

Someone Else's Expense

By

Shakirah DeMesier

WGA Registered

INT. NYC APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING

Savannah, a 30 something year old female tries on a series of different outfits. She is accompanied by her best friend, Gina, same age fully dressed.

GINA

Wear that jumpsuit with the straps.
It makes you look like you have a
butt.

SAVANNAH

I have a butt.

Gina squeezes Savannah's behind.

GINA

Where?

SAVANNAH

Would you get off of me!

GINA

Just pick something so we can go.
I'm hungry!

SAVANNAH

I don't know what to wear.

GINA

You literally have three colors in
your wardrobe, Savannah. Black, off
black and charcoal gray. Throw on
one of those thousand dollar
mumuu's and let's go to dinner.

SAVANNAH

Firstly, this is not a mumuu, it's
a sheath. Secondly, you forgot
about asphalt brown...

Savannah pulls out a blackish smock.

SAVANNAH(CONT'D)

- and thirdly, I don't want to go!

GINA

Come on, it's our best friend's
birthday, we have to go. We'll eat,
we'll have a nice time.

SAVANNAH

Twenty five people rsvp'd. How can we have a nice time with all of those people? Half of which we don't even know.

GINA

We'll make new friends!

SAVANNAH

New friends?! I don't even like my current friends.

Beat.

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)

Except for you of course.

GINA

What are you so worried about?

SAVANNAH

So many things: remedial conversations, Instagram photo's caught mid sneeze, the check.

GINA

The check?

SAVANNAH

The check comes, all of a sudden people are doing the Macarena looking for their wallets.

GINA

That's ridiculous.

SAVANNAH

Is it? Remember José's party?

GINA

(sotto)
June 2015.

SAVANNAH

June 2015!

SAVANNAH (CONT'D)

We go to that expensive ass French bistro.

GINA

You had the salad.

SAVANNAH

I had the salad Gina! Eighty five dollars and seventy two cents. The thing didn't even have croutons. Folks are ordering pinot noir, cordon bleu bleh, blah and I had lettuce! And not only was I expected to split the bill but I also had to pay the difference because someone is always short!

GINA

I just think you're missing the point of the dinner. It's about the celebration, the camaraderie.

SAVANNAH

I don't understand how people want to be comrades at Mr. Chow's on a Chipotle budget.

GINA

We can chat about everyone's fiscal responsibilities in the Uber ...

Gina looks at her phone.

GINA (CONT'D)

- which will be here in two minutes.

SAVANNAH

I'm not going. I'm not trying to be anyone's savior tonight.

Savannah begins to put the tousled clothes back into her closet.

GINA

You're a surgeon, that's your thing. You save people.

SAVANNAH

And that means I have to pay for everything?

GINA

Well...

SAVANNAH

Well?

GINA

You do make a lot more money than most of us. You've got no roommates, a beautiful view of the Empire State Building, a real bed. You're doing well. We're struggling artists.

SAVANNAH

You just sold a painting for \$1200!

GINA

Yes, but eleven seventy five of that is going towards rent.

Savannah nods her head, fully understanding the severity of Gina's finances. Then...

SAVANNAH

Wait. So you only have twenty five dollars?

GINA

Sad isn't it?

SAVANNAH

Sure, but how did you intend to pay for dinner tonight?

Beat. Gina smiles.

SAVANNAH(CONT'D)

Gina!

GINA

What? You got money. I don't.

SAVANNAH

You have money. What you don't have is a budget.

GINA

Erroneous on all counts. I use *your* Netflix login. I shop at the 99 cents store for everything. My clothes are from the Salvation Army...

SAVANNAH

Cheap stores does not a budget make.

GINA

I hate it when you speak like Yoda.
Hate it.

SAVANNAH

I'm just saying, yes, you are a
bargain shopper but do you really
need thirty miniature ceramic
elephants? Even if they are just a
dollar?

Gina pulls out a miniature elephant from her purse.

GINA

Umm, yes Savannah because they're
my spirit animal.

SAVANNAH

And I suppose that \$500 sage
plant...

GINA

-was sold to me by Ghandi's third
cousin at the swap meet. What is
your point?

SAVANNAH

That you have tons of useless junk
and no money management skills and
I'm tired of picking up your slack.

GINA

Whoa! A few meals here and there
and suddenly you're Oprah in
Africa? I've taken care of myself
for what feels like my entire life
and I do have a bunch of crap but
that crap makes me feel like I have
support. I'm so sorry, I didn't
know I was such a burden to you!

SAVANNAH

I've worked really hard for what I
have and I'm tired of being used is
all I'm saying.

GINA

You don't think I work hard?

SAVANNAH
I didn't say that.

GINA (CONT'D)
Ruminating in my tiny
bedless bedroom trying to
figure out if my next buyer
might prefer minimalism
over surrealism meanwhile
subsisting on the three day
old Chinese leftovers on my
radiator?

SAVANNAH
Look, I didn't mean to offend you.
I know your work is not easy. I
also know it's not cheap. You earn
a decent income. If you'd like, I'd
be happy to help you manage your
finances.

GINA
... for free?

SAVANNAH
For sure. Also, as a doctor I'd
like to advise you not to eat that
Chinese food.

They hug.

GINA
Thank you. You're such a great
friend.

SAVANNAH
Yeah, yeah.

GINA (CONT'D)
Seriously! You're so caring.
Remember the summer I poured salt
on that snail and you came running
out of your house with a pitcher of
water and a toy stethoscope?

SAVANNAH
(recollecting)
I just wish I could've saved him.

GINA
Or what about the time I took your
dad's Mercedes for a test drive and
scratched the bumper?

SAVANNAH
I said I did it and was grounded
for two weeks.

GINA
And didn't even complain once.

SAVANNAH
Well, I did in my journal.

GINA
And even that was pretty mild.

SAVANNAH
You read my journal?

GINA
Of course. Hey, I have twenty
dollars in my account after this
Uber cancellation fee. How about we
skip dinner and get some taco's, on
me?

SAVANNAH
I've got a better idea. How about I
get dressed and we go eat some
hundred dollar breadsticks.

GINA
No, I don't want you to feel like
I'm taking advantage of you.

SAVANNAH
I'm happy to be there for you.
You're my best friend. Besides, one
of these days you'll be making
beaucoup bucks and hanging with big
celebrities. Then I'm gonna want
all my money back and a date with
Idris Elba.

GINA
Deal.

Savannah puts on the jumpsuit with the straps.

GINA
There it is!

As they cross to exit, Gina slaps Savannah's behind.

GINA (CONT'D)
Look at that butt!

SAVANNAH
Would you quit it!

Savannah takes a last look at her behind in the mirror.

SAVANNAH(CONT'D)
It is pretty nice though.

She turns off the lights. They exit.

FADE OUT:

END OF SCENE