every morning.

CHEF KWASI
You see, always I tell you that I
love you, but you don't believe me.

WAITRESS ABENA
(changes the topic)
Abeg leave me. There are plenty
orders waiting for you.

THE SECURITY GUARD saunters past them to the MANAGER's
office. He doesn't say anything to them

CHEF KWASI
(mimics MANAGER)
Abena, please. We have meeting in
10 minutes. I'll see you later

He finds his way to the kitchen. scene fades.

5 INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE. CONT. MEETING. DAY

MANAGER speaks to his members of staff; ABENA the waitress, CHEF KWAME his master chef, CHEF KWASI the assistant chef, and the SECURITY GUARD KOFI. His door is wide open.

MANAGER FRANK

A wise man said, discipline is the soul of an army. And time management is a test of discipline. Some of you are lasciviously late?

CHEF KWAME rubs his nose. CHEF KWASI turns his face around to hide a laugh

MANAGER FRANK

What is funny Kwasi?

CHEF KWASI

Nothing Sir, something was in my nose. I have catarrh

MANAGER FRANK

Wow. You have catarrh? What a catastrophe

Everyone laughs

MANAGER FRANK

Quiet! Look, you may be 2 months in on this job, know that I shall not hesitate to fire you.

CHEF KWASI

(Nods)

Y-yes Sir (he tries to keep a straight face)

MANAGER FRANK

Enough of the flamboyant lateness. So our EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH will be compensated this month.

SECURITY GUARD

(raises palm)

Boss, will the compensation come with a salary raise?

MANAGER FRANK

As a matter of fact yes. A 40% bonus.

The response stirs their interests. They murmur aloud

(CONTINUED)

MANAGER FRANK

Silence!

They keep shut and Scene fades

6 INT. CONT. DAY. RESTAURANT. BAR. ABENA, MANAGER FRANK

ABENA arranges the glasses carefully. She stacks them one after another, gently.

A gentle ERIC strides in and takes a seat in the corner. ABENA approaches him, gets his order and returns to the bar. The soundtrack drowns their voices.

ABENA serves his order. He takes it all in one gulp and orders for 3 more shots. And she counts her steps back to the bar to prepare the second order when

The doors open, and a charming young lady walks in.

She joins him. They hug and peck on both cheeks

GIRL

I almost missed my way

ERIC

Oh. I'm sorry. Was it so difficult to find the place?

GIRL

Oh no. You know I just got back into the country. I need to be familiar with the roads again. Oui
Oui

She nods and looks around the restaurant. The ERIC observes her

GIRL

Nice Place

ERIC

Yeah. What do you want to drink?

GIRL

Can I see the menu please?

ERIC

Sure. Waiter. Menu please

ABENA takes the menu to them.

The lady takes a look at the menu and smiles

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

I'd like some fried rice and chicken please. 2 plates, and one for take-away! 3 packs of juice and ermmmm (waves her fingers in the air)

ERIC

For breakfast???

GIRL

Yes. Normally, I would have made it 4 plates but 3 is okay, Next time we can add more. Do you have chicken salad here?

WAITRESS ABENA

Yes we do

GIRL

Add 2 of that

ERIC's jaw drops, ABENA jots down the order

WAITRESS ABENA

What would you like to have Sir?

ERIC

Chilled bottle water. To cool me down please

GIRL

Oh why?

ERIC

I'm fasting. So only bottled water please, for now

CUTS TO THE KITCHEN. Next scene

7

INT. KITCHEN. CONT. CHEF KWAME AND CHEF KWASI

CHEF KWAME chops some tomatoes on the chopping board, while his Sous-chef, Kwasi, rearranges the cupboard

CHEF KWAME

You can't be a chef and be dirty.
There's just no way at all.
Normally you should clean daily.

ABENA walks in with the order. She hands it over to CHEF KWAME

(CONTINUED)

CHEF KWAME

Hi dear

WAITRESS ABENA

Good morning Chef. First order

He takes a look at it

CHEF KWAME

3 plates of fried rice. 2 eat-in,
and 1 take away. Plus 2 plates of
chicken salad; with extra dressing,
and other available toppings.

WAITRESS ABENA

Yes please

CHEF KWASI stares at her and swoons in the corner. He winks
at her, she raises her eye brow, and shakes her head. CHEF
KWAME observes them silently

CHEF KWAME

For the whole family?

WAITRESS ABENA

No. Just 1 person.

CHEF KWAME

How?!

WAITRESS ABENA

ERIC invited a lady who claims she
just got back from overseas

CHEF KWAME

Just got back, and ordering this
quantity of food?

CHEF KWASI

Got back from where please,
immigration camp?

WAITRESS ABENA

No o France. According to her

CHEF KWAME

Are you sure this lady did not just
get back from prison?

The trio share a short laugh and throw few exclamations in
the air.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS ABENA

I'm also in shock. I always hear of things like this, but today I'm finally seeing it

CHEF KWASI

So what will the ERIC eat?

WAITRESS ABENA

The poor ERIC has asked for a bottle of water

CHEF KWAME

Kwasi you see I told you, ladies eat more than men. Sika no ashi, you see what I told you!

CHEF KWASI

Ha, that's why I won't take a girl to the restaurant while chop bar is there.

CHEF KWAME

Hahahaha Nice one

CHEF KWASI

This one, I'll bring the food myself. Cos I need to see this lady. I'll use a large tray.

WAITRESS ABENA

No problem. I know you want to see her face

CHEF KWASI

By all means please. Is she fat?

WAITRESS ABENA

Ah Kwasi. It's rude to call a woman fat please

CHEF KWAME

Okay back to your work. Kwasi bring some rice. Time to cook

They get back to work and scene fades

8

INT/EXT. CONT. BREAKFAST IS SERVED

CHEF KWASI brings out the 2 plates of fried rice with 2 pieces of chicken each first.

The Lady sees him and covers her face with the menu and the ERIC observes her foul play

ERIC

Why are you covering your face?
When you were placing the orders,
were you ashamed

He drops the large tray on the table and drops each plates one after the other

GIRL

(coughs)

Oh my, my shoes

She bends, and CHEF KWASI gives her a close look. He steps back to look at her properly

CHEF KWASI

AGNES!

THE LADY tries to pretend

GIRL

Excuse moi?

CHEF KWASI

Excuse finish you there? Agnes!
YOU?!

ERIC

Excuse me what's going on here

GIRL

I'm sorry, do I know you from
somewhere?

CHEF KWASI

You who hasn't seen a plane. You
will talk. You just wait

MANAGER FRANK rushes out of his office.

ABENA is engrossed with the unfolding of events

MANAGER FRANK

Kwasi, what is the issue?

(CONTINUED)

CHEF KWASI

Sir, you won't believe it. This girl here is married in my hometown. I can show you her wedding videos. I was there. The husband is my old friend. Like a brother to me in fact.

GIRL

Ahh. Kwasi

ERIC turns to her in shock

ERIC

You know him?

She looks away, and rubs her neck

ERIC

What! I met her on a hook-up/dating app o. This is our 3rd outing.

WAITRESS ABENA

So because of hook up, you traveled all the way from Kwehu to Accra? God have mercy

CHEF KWASI paces back and forth. GIRL rushes out of the restaurant, ashamed.

ERIC

I'm in severe pains FRANK. All my life I have never had luck with women

ERIC faints, and pandemonium breaks out.

MANAGER FRANK

ERIC stop being dramatic

CHEF KWAME

Get me a bucket of water!

MANAGER FRANK

Hurry up!

They run about to get water to revive ERIC. The security man rushes in with a big 25 liters gallon of water

MANAGER FRANK

Security are you coming to baptize him? Herh, lets take him to the hospital quick!

(CONTINUED)

CHEF KWAME and KWASI lift and rush ERIC to the taxi.

The girl tries to escape but ABENA holds her.

WAITRESS ABENA
Madam! You haven't paid your bill.
Where are you going

GIRL
Oh but

WAITRESS ABENA
You must pay

She yanks her phone

GIRL
Give me my phone

WAITRESS ABENA
Pay the bill and take your phone.
Or we can sell your phone, take the
bill, and give you the balance

GIRL
You must be joking. Give me my
Iphone 14

SECURITY GUARD
You have Iphone 14. You carry a
plot of land about in your hand and
you are doing hook up. You're
senseless. Pay the money!

Scene fades on the panic.

THE END