Woke By Avery Sharpe

Synopsis

Two best friends named Jesse Blanche and Adrian Strong are making the rocky transition from high school to college. Jesse is white and Adrian is black, but their different backgrounds have never stopped them from loving each other like family. In fact, Adrian is simply counted as another Blanche family member. However, after the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile happen within just hours of each other, the ripple effects rock their whole community down to the core of who are—or at least— who they think they are. Through romance, family, and freestyle rap, they all comically struggle to understand what it truly means to be woke.

Characters

Jesse Blanche A young white man. 17-19 years old. Has an incredible amount of charm.

Smart and knows it.

Adrian Strong A young black man. 17-19 years old. Thoughtful and passionate. Has

underlying swag.

Martha Blanche Jesse's mother. Overly affectionate and full of energy.

Frank Blanche Jesse's father. Something about him says "all-American".

Tanisha McCoy A young black woman. 17-19 years old. Genuine and undeniably the finale of

a fireworks show.

Natasha Boyd A young black woman. 17-19 years old. Outrageously sweet. Has an aura that

is calming with a dash of sass.

Notes

• The "a" in the name Blanche is pronounced like the beginning sound of "Autumn"

- A beat is a brief time of non-verbal communication
 - O A spell is a beat that lasts longer
 - **A moment** is a beat that lasts longest
- A line that contains // denotes where the next line begins to overlap
- **CHARACTER A** // **CHRACTER B** denotes that the characters speak different things simultaneously.

Place and Time

An Atlanta upper middle class suburb, Summer 2016

Act 1 Scene 2

Graduation night. It is very late. ADRIAN and JESSE are inside the Blanche living room. They have had several beers apparently.

ADRIAN

You sure she's not up?

JESSE

I'm sure. She's been texting me all night, but she's not anymore which means she must've passed out.

ADRIAN

Like on a scale of one to ten, how sure are you?

JESSE

Dude, stop being paranoid.

ADRIAN

Man, you know my mama. I'm not being paranoid, I'm just feeling my self-preservation instinct kick in.

JESSE

Dude, remember when I used to sneak out and steal my mom's car and we would go to waffle house?

ADRIAN

Yeah, All-star breakfast breakouts was my shit.

JESSE

We only did it when Dad was on a business trip.

ADRIAN

um...?

JESSE

When my mom was sleeping like a rock in a diabetic coma.

ADRIAN

Okay listen I'm just saying sneaking out is one thing but girls sneaking // over here—

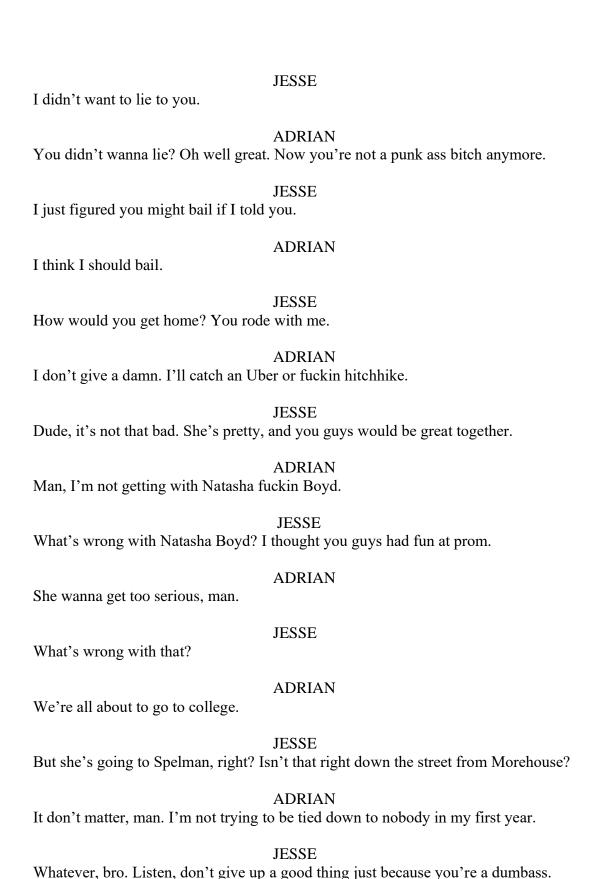
JESSE

She's not going to find out, man.

Just text her one more— **JESSE** HEY MOM!!! // ARE YOU UP? WE'RE ABOUT TO SNEAK GIRLS OVER, AND ADRIAN'S BEING A PUSSY!!! **ADRIAN** Whoa! Yo yo yo hey man! What the— They listen. **JESSE** See? Not a peep. ADRIAN Don't you do no dumb shit like that ever again. **JESSE** Dude, breathe. At least, you're not going be a third wheel. ADRIAN How am I not? Who's coming? **JESSE** You'll see. ADRIAN For the love of God! Why won't you just tell me?! **JESSE** Patience, grasshopper. ADRIAN You gonna make me chop yo throat! Just tell me this...is it Holly Peterson? **JESSE** What? No, it's not Holly Peterson. **ADRIAN** Then it has be...

ADRIAN and JESSE share a beat.

ADRIAN



ADRIAN Ain't nobody got time for yo hopeless romantic shit, Jesse. Dude, I'm just saying you should give her // a chance— **ADRIAN** Lemme call this damn Uber so I— **JESSE** Come on, Adrian. Do me this favor. **ADRIAN** You should be alright without me, bruh. **JESSE** No, you don't understand. Tanisha said she would only come if Natasha could too. **ADRIAN** So all y'all bitches set me up? **JESSE** I think I really like her. **ADRIAN** Tanisha is outta your league. **JESSE** You said you love us together.

ADRIAN

That doesn't mean you're on her level though.

JESSE

Maybe I'm just lucky. Let's find out.

ADRIAN

Nobody's luck is that good. I hope she shuts you down.

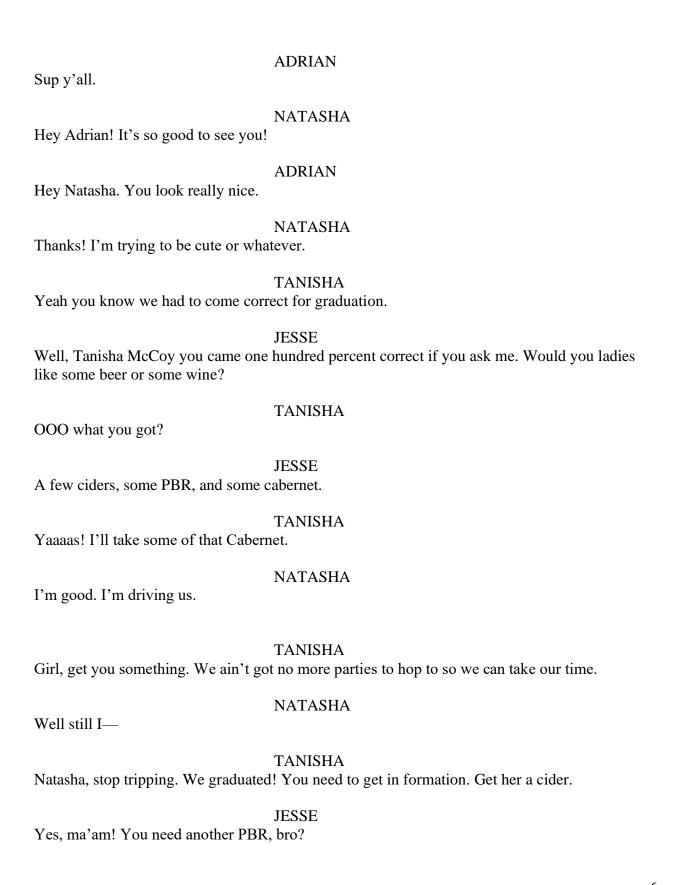
JESSE's phone gets a text.

JESSE

Hey, they said they're pulling up. You're staying, right?

ADRIAN

Jesse, look man—	
	ESSE
Just do me this solid, please.	
You're such a triflin bitch	DRIAN
JE After all these years, you're going to lea	ESSE ave me hanging like this?
A Man, if you // do some shit like this aga	DRIAN ain, I swear to God I will bounce.
JE Please, please, please, please, pl	ESSE lease, please—
A Yo! Chill, nigga! I said I would do it! (JESSE laughs) What?	DRIAN
JE You sound so ridiculous saying that wo	ESSE ord, bro.
You lucky you my boy—	DRIAN
Hey, I owe you one. I really do apprecia (They do their special handshak Let me go get them. Wink wink nudge	(xe)
A I hate you.	DRIAN
sure that he looks and sn	hecks his appearance on his phone. He thoroughly makes nells good because no matter what girls are still girls. ISHA MCCOY and NATASHA BOYD.
	ESSE ne most attractive part of the 2016 graduating class!
TANISH	A and NATASHA
Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.	



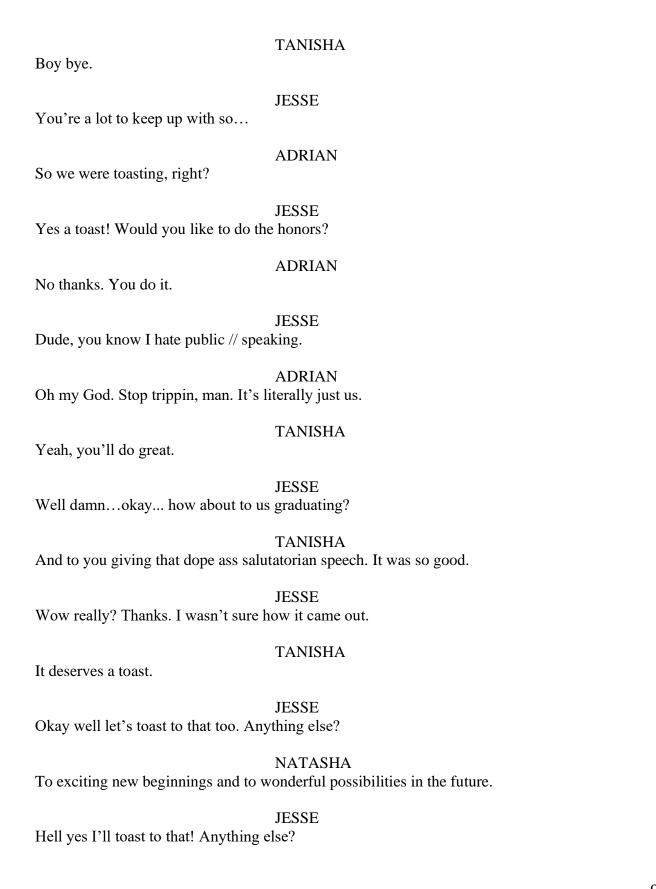
ADRIAN Yeah, man. Gimme two. I'm gonna chug em. That's what I'm talking about! Double fist it! **ADRIAN** That's right. Grown man status. **JESSE** We're about to get so lit! JESSE exits to get drinks. **ADRIAN** He is so white sometimes. **TANISHA** So are you. **ADRIAN** Woooo // oooow. **TANISHA** I'm just playin! I'm just playin! **NATASHA** Don't pay her no attention. She's been drinking. Driving her around has been a trip. **TANISHA** Girl, shut up. Driving me around has been a privilege. NATASHA What have you guys been doing tonight? **ADRIAN** We did some party hoppin. Y'all shoulda been at Justin Wilkerson's party though. It was so turnt. **TANISHA** Yaaaas! Wilkerson's party was everything! We were there. **ADRIAN**

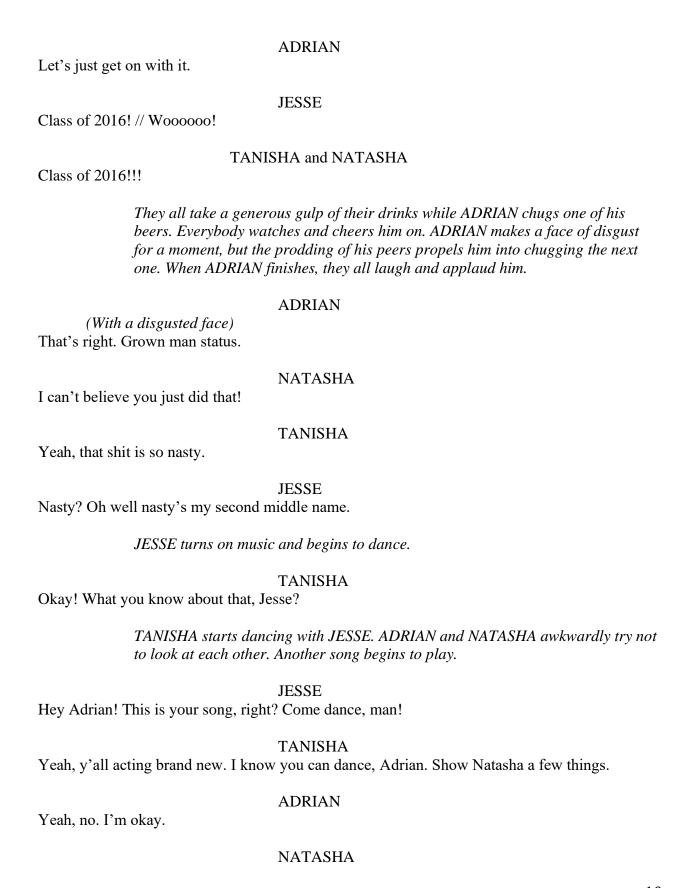
Oh. We must've left before we saw you.

NATASHA Aww that sucks. The music was so good. **ADRIAN** ...Yep... **TANISHA** I honestly could still hit a mean twerk right now. Y'all got a speaker? **NATASHA** Oh Lord. **ADRIAN** Well, we would have to check with Jesse about music but I don't think— JESSE enters with all the drinks. **JESSE** God please yes! Music is a great idea! **ADRIAN** Um, don't you think— **JESSE** We should have a toast together, and then Adrian will chug his beers as promised, and then we back that ass up. **ADRIAN** But isn't it gonna— **JESSE** Hey bro it's going to be fine. Wink wink nudge nudge. ADRIAN Okay whatever, man. **JESSE** You know, all of this is really reminiscent of prom. That was such a great night. **TANISHA** It really was a perfect night. You and that damn white tux. You looked good though.

JESSE

Well, honestly I was just trying to keep up with you.





Yeah, you know I don't dance, Tani	isha.
That's why I told Adrian to show yo	TANISHA ass.
I don't believe for a second you can	JESSE 't dance.
Not all black people are just born kr	NATASHA nowing how to dance, Jesse.
I wasn't saying that at all—	JESSE
Then what's your point?	NATASHA
Girl, you need to stop trippin! Tryin	TANISHA to play yo race card and shit.
I ain't trippin I—	NATASHA
Adrian Xavier Strong. Get yo off-br	TANISHA rand, Carlton Banks ass up and dance with this girl!
Yeah, let's see that grown man statu	JESSE as.
verbal affirmation fro awkward, but they do	s up and offers his hand to NATASHA. She takes it. They get om JESSE and TANISHA as they begin to dance. At first, it is o eventually find a rhythm between them that is IAN breaks away abruptly.
I gotta pee.	ADRIAN
Uh-oh. Don't break the seal, bro. (ADRIAN exits) It doesn't stop once you do.	JESSE
What's his problem?	TANISHA

II 1 14	JESSE
He had to pee.	
He had to pee?	TANISHA
He had to pee.	NATASHA
Look, I've been sayin it this whole to	TANISHA ime. Do you still not believe me?
Don't start, okay? Just drop it.	NATASHA
You've been saying what this whole	JESSE time?
Nothing apparently. I'm just tryin to	TANISHA keep this buzz goin.
You're only buzzed? You need to ca	JESSE atch up. Oh! I know what would help. So Tanishatruth or
Oh nuh-uh!	TANISHA
Aw come on. Do it for the buzz. Tru	JESSE th or dare?
This game is just an excuse to get me	TANISHA e to flash my titties or something. You ain't slick.
	JESSE t want to do or don't want to answer, then you just have to one way or another it's fun for everybody.
ADRIAN enters with another beer.	
Okay let's do it. I love truth or dare.	NATASHA
Wait, truth or dare?	ADRIAN

JESSE Yeah, bro. It'll be fun. **TANISHA** Natasha, yo non-dancing ass loves truth or dare though? **NATASHA** I love the boldness. It takes guts to do a dare, and it takes guts to tell the truth. **TANISHA** Um, it takes guts to twerk, bitch. **JESSE** Listen, how about we start off easy and work our way up, okay? Natasha: truth or dare? **NATASHA** Truth. **JESSE** Is it true you really can't dance? NATASHA Yes, it's true. I love to dance, but I just don't have rhythm for whatever reason so I get selfconscious when I have to. **JESSE** Well okay then. See? Easy enough. But in your defense, I think you look absolutely fine when you dance so don't be so self-conscious. Right, Adrian? **ADRIAN** Right. **JESSE** Now it's your turn to ask somebody. **NATASHA** Truth or dare, Tanisha? **TANISHA** Dare. **NATASHA** I dare you...to kiss Jesse.

They all talk trash.

TANISHA

Okay. Let me show you a few thangs.

TANISHA and JESSE kiss. It's actually a really sweet and passionate kiss.

JESSE

Whew. Wink Wink nudge nudge.

TANISHA

Sorry, not sorry. Now it's my turn, right? Adrian, I dare you to kiss Natasha.

ADRIAN

You didn't even ask me // truth or dare.

NATASHA

Yeah, you have to ask him truth or dare first.

TANISHA

Oh my God, whatever. Truth or dare?

ADRIAN

Truth.

TANISHA

You lil punk bitch. That's okay though...is it true Adrian that you don't date black girls?

ADRIAN

Is it true that's really your question?

JESSE

Remember, if you don't want to answer the question, you just have to chug for three seconds.

TANISHA

Remember, if you don't wanna be a punk bitch, you just have to answer the question.

NATASHA

Why you starting stuff?

TANISHA

I'm just playing the game. It's all about having guts, remember? So guts or not, Adrian?

A beat.

ADRIAN

It is true that I do date black girls. I date all types of girls // regardless of—

TANISHA

Let me rephrase. Is it true you prefer other races over black girls?

ADRIAN

I already answered your question. This ain't Law & Order.

NATASHA

Tanisha—

TANISHA

Okay, okay. I'm done. Go ahead, Adrian.

ADRIAN

Okay. Jesse, truth or dare?

JESSE

I'll do truth.

ADRIAN

Tell us the truth about what's goin on with you and Tanisha.

NATASHA

OOO that's a good one, Adrian.

JESSE

Well...we both just graduated, and we are both going to college—

ADRIAN

Man, stop it. You know what I'm asking.

JESSE

Yeah okay...grown man status. Um...Tanisha and I are dating.

TANISHA

Wait, what? Are we?