

PODCAST SCRIPT TITLE

Created by

Von-Anise McCoy

Episode 1: "Bills Are Real"

Audioplay by

Von-Anise McCoy

Narrator- TBD

Viviana - TBD

Helen Lee - TBD

Intern 1- TBD

Editor - TBD

Abbey - TBD

Katie -TBD

Human Resources - TBD

Davis Grant - TBD

Joe- TBD

Wandy -

Jean -

Lynda- TBD

Nora- TBD

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Act 1: Scene 1

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is a story about a recent college graduate Viviana Lee as she works to navigate the magazine world, in her very first job after graduation in the early 2000's.

THEME TUNE:
SLICE OF LIFE
BUT ENERGETIC

ANNOUNCER

Teen Magazine by Von-Anise McCoy. Episode One: Bills Are Real

SCENE 2

CONFERENCE ROOM. PEOPLE BUZZING ABOUT THE OFFICE AS THEY FILTER INTO THE ROOM.

VIVIANA

What's Up? Do you know why we're here?

HELEN LEE

Didn't you get the email? (sighs)

NARRATOR

Oh, that's the sigh of a be-atch who's annoyed by Viviana's lack of preparedness, but being honest was not an option, passive-aggression was the name of her games.

HELEN LEE

It's for EW's college issue. They called all of the interns in from every department and some of us will even get bylines.

INTERN 1

Wait, both of you are Lee's!

VIVIANA

You can read?!

INTERN 1

Are you two related?

VIVIANA

I don't know! I mean obviously, I'm black and she's Chinese!

INTERN 1

I guess maybe somewhere in that family tree?

HELEN

What's that?

INTERN 1

My uncle is on the publishing side; he gave me a heads up. I'm ready with my list of celebrities who went to my school. And since that's Harvard, it's almost everyone who matters in Hollywood.

THE DOOR IS CLOSED BEHIND HIM, AS WE CAN HEAR A PIN DROP NOW

EDITOR

Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us for our college issue meeting. We're looking for story ideas, so we wanted to give you guys the opportunity to contribute.

NARRATOR

(V.O.) And by "you guys" he means the interns, or the low wage workers at the magazine. Whom worked for less than 10 bucks an hour with no benefits. But they bring more than half of the story ideas for every single issue. That's what you do when you're young, dumb and full of --we all know the rest!

EDITOR

And who knows? If you prove yourselves, one of you will get the full-time Editorial Assistant position. So this is how we'll do it: grab last year's issue from Abbey. Email me your ideas and pay particular attention to the most popular "Who went where" section. Email me the list of celebrities who attended your university. Abbey will answer any questions, I have to run into another meeting.

JUST LIKE THIS HE EXITS, AS PEOPLE START TO SCRAMBLE TO GET TO ABBEY

VIVIANA

Do you mean only those celebrities who graduated?

ABBEY

No, they amended that rule a while back for Bill Gates.

VIVIANA

How is he in Entertainment?

ABBEY

He's a billionai...

INTERN 1

Who went to Harvard!

ABBEY

(Annoyed) Like I was saying, a billionaire who changed the way we work in the world, that trumps all!

Scene 3

SAME TIME. WALKING UP THE STAIRS

NARRATOR

(V.O.) So as they venture back to their side of the land, in cubical world where everyone sees and hears all. They just are on-line interns with the regular folks, who work at the .com.

VIVIAN

It's strange, we had a meeting for him to tell us to email him story ideas?

(MORE)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Couldn't he have just sent us an email, instead of me struggling down the stairs in these 2 inch heels.

HELEN LEE

Just two? I wear 4 incher everyday and you don't see me complaining.

VIVIANA

Complaining! Who me? I was just stating a fact they they could have given all of us a heads up so we could be prepared like Harvard man!

HELEN LEE

(Annoyed) Wow you don't get it? It's about getting to know us, the interns. And who has the most face time with the editors! It is their way to figure out who's worthy!

VIVIANA

Got it! "Survivor" for the interns!

NARRATOR

No, it was actually a way to justify giving the position to the Nepo babies, as you'd call it today! And Viviana who needs the money the most with past due bills coming out of her whoha, has no chance at this magazine because those hiring don't know her poor ass.

VIVIANA

I hope that I get it because bills are real! At least, I have good celebrities who went to my school.

HELEN LEE

Like?

VIVIANA

Phylicia Rashad and Debbie Allen!

HELEN LEE

(CHUCKLES) Those are old people! I think they mean more culturally relevant celebs.

VIVIANA

Ok then: Ananda Lewis, P. Diddy and I heard of this actress Taraji Henson from John Singleton's new movie, "Baby Boy," went to Howard too.

HELEN LEE

Stick to the mainstream people that everyone knows! No one will know who that girl is in five years. Think about it, can you name any of the female actresses from his first film?

VIVIANA

(Excited) Nia Long!

HELEN LEE

She's not mainstream! I'm Asian, you think that I want to admit this? I can only name Jackie Chan and Lucy Liu, the girl who was in Charlie's Angels. And at least she did go to NYU. I have to list the same people John Cusack, Angelina Jolie.

VIVIANA

She's the one married to Billie Bob Thornton with a vial of his blood around her neck right?

HELEN LEE

Yes and right now, that vial of blood is my life line to a byline! You just need to find yours too.

VIVIANA

(Contemplating) Blood pendants are newsworthy so yes you are very lucky! But, you do realize that Howard is a black school, so white celebs ain't an option here.

HELEN LEE

Oh, I was just stating a fact of life. It doesn't matter anyway. I'm sure that they will pick the interns for the job who they're the most comfortable with.

NARRATOR

Comfortable?!?! And this is when Viviana realized after a summer of lunches and the occasional after work, or in this case after 'internship' drinks, that this person is not her friend! And now, in her 22-year-old mind she thinks, what did I do wrong? Instead of seeing the truth: that Helen sees her as the competition.

HELEN LEE

Later, then.

VIVIANA

Okay, let me to get back to work.

NARRATOR

Now thinking: maybe she's mad because I ask her too many questions? Maybe, I should check my e-mail more often so I won't drive Helen crazy. Oh, the people-pleasing 20's!

PANIC STARTS TO SET IN.

KATIE (WHISPERING)

Hey, I heard the entire thing. Don't listen to her.

VIVIANA

It's kinda hard not to when I'll be leaving to J.Crew. And she gets to stick around and prove herself.

(MORE)

VIVIANA (CONT'D)

I thought that after graduation, everything would be different. No more retail work...but here I am!

KATIE

You should go onto the company's portal, where all of the jobs are listed. I'm sending you the link now.

SWOOSH AS SHE SENDS THE LINK.

KATIE

Look, I'm sure that this isn't the only magazine that has a position open.

Mouse moving around on desk

VIVIANA

Thanks! There are a couple including InStyle, my favorite, which was just posted last week.

ACT 2, SCENE 1NARRATOR

Viviana was in the most stylish place that she's ever seen, in the chicest office with all the skinnies towering around. Our girl thought she was in shape, but these people are size 0's so she's feeling the strain of being an athletic girl at a size 4, which she had never thought of until that day.

FOOT STEPSDAVIS GRANT

(Snobbish) I'm the Associate Managing Editor here: I'll be conducting your interview for today. How are you? Do you want anything, like water or coffee before we sit down?

VIVIANA

No thanks, I'm all dranked out! I had two Mr. Pepps on the way here.

DAVIS GRANT

Really, there are Mr. Pepps at Entertainment Weekly. Walk with me.

Foot StepsNARRATOR

She follows behind him, as he glides down the halls as if they are on the runways in Paris. They land in his perfectly decorated office with pictures of him hanging out with socialites and fashion models.

VIVIANA

(Voice cracking under the pressure) No, but there was a meeting in the conference room that I cleaned out, so that's all that was left. It's refreshing.

Door closes behind themDAVIS GRANT

Is that part of your duties as an intern?

VIVIANA

Not really but where else can you get free lunch in this city?

DAVIS GRANT

(Sarcastic) Yes, I see that you know all of the little tricks. Cute! Aside from your conference room look-out skills, tell me a more about you.

VIVIANA

I'm from here, I grew up in Harlem. I just graduated from Howard University with a degree in Print. And all throughout college, I worked at various stores so I was surrounded by fashion.

INTIMIDATED NOW

VIVIANA

(whispering)...As well as working, as Managing Editor on our school comedy magazine.

DAVIS GRANT

Really, fashion?

VIVIANA

Yes, from the Gap to Nine West. I know what's in style.

DAVIS GRANT

That's retail? Have you seen any shows?

VIVIANA

I saw the Polo, Ralph Lauren show.

NARRATOR

And in that moment she realized that she'd better start lying because a fashion show on 'The View' wasn't gonna cut it. But the lie didn't gel in her mind quick enough, so she settles some where in the middle.

DAVIS GRANT

Ok, so we're going into the Fall season. Therefore designers are doing spring and summer collections for next year. You've seen an actual fashion show, not just a mall show on daytime TV?

VIVIANA

(Dazed and Confused)Yes,No... but even when I'm pulling all of the coffee boxes out of the pantry, I look good doing it!

DAVIS GRANT

(Annoyed)So most of your duties include the pantry and food?

VIVIANA

Yes, but that has made me so organized! And no job is too small for me. I mean, but I pitch stories too.

PANICKED AGAIN

NARRATOR

He saw who she was when she walked in with those Nine West 2 inches heels-- so regular shmegular. Then she lost him at retail job and there was no coming back from that...

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

As Viviana was just trying to tread water now and hold on for dear life!

DAVIS GRANT

(Dismissive) Well, I have so much work to get back to. You can show yourself out, right?

VIVIANA

(shattered) Oh, okay... Um, Yeah! Have a nice day.

DOOR SWINGS CLOSED AS MELANCHOLY MUSIC PLAYS. THE ELEVATOR DOOR SWING OPEN

ACT 2, SCENE 2KATIE

Hey, you look cute!

VIVIANA (WHISPERS)

Yeah, I just left my Instyle interview.

KATIE

How was it?

VIVIANA

Not good! I was just talking; diarrhea of the mouth, for real!

KATIE

Why would you want to work there anyway? That place is for former models and rich kids.

VIVIANA

You told ME about it!

KATIE

I told you about the jobs portal. Not to work at the hardest magazine in this place.

VIVIANA

I heard that they all get designer bags and clothes. I want that Life!

KATIE

That's only when their closet has it's annual sale and we can all go to that. They just get first dibs! Those people are crazy! They barely eat. You see how we always have food left over from our meetings? (whispering) That magazine is notorious for never ordering food for any of their meetings.
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

I know someone in corporate accounting here and they are always under budget with food and over budget for toilet paper. No one understands what they need all that toilet paper for, because those people don't eat. Now that I think about it, you might be perfect there with your diarrhea but yours only effects your mouth.

Katie laughing

VIVIANA

(Whining) I'm happy that you find this funny. Meanwhile, I'm over here torturing myself as I replay the interview in my head! Oh, and I lead with my ability to stock the pantry.

KATIE

Why would you lead with that?

VIVIANA

Because, I wanted to show him that no job was too small?!

KATIE

Not for those snooty-snot boxes. Talk to me before your next interview. I might know someone at that publication.

VIVIANA

Next Friday at Teen magazine.

KATIE

Sure I do know someone there. Let me email my friend Micheal, so he can give us a heads up on what they're looking for.

VIVIANA

You'd do that for me?

KATIE

It's nothing! I'll send an email introduction and CC you.

NARRATOR

Now, the juju is mixing up right for her as she reads the email that list the shows to watch, and the starlets to look out for, all of the people that the magazine's editors have their eyes on for upcoming issues.

VIVIANA

Katie, what do they use the toilet paper for?

KATIE

The rumor is that they keep their pantry stocked with laxatives and Pepto! Because the almost 60 people on staff ALWAYS have tummy aches!?!

VIVIANA

That's dis-gusting!

SCENE 3NARRATOR

This time it was a fun colorful office with pictures of Teens all around, as she felt at ease in this never, never, land environment. She's reminded of touring it during the early days of the internship with the group.

LINDA

(boss-lady vibes) Hello, I'm Linda Daye. I'm the Entertainment Editor here, follow me.

VIVIANA

What a great office, so fun!

LINDA

Yes, because we put real teens in the publication not models, so the office is decorated as such. We don't have much time; I have an 11:30 after this. So, looking at your resume you're in the internship pool and at EW now?

VIVIANA

Yes, we just did our college issue.

Foot StepsLINDA

I have it here and I saw your name in the group research section. It's great that you were able to get any byline because those Harvard boys are so stingy with them, over there.

Door Closes behind herVIVIANA

Yeah, it is great to be a part of such a great group of journalist. I'm learning so much.

LINDA

What shows are you watching? Music are you listening? And last movie you loved?

NARRATOR

(V.O) And just like that she rattled off all of the talking points from Micheal's email, knowing that she was impressive every step of the way! As they joked about the inner-workings of the entertainment industry.

LINDA

But who's your next great movie star?

VIVIANA

Did you see "Baby Boy"?

LINDA

Of course!

VIVIANA

I love Taraji Henson and Tyrese is so cute.

LINDA

He is such eye candy! I didn't love the film but I could look at those two together on screen all day. You have good taste, I like that. How much compensation do you want?

VIVIANA

What?

LINDA

Money! What are your salary expectations?

VIVIANA

(Aghast) I don't...

LINDA

(Matter-of-fact) You're a professional woman now. YOU never need to feel ashamed of asking for what you need to do your job! Because this will not be an easy job. You will be assisting me and six other people in this department.

We hear a knock at the door, as the door opens.

NORA

Linda, we have a call with the publicist from Sony.

LINDA

Okay. I gotta go, so HR will be in contact with you and I expect that you'll do your research on that last question and have an answer for HR.

VIVIANA

Yes.

LINDA

It was great meeting you. You can see yourself to the elevator. Right?

VIVIANA

Yes, thanks again. Have a good day.

NARRATOR

The next call that Viviana got was about ten days later from human resources offering her the position, of Entertainment Assistant at Teen Magazine for 30 percent less than her white, male counterparts. Viviana took the first offer and had no inkling to counter, that was on September 7, 2001.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And on September 11th 2001, America learned what a terrorist attack felt like.

Pleasant Ave. & 118 Prod.

ACT 3, SCENE 1NARRATOR

There was a melancholy in the air. New York City was hushed and sad. Most of us just didn't know what to do or even how to be normal again. And when we had the inkling of an idea to do anything remotely fun, we said things like "if we don't (insert any action) "smoke weed," the terrorist win!

FOOT STEPS, AS THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN.WANDA

Hi, I'm Wanda! I'll show you around.

VIVIANA

Hey, I'm Viviana Lee.

WANDA

I'm Mary Buch's assistant; she's the Managing Editor. Follow me, this is her office on the right. She's not in yet. Most people get in at 10 am around here. I'm glad to meet you, there aren't many of us around here! Where are you from?

VIVIANA

Harlem.

WANDA

Parkchester! I went to NYU. You?

Foot StepsVIVIANA

I went to Howard.

WANDA

HBCU, love it! To the left is the pantry

VIVIANA

How long have you been here?

WANDA

A little over a year now.

VIVIANA

That's great, so you'll be moving up soon.

WANDA

That's the plan. We can all hope. Here's your desk. Hey Jean!

JEAN

Hey, Wanda. You're the new Entertainment Assistant?

VIVIANA

Yeah, I'm Viviana

WANDA

Jean's the Beauty Assistant. And knowing her gives us the hook up on when the beauty sale is coming and that's Rule 1.

VIVIANA

Ok, there are rules? And what's the beauty sale?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As Viviana saw her new desk and world she was struck by their openness. This land had it's own rules and customs and they were willing to give her a heads up, instead of letting her crash and burn.

JEAN

We clean out the beauty closet about twice a year to make room for new products. And it's coming soon.

WANDA

Let's deal with the latter first: We get to buy make-up for a deep discount. The trick is that you gotta know the wonderful Jean!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Viviana notices that these chicks were going down the beauty sale path of who cares? And why lane? But all she really needed were the unspoken office rules!

WANDA

And of course there are always rules, most of them we do not speak of! Like Rule 2: as an assistant you're expected to be here before all of the editors.

JEAN

And most of the time stay late.

WANDA

(whispers) And you can at any time be pulled to help Barb's assistant. Who only has one person to assist while the rest of us have several. I have three editors.

JEAN

I have two one is an associate.

WANDA

In your gang two are associates and one is a writer, soo technically you're not assisting her! But technicalities are where the devil lays!

JEAN

You're scaring her! What she means is sometimes they're worse than editors because they have more to prove.

WANDA

(Angry) Like the C list celebs are always worse than the A list! Met Tom Cruise and he was a Gem. Met Seth Rogan, the guy who host Fear Factor and he was the worse, so rude.

VIVIANA

The show where they eat like, roaches?!?

WANDA

Yes! And you'd think with that job that he'd be humble. But no, that's why he's not! He's at the bottom of the celebrity heap so he had to pee on my leg during a press interview. And that's how a lot of these associates and writers can be!

VIVIANA

Maybe to him, it's not a job but just a gig! And he has plans to be the next big action super star.

WANDA

Who cares? He doesn't get to abuse me because he don't like his job. Which probably pays for his house in Malibu! That's why the frustrated C-listers are way worse than huge ballin'-out-of-control, A listers.

JEAN

Wanda clearly has a bit of trauma around this issue. But she's not lying--pay attention and you'll be fine. Plus, we'll be sharing a cubical wall. Wanda, I'll come by your desk, as soon as I can say more but maybe keep later this week free?

WANDA

Jean, I needed those drops of love this week. I'll be there for the MAC Lip Glass. And Viviana, we'll have to go to lunch so you can tell me all about you. The offices around are your editors, here's a book to pick your supplies. Last tip: keep your eyes open for perceived power!

VIVIANA

That's rule 4 or 3 now?

WANDA

We're done with rules. Those are just tips for your publishing Life!

THE TEN POUND, BOOK HITS THE DESK.

WANDA (CONT'D)

They will tell you your duties when they get in. See right there, that's the bathroom. And at noon, I've made an appointment for you to get an ID, so I'll be back to escort you. That won't interfere with the sale right Jean?

JEAN

No, I'd give you more notice. I said later this week.

WANDA

But that could be as soon as tomorrow. Plus, this has been a weird place since 9/11, it's very quiet.

VIVIANA

It's like all of New York took a chill pill, as my mom would say.

WANDA

Funny! You're funny! And IT will be up soon to log you in. My only advise is take it all in.

JEAN

Only?

WANDA

I have to look out for the newbies around so she'll have a fighting a chance! Viviana, if you have any questions you know where to find me.

FOOTSTEPS AS WANDA EXITS.

SCENE 2

JOE

Hey, I'm Joe from IT. I'm here to set up your desktop.

VIVIANA

Hey, I'm Viviana!

NARRATOR

And at this point, Viviana is struck by the cute guy standing in front of her. Who smells like berries. Yeah, she had a boyfriend so far, far away in DC. But she also had eyes and a pulse that is alive in NYC.

JOE

I need to get to your desktop. This shouldn't take long.

HER DESK CHAIR PUSH BACK, THE COMPUTER POWERING ON AS WELL AS, THE DIAL TONE AND JOE GRABS THE PHONE.

JOE

Yeah, here on 24 signing into Viviana Lee's cubical.

NARRATOR

Kids, this was when we had dial up, none of this cloud stuff. So he actually had to call someone to connect her to the server. As he sits at her desk and works his IT magic behind Oz's curtain ...But all Viviana is thinking, while hovering nearby: where can I get me some of that!?!?

JOE

Pick a passcode and type it in.

THE CHAIR CREEP UP AND MORE TYPING

JOE

And one more time.

AS HER HEART BEATS FASTER

JOE (CONT'D)

Okay, try to do it yourself now?

WE HEAR VIVIANA TYPING.

JOE

Great, she's in Outlook now.

HE HANGS UP THE PHONE

JOE

Here is your email address and my extension. If you have any questions give me a call.

VIVIANA

Quick!

JOE

I told you that I'd take care of you.

VIVIANA

You were right, I will trust you forever, ever!

JOE

Forever, ever

VIVIANA

Outkast, love them!

JOE

What you know about Outkast?!

VIVIANA

I can't stop listening to Stankonia; I must be on my third CD because I play it so much.

JOE

I went to Morehouse, so I have been there since Southern Play.

VIVIANA

Ok Morehouse! So one HBCU grad to another. Plus one Outkast fan to another....

JOE

You went to an HBCU?

VIVIANA

Yes, Howard! But don't interrupt! These Co-Inc-E-Dincs don't mean total trust!

JOE

Total trust has to be earned! But at least, I'm off to a great start. Later!

NARRATOR

As Joe walked away and Viviana started to play that entire conversation back in her head. Maybe he was flirting with her? Was he! She has David in DC. Although she's aware that she's not dead! So there's nothing wrong with a tiny bit of flirting, as long as she does not touch the merchandise.

VIVIANA

It's already 9:50!

BOSS GIRL MUSIC

SCENE 3

HEELS WALKING DOWN THE LONG HALLWAY, AS A DOOR OPENS.

LINDA

Hello, Viviana! You're here, great! I'll be right out.

THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND HER.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I'm ready. I had to get myself situated. Come into my office and bring a pad and pen.

VIVIANA

Hey, Jean. Where can I get a pad and pen?

JEAN

I have it.

THE CABINET OPENS ABOVE HER HEAD.

VIVIANA

Thanks

JEAN

Just use this until your supplies come in.

SHE IS WALKING INTO THE OFFICE.

LINDA

I got an email that you might be needed to help out with the beauty sale later this week, because the magazine is committed to giving a hefty donation to the 9/11 First Responders relief fund ASAP. Check with Jean about that.

THE DOOR CLOSE AS VIVIANA SITS DOWN.

VIVIANA

Okay

LINDA

We have weekly meetings on Wednesdays and you're expected to take notes and have story ideas. Get the list of magazines from Wanda and make sure that the top 5 are on it: Vogue, Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, Cosmo and Seventeen. You can add three more of your liking. But I will warn you: you're expected to know the Urban market.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

What does that mean? Maybe she better brush up on her Ebony/Jet, and XXL magazine knowledge if she wants to keep this job. Plain old Essence will not do! She's gotta be that Encyclopedia Black girl to make it work.

As if in the middle of her conversation.

LINDA

And for our bi-weekly meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, Barbara so that we're all ready to go. Check with her assistant, Shannon and get the agenda print-outs before every meeting. Got it?

VIVIANA

Yes. Got it.

LINDA

And we're having a meeting at 10:30, see you there. Everyone is expecting you. Don't worry; they don't bite.

VIVIANA LAUGHS A LITTLE TOO HARD AT THE JOKE AS WE HEAR HER FOOT STEPS BACKING OUT OF THE OFFICE.

VIVIANA

Do you want me to leave it open?

LINDA

Yes.

THE OFFICE IS BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY NOW AS PEOPLE ARE MOVING AROUND. VIVIANA WALKS BACK TO HER DESK.

NORA

Hello. I'm Nora

VIVIANA

Hello

NORA

I just wanted to say hi because you're my replacement. How do I say your name? I'm from the mid-west, I just want to be sure.

VIVIANA

It's Viviana.

NORA

Cool, I was promoted to be staff writer a month ago and so... I made a list of my duties if you'd like, I can print it out for you?

VIVIANA

Thanks

NORA

My cubical is right across on the other side so you can ask me any questions that you may have.

VIVIANA

I need to run and get a drink before the meeting.

NORA

Sure.

NARRATOR

Information overload has caused Viviana to want to run and get far away from there. Did she know Nora Rhino, yes everyone did! She was the urban legend of assistants who snagged the first interview Leo D. after his big break-up with the supermodel girlfriend. So she got promoted in just 1 year and four months. Is she serious?

ANNOUNCER

Thanks for listening, tune in next week for another episode!

<insert podcast outro montage here>

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