

EXT. CORNER OF CARTER AND 5TH STREET - DAY

Filipinos in Space by Rocky G plays over a typical looking DC street corner with a convenience store and a bunch of newspaper boxes, parking meters and rideshare bike racks. JADE (18) leans against one of the newspaper things and pulls a half smoked jay out of her pocket, lights it up and presses it between her lips. She takes one or two puffs and then stares across the street where we see a chinese carryout place. Groups of people walk in and out, some look like they smelled a dead body while others leave looking happy and smiling with their friends.

JAZZY (also 18) walks up next to her and grabs the jay out of her hand.

JADE

You could at least say hi first.

After a single puff, Jaz returns the jay to Jade's fingers, as she's still holding her hand up from holding it before.

JADE (CONT'D)

Really?

JAZZY

(shrugs)

It's a week night. You ready to go?

Jade turns her head forward again and looks at the carryout place.

JADE

New place. It looks like a hit or miss. But then again all the misses don't look like they're from here so.

JAZZY

Why do you like people watching so much? Is this what you do every time I go to school?

JADE

(shrugs)

It's interesting. And I'm hungry and your classes always take fucking forever.

She presses the end of the jay to her finger and sticks it back in her pocket.

JADE (CONT'D)

Anyway. No time like the present.

She starts to walk forward.

JAZZY
Can we just go home?

Jade turns around, now standing in the middle of the bike lane and looking confused while Jazzy stands on the sidewalk impatiently holding onto the strap of her bag.

JADE
Nooo, come on I wanna try the mumbo sauce here, critique and rate the food, you know, like we always do. Are you really gonna deny me a fun opportunity like that?

JAZZY
I just don't feel like taste testing mumbo sauce today, alright?

JADE
Liar.

JAZZY
Okay, fine.
(short pause)
The truth is, I'm on a vegan cleanse now.

Jade rolls her eyes and starts walking.

JADE
Fine, if you're gonna be weird about it we can go home, cook some ramen or something and act like broke college students for the night.

Jazzy starts to follow her, trailing behind.

JAZZY
We are broke college students.

JADE
What did I tell you about being so negative?

They continue walking down the street, way past the convenience store, in silence for a while.

JADE (CONT'D)
So, how long have you been 'vegan cleansing'?

Jazzy looks down at the ground and grabs onto the strap of her bag.

JAZZY

For about a week now. I'm trying to last a month at least.

Jade nods and looks around for a minute. She then glances over at Jazzy for a quick second and notices her black nail polish is chipped. A lot of her black nail polish is chipped.

JADE

So how's Journey?

She immediately starts chipping at her nail polish and shrugs.

JAZZY

I guess he's good. We're meeting up to do some homework on Sunday.

JADE

Yeah? Was this whole vegan cleanse thing his idea? Is this another one of those weird challenges you guys get into?

JAZZY

No! Are you kidding? He couldn't even be a vegan himself I don't think he'd try and put anyone else through that.

JADE

Okay. Because I was about to say, you guys would've failed when we all got McDonald's like three days ago. You know it's very obvious when you lie, right?

Jazzy's eyes widen.

JAZZY

Okay, I'm sorry again. I just have a lot of homework to do tonight that's all.

Jaz quickly hurries up the stairs to her door.

JADE

And why would you feel the need to lie about homework?

JAZZY

Because I didn't want you making
fun of me for being a nerd.

JADE

Weren't you supposed to do homework
with Journey on Sunday?

JAZZY

It's different homework.

She struggles for a minute but frantically unlocks her door and runs inside. Jade laughs to herself for a second, shakes her head, pulls out the jay again and lights it while she walks away. After the first puff she takes out her phone and calls Journey.

FADE OUT.