

Scene 13

(Light rises on VALERIE auditioning for a role, reading from the script.)

(She's at the climax of ghetto passion.)

VALERIE. *(to table of auditors, bag on shoulder)* Hi. I'm Valerie Johnston and I'll be reading for *(looking at side)* Shalonda. I left my headshot with the monitor...but if you need one I... *(referencing her bag)* ...OK then. *(She begins.)* "...I was lovin' you Lenny. All that time you was lookin' at me, an' I thought you was lookin' into my soul. An' you wasn't seein' me at all. An' I was lookin' at you, an' I knowed you seed somethin'. I knowed there's a man in there, an' I could see him, even if you couldn't. And Mama said, she said, 'Naw girl, he don' love you... he only love you long as you give him what he need, stay scaret, an' stay under 'is foot.' An' I toll." I toll...

(VALERIE has stopped abruptly. To casting table:)

I toll?

(working it out)

I toll her... I toll... OOOHhh... OK. I told her, OK. "An' I toll her she was wrong an' I toll her." I got it, sorry, where should I begin? *(beat)* No, I can just start over. I'm so sorry, my agent didn't send the right sides, so I'm reading this cold. I was toll to prepare for Mary, the social worker. Oh... I seemed a better fit for this role... So my agent did tell you that I have a call at two. I'm doing *Enemy of the People* at the... Sure thing... From the top then.

(beat)

(assuming an even higher level of ghetto passion)

I was lovin' you Lenny. All that time you was lookin' at me, an' I thought you was lookin' into my soul. An' I - ...Oh, OK. Sure. Thank you...