

THE ALLY

Written by  
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Based on, some real stories ya'll

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WHITE TEXT ON BLACK SCREEN:

Ally (noun) al·ly: ...a person that provides assistance and support in an ongoing struggle...

FADE TO:

1 INT. OFFICE / CUBICLE - DAY 1

JAN SNYDER, mid 20s, Caucasian, energetic and confident, dressed in a red BLACK LIVES MATTER T-SHIRT, two cornrows to the back of her head with BEADS attached at the end and large, GOLD BAMBOO EARRINGS.

Jan is writing the Black History fact on WHITE BOARD Day 2: The first female self-made millionaire in America was black.

Jan's walk to her cubicle is full of CONGRATULATIONS BALLOONS, FLOWERS, and her favorite music influences; PICTURES of Tupac, J Cole, Lil Wayne.

MALE EMPLOYEE, mid 20s, Black, walks to his desk. Practices a dap with Jan. She adds her special spirit fingers.

Jan grabs a BLACK HISTORY MONTH FLAG with a FILE FOLDER and walks through the hallway waving at CO-WORKERS then completes putting up the flag. Jan takes a selfie with the BLACK HISTORY MONTH decorations.

2 INT. DOOR / HALLWAY - MORNING 2

MAKEBA JONES, mid-30s, dark-skin, large full afro with bantu knots in front, dressed in an all-black suit, with dark colored lip stick, heels and a DESIGNER BAG walks in commanding the room.

Makeba observes all of the Black History Month decorations. She sees Jan take the selfie with the decorations. Stares. In shock.

MAKEBA

(Out loud, but to herself)  
Did she just? Whew lord Jesus,  
please don't let these white people  
get on my nerves today.(Mumbles)  
Giving us one month for Black  
History. Hell, I am black every  
day.

Makeba's phone rings. She looks at it then sighs. She answers.

MAKEBA (CONT'D)

(On her CELL PHONE) Yes John, I know how important this placement is. I will make it work. Thanks.

Makeba hangs up and GROANS in frustration. She is almost to her office, then...

Jan makes eye-contact with Makeba then Makeba makes an attempt to quickly go the other direction. Jan catches her.

JAN

Excuse me, um Makeba.

MAKEBA

(Quietly)

DAMN!

Jan approaches Makeba with excited, nervous energy. Makeba, deep sighs and turns around with a fake smile.

Jan fumbles her things and reorganizes them.

JAN

Good Black History Morning! I see you are rocking your "Say it Loud" (singing like James Brown) afro today! I'm Jan...your new assistant!

Makeba's face says wow and continues walking. Jan keeps up.

MAKEBA

Oh, yes. I know you. Although, I had no say in your promotion.

Jan misses that comment admiring the art of Makeba's hair.

JAN

Your hair is so big...and COOL!

Jan is studying Makeba's hair and Makeba is looking at her, like don't even think about it.

JAN (CONT'D)

How long does it take to...

Jan reaches to touch one of the bantu knots as they enter Makeba's office.

Makeba dodges her head away from Jan's hand. Stops.

MAKEBA

Jan, I need to prepare for this follow-up meeting with the Execs. I will reach out later.

Jan snaps out of her trance.

JAN

Great sounds like a plan!

Jan hands FILE FOLDERS to Makeba.

JAN (CONT'D)

I was doing some research and *these* should help with the meeting!

Makeba tosses them on her desk and sits without eye-contact.

MAKEBA

Yep, thank you.

Awkward beat. Jan acts like leaving was her idea. Bragging.

JAN

Oook, well I should get out of here so I can finish prepping for the Black History Month Potluck.

Makeba looks up from her desk with just her eyes.

MAKEBA

Oh, wow you are heading up the Black History Month potluck. (Sarcastic) Well, look at you.

JAN

Yes, but I will be ready to help you leave a great impression for the Executives. (Whispers) I think I found next big rap duo...FLIGHT CAMP. They have a dope hit...

Jan begins to sing / rap the song.

JAN (CONT'D)

"She say I got that sauce like Prego, I be stacking up my pesos like legos.

Makeba walks over and lightly guides Jan out of her office, while cutting her off from her mini rap performance.

MAKEBA

Bye Jan. Bye.

Makeba CLOSES THE DOOR then, pauses to mimic a scream with no audible noise.

MAKEBA (CONT'D)

She's already working my last nerve. In here sing / rapping like she's Drake! Bamboo earrings and cornrows. Em. Em. Em.

4 INT. JAN'S CUBICLE - DAY TO NIGHT 4

White Board: Black History Fact Day 3: Grambling State University is an HBCU that was founded in 1901 in Grambling, LA.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

-Jan doing squats while on the PHONE by her cubicle.

-Jan working tirelessly, falls asleep at her desk with just the COMPUTER light on and PAPERS surrounding her.

5 INT. MAKEBA'S OFFICE / HALLWAY- EVENING 5

-Makeba ends a meeting with 2 well-dressed white, MALE EXECUTIVES, they exit dissatisfied. Makeba shakes hands and fake smiles, but then closes her LAPTOP in frustration.

-Makeba walks by and sees Jan still in the office working as the lights go out. She pauses, observes, then keeps walking.

END SERIES

6 INT. OPEN OFFICE - MORNING 6

Jan is dressed in her RED VINTAGE TUPAC TEE, with the rap duo FLIGHT CAMP, JGEE, late 20s, and RICH late 20s. They just finished listening to their song. Jan is pleased.

JAN

Thank you so much for coming. I am crossing my fingers for great news from our VP.

JGEE

Hell yeah, that's what's up. Yo, you rocking the hell out that fit too. I see you.

RICH  
It's up! We gone get you another  
promotion though, on GOD.

JGEE  
Camp dat!

JAN  
Yes! Camp Dat!

They dap her up and she doubles her spirit fingers dap.

7 INT. OFFICE / JAN'S CUBICLE - LATER THAT DAY - EVENING 7

Jan is online looking up: HOW TO MAKE A DASHIKI. Jan smiles while looking at the instructions.

8 INT. BREAK ROOM - AFTERNOON 8

The EMPLOYEES of JME Records gather in the break room. Plenty of BHM DECORATIONS. Employees are making PLATES, eating, CHATTING.

Jan talks to people with her hair in an afro and bantu knots, imitating Makeba's recent hair and in her RED DASHIKI.

She has an exchange with the RECEPTIONIST, early 20s, the woman gives Jan a funky look as Jan walks away. Then, Jan makes a plate and wraps it up with ALUMINUM FOIL.

Jan walks out of the door with a FOIL PLATE and smiling.

9 INT. MAKEBA'S OFFICE- EVENING 9

Makeba, walks in the office to gather her things and leave for the day. We see a foil plate with a NOTE on it: SOUL FOOD. I HOPE YOU LIKE FRIED CHICKEN, MADE IT MYSELF, xo - Jan

Makeba opens the plate, sees WATERMELON and FRIED CHICKEN with a ROLL. She rolls her eyes, sniffs the chicken, shakes her head then tosses the plate in the trash.

MATCH CUT TO:

10 INT. HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE - MORNING 10

A FEMALE HAND throws a PIECE OF TRASH away.

Jan, energetic, sits in the chair with her RED NICKI MINAJ fit and red, black and green QUEEN earrings.

HR DIRECTOR, African American, Mid 30s, dressed in yellow, sits across from Jan with PAPERWORK in front of her.

Jan reads what the HR Director handed her. (BEAT...then)

JAN

I just asked if she wanted to take home the fried chicken and watermelon after the potluck.

HR DIRECTOR

Do you see how that may come off as offensive to a black person?

Jan ponders. Shakes her head Nope. Now Bragging.

JAN

This is not my first rodeo. I marched and protested in support of George Floyd. I share the Black History Fact of the day. I mean, I'm actually considered an ally to the BLM people. (Beat)

Director squeezes her face in confusion.

JAN (CONT'D)

An, ally is someone who...

HR DIRECTOR throws her hands up, politely cuts Jan off.

HR DIRECTOR

I know what an ally is. Jan, what you did is offensive because after slavery...

Jan bugs and shifts her eyes.

HR DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Never mind. I recommend you research the topic. Jan this is strike two. I've emailed you the DEI training videos, please complete them by end of day...

HR Director slides a PAPER to Jan.

HR DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

And sign this to confirm you have been given a *second* verbal warning. The next is cause for termination.

Jan studies the paper and reluctantly signs. She leaves with her head a little low. Coworkers watch her exit, whispering.

11 INT. DOOR / HALLWAY - MORNING

11

Makeba, less make-up and tired, walks with urgency towards her office with full afro, dressed in black suit and designer bag. She does not wave to anyone.

MAKEBA  
(On the phone) John...

Makeba stops. Holds phone in front of her, speaks at it.

MAKEBA (CONT'D)  
I am doing my best. Yeah, you too.

Makeba hangs up. Jan walks up on Makeba.

JAN  
Hey Makeba! Good morning!

Makeba, deep sighs, they enter into Makeba's office.

Int hallway / Makeba's office moments later - Morning

JAN (CONT'D)  
The fro is even bigger today!

She goes for a feel of the fro. Makeba stops and swipes her hand away and gives her a serious look.

Jan is startled and shocked.

MAKEBA  
Jan, don't try to touch my hair!

She walks to her desk to sit and Jan changes the subject.

JAN  
Um, Did you get the food I left  
last night?

Makeba stops shuffling PAPERS to look Jan in the face.

MAKEBA  
I did. Never assume a *black* person  
would like fried chicken and  
watermelon. That's what we call a  
microaggression Jan. Look it up!

Jan is finally let down.

JAN  
Oh, I had no idea. I thought...

MAKEBA

No, you didn't think. I don't care how many BLM t-shirts and earrings you wear. You are not black. When you are black, you have these white executives staring at you, just waiting for you to make one little mistake.

JAN

Makeba. I am--

Makeba cuts her off, going on a tangent.

MAKEBA

And heaven forbid I have any emotion because then I'm the angry black woman. So, stop acting like you are so down with the cause.

Jan is on the verge of tears.

JAN

I apologize. I just wanted to help. I wanted to make a difference. I guess I messed that up.

MAKEBA

You sure did. Now, please leave. I have work to do.

Jan leaves with her head held low. Closes the door slowly.

Makeba inhales and exhales, then shakes her head.

Makeba sees an email from Jan, opens it.

JAN(V.O.)

Hello Makeba! Here is the rap duo I have been working day and night to secure for your big VP and execs meeting. This group should seal the deal!

12

INT. HALLWAY

12

Jan walks down the hallway holding back tears as female CO-WORKER, Black, mid 20s takes selfie with decorations.

13 INT. MAKEBA'S OFFICE- MOMENTS LATER 13

Makeba presses play on the link sent from Jan about Flight Camp's single, "Top Notch".

MUSIC PLAYS HOOK: "Let me talk my shit, flight camp that's my...flight camp that's my click, nigha camp dat!"

Makeba is bobbing her head, stops, then looks at the door.

MAKEBA

Wow. Wow...this is it right here.

Makeba does a little victory dance in the chair then begins TYPING up an email.

14 INT. OFFICE / JAN'S CUBICLE - MORNING 14

Jan, walks in dressed in a plain black t-shirt and overalls. Hair in a basic ponytail, red stud earrings on.

She slowly erases the BHM white board, stares at it a moment and leaves it blank. Grabs a FOLDER OF PAPERWORK MARKED A&R.

15 INT HALLWAY / MAKEBA'S OFFICE - MORNING 15

Jan is walking down the hall and KNOCKS on Makeba's door.

MAKEBA

Come in.

Jan enters and stands.

JAN

I wanted to apologize again. After doing some real research I totally see why I was wrong and how microaggressions can be offensive.

Jan hands Makeba the A&R folder of paperwork. Neat and organized.

JAN (CONT'D)

I'll be switching departments (beat) to something a little more behind the scenes.

MAKEBA

Jan, sit down.

Jan sits with her head down, somewhat shameful.

## MAKEBA (CONT'D)

I received *incredible* feedback from the VP on the Flight Camp group. We are officially signing them. That was all your hard work. You made me look good.

Makeba pulls a GIFT BOX from her desk and hands it to Jan.

Jan opens the box and lifts up a pair of red, black, yellow and green Black Lives Matter earrings, the SMALL NOTE in the box reads: THANK YOU - Makeba.

Jan smiles and Makeba gives her some dap and she adds her infamous spirit fingers to it.