

"YOU'RE NOT VEGAN?!"

YOU'RE NOT VEGAN?!

Ayanna Dookie

Int. CAR - EVENING

SHAYLA and MARK sit in Mark's car in front of Shayla's apartment.

MARK

Shayla, I've really enjoyed the 2 years we've spent together, so, I feel it's time I share this with you.

SHAYLA

Yes...

MARK

I can really see myself spending eternity with you, but I haven't been completely honest about who I am...

SHAYLA

Mark, I already know. And I accept that you're a vegan.

MARK

Please let me fin...a vegan? No. Why would you think that?

SHAYLA

It's obvious. You're pale and thin, and cold to the touch, and never eat whenever we're out. And you got on that vegan outfit. Vegan.

MARK

I'm not a vegan. I'm a vampire.

SHAYLA

A vampire? You sure you're not a vegan?

MARK

Haven't you noticed we don't go out before sundown? I don't post any pictures of myself on Facebook. And, I never sleepover.

SHAYLA

I just figured you weren't comfortable with your body.

MARK

My body?! What's wrong with my

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 P12/45

body?! I'm fine with my body! I'm a vampire!

SHAYLA

Oh. Okay. And how you feel about you is all that matters. [beat] Yeah, that all makes sense now. Plus, you're way too into Game of Thrones.

MARK

What?! I like the show just like everyone else. You do know it's fiction? I was not alive for that make believe world.

SHAYLA

Whatever. Either way, it all makes sense. [beat] I'm fine with you being a vampire. I've dated a black guy before.

MARK

You are black. And this is not the same thing. I am a completely different species. I have been alive for 349 years. I end human life for my own survival. The things I've done for...

SHAYLA

Yeah, but dating a black man is challenging. More challenging than Asians or White guys.

MARK

I'm a vampire. I'm a different species.

SHAYLA

I hear you. [talking to herself] This is more drama than dating a black guy.

Mark shakes his head, lets out a deep breath, and regains his composure.

SHAYLA (CON'T)

So, is this something I can catch, like Chlamydia?

MARK

It's not an STD. You can't "catch" being a vampire. You get turned into one.

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 p45/45

SHAYLA

Turned? [talking to herself] Man, this dude trying to turn me out like some kind of vegan lesbian.

Mark and Shayla stare at each other for an awkward amount of time.

SHAYLA (CON'T)

So, if you "turned me," I wouldn't be able to go out in the sun?

MARK

[becoming a bit annoyed] Correct. You would not be able to go out in the sun.

SHAYLA

But black people were made for the day time!

MARK

[trying to suppress anger] You would turn to ashes if sunlight hit you.

SHAYLA

Hmmm. Well, that's not going to work. Karen is getting married in August, and it's an outdoor wedding. I already RSVPed. [beat] You said you've been alive for 349 years?! You look good!

MARK

Vampires don't age. We keep the form in which we were turned.

SHAYLA

Same weight too? So, wait. That's how you looked hundreds of years ago BEFORE turning into a vampire? But, you were vegan then, right?

MARK

I'm not vegan!

SHAYLA

[talking to herself] I'm gonna have to get back on Atkins. Maybe I should go vegan. [talking to Mark] You have any good vegan recipes to help me lose some weight? I can't be out here in these streets for centuries looking like who done it.

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 P11/75

MARK

This is not going to work. I've been alive for hundreds of years and have never met someone so self centered! You're worse than Mark Antony!
[talking to himself] Geez, I don't know how Caesar did it?

SHAYLA

Who?!

END

MARK

[Deep sigh] Mark Antony. You don't know who Mark Antony is? Nevermind. This is why I hate dating younger women.

SHAYLA

Wait. Are YOU trying to break up with ME?! [talking to herself] Am I getting dumped by a VAMPIRE?!

MARK

This is exactly what I mean. It's always about you. I don't know why I thought this could work.

SHAYLA

Look. I'm just trying to make sure I'm not a flabby, overweight 383 year old who looks like she hasn't waxed or had her eyebrows threaded in centuries, wearing moomoos and leggings for all of eternity, cause I didn't properly plan and missed too many Mondays at the gym. Don't get mad at me cause you didn't think your eternity look through!

MARK

I'm too old for this.

Mark's fangs activate and he leans into Shayla.

NBC SHOWCASE 2016 P45/45