

Role: JEAN JONES*
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7

INT. SOUL TRAIN - DON'S OFFICE - DAY

7

From behind his desk, Don cuts a picture of quintessential cool. Jean sits across, a steno pad resting on her knee.

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START → JEAN JONES

Little Richard tonight. Quite a stroke of luck considering your talent problems this fall. What changed?

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DON

Oh that's a trade secret, Jean.

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JEAN JONES

Little bird told me Soul Train season two is on the horizon.

DON

Don't know who's been chirping, but they'd better not jinx it.

JEAN JONES

But you don't care to comment?

Don hadn't considered he was bombing the interview until now.

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JEAN JONES (CONT'D)

Your wife, Delores, took a big role behind the scenes in Chicago. Why didn't she come to LA?

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DON

These questions... this the kind of news Right On! readers want?

JEAN JONES

A half-million people buy our magazine. It's news to them.

*

DON

Half a million?

1/5

JEAN JONES

A month.

The phone RINGS. Don picks it up before it rings twice. *

DON (INTO PHONE)

Yes?

RICHARD (V.O.)

Don, baby, it's Richard.

The phone knocks down fidelity, but LITTLE RICHARD's voice is so distinct. Don pivots in his chair away from Jean. *

DON

Something tells me you ain't calling from the green room. *

RICHARD (V.O.)

It's my friend, Rose. She locked me out with all my shit inside, sayin' I owe her five-hundred bucks. *

DON

And you're a little short.

RICHARD (V.O.)

You know I'm good for it, baby.

DON

I'll send someone.

RICHARD (V.O.)

You gotta understand, this 'a sensitive sitch', ya dig?

Don spots Jean in the reflection of a frame, taking notes. *

RICHARD (V.O.)

1555 Hawthorne. *

DON

Sit tight. I'm on my way. *

Don HANGS UP, turns, catches Jean with her pencil in the cookie jar. *

DON (CONT'D)

I gotta jet, Jean. *

JEAN JONES

What? This is not enough. I can't run an incomplete interview. *

2/5

DON

We'll finish after the show.

*

JEAN JONES

←END

Don, it'll be months before I can
get back here. We'll miss December.
It's now or never.

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OFF Don, caught in a difficult decision.

27 INT. SOUL TRAIN SOUNDSTAGE - NIGHT 27 *

Don, suited for showtime, watches the last moments of **The Undisputed Truth** sing "**You Make Your Own Heaven and Hell.**" *

Benny flashes Don a "one-minute" sign... *

DON *

Thank you, Benny.

Jean Jones taps Don on the elbow. Her steno pad now tucked into her handbag.

START → JEAN JONES

Hey Don, thank you for your time today and being so... accommodating.

DON

Pleasure, Miss Jones. You got quite a story, huh?

4/5

Role: JEAN JONES

JEAN JONES

I did.

DON

Of course, what happened there in the middle is off the record. As you agreed. You know Richard isn't aware you're a journalist.

Jean flashes her flirtatious smile.

JEAN JONES

You let me run this, I'll make you look good. Someone will find out all that dirt on Richard anyway.

DON

Let's set your professional integrity aside and just talk about your responsibility.

(indicates Richard)

Man's an icon. Been around for our people for a long time. We focus on everyone's worst elements, we'll have no heroes left.

As the AD counts down Don from 10...

DON (CONT'D)

Or should I take your little pad out 'your bag and burn it?

Don stands tall, the power shifted. He's in control.

JEAN JONES

← END

You're right. Everything I learned about Richard is off limits. Break a leg, Mr. Cornelius.

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Lights CLAP on, Don enters the spotlight, speaks to camera.