

WANDA — SIDE TWO

WANDA
You ever go by any nicknames, John?

JOHN
Um.

WANDA
Johnny?

JOHN
No.

WANDA
Jack?

JOHN
No, no nick—

WANDA
Jim?

JOHN
What? I don't uh. I don't think Jim is a nickname for John.

WANDA
Isn't it? I could've sworn it was.

JOHN
Don't think so, no.

WANDA, *singsongy, to herself, almost inaudible*
“Wheel about and turn about and do just so...”

JOHN
What was that?

WANDA
I didn't say anything.

Beat. BILL enters with two beers.

Oh. You—

BILL

Yeah I told you I was—

WANDA

No you didn't.

BILL

Almost certain I did, Bill.

WANDA

No, you didn't.

BILL

Well. Easy refills, then!

WANDA

Beat. Only JOHN drinks.

She hasn't been terrorizing you, I hope.

BILL

No, no!

JOHN

Oh, I've been absolutely ruthless, Bill.

WANDA

Beat.

John mentioned something funny while you were gone.

WANDA

I did?

JOHN

WANDA

Well first of all did you know the poor kid has no nicknames?

BILL

He's twenty-five.

WANDA

Huh?

BILL

You called him "kid."

JOHN

Oh, it's—

WANDA

What? It's an expression, Bill.

BILL

Is it?

WANDA

Yes. Yes it is. "Poor kid." Should I have said poor *thing* instead?

BILL

He's a man, is my point.

WANDA

Whites. Poor kid. Can't win with this one, Jim.

BILL

John.

WANDA

What? What did I say?

Beat.

BILL

What was the funny thing?

WANDA

Oh! He said he was surprised I made such good fried chicken. Because he had thought that the saying about black people loving fried chicken was just a stereotype.

BILL

I see.

WANDA

It's like I said. In all stereotypes, a bit of truth.

BILL

Well, not all of them.

WANDA

Name one.

BILL

Plenty.

WANDA

Name one.

BILL

Can't think of one off / the top of my head.

WANDA

You said *plenty*, so / name one.

BILL

I can't think of any right now!

Beat.

JOHN

What about the monkey one?

Beat.

BILL

The what?

JOHN

The um. The stereotype that black people are. Or look like. You know.

WANDA

Monkeys.

JOHN

Yeah.

BILL

Ah.

WANDA

Don't know if that's a stereotype, exactly.

JOHN

But it's clearly untrue.

WANDA

So much as a racist ideology.

JOHN

An *untrue* racist ideology. And that's what you were looking for, right? A, uh, a stereotype, or "racist ideology," if you will, without any truth to it.

BILL

Well. Sure. Anyway—

WANDA

Don't we all come from monkeys, though?

BILL

Lord.

WANDA

Or is it apes?

BILL

Does it matter?

WANDA

Maybe crows.

BILL

Crows?

WANDA

Crows.

JOHN

Crows?

WANDA

Crows.

BILL

Crows.

WANDA

Crows, sure.

WANDA lets out a sudden and raucous CAW, CAW, CAW! BILL and JOHN are unsure of what to do with this. Beat.