

CHAMPION

by

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EPISODE 6

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Balloon[®]

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EXT. HOUSE. GRASS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE - FLASHBACK 2 .

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Specks of blood on grass. A reverse shot of EVERALD, who is unsettled by the sight.

1

EXT. HOUSE. VERANDA - FLASHBACK 2 .

1

Then we see a classic rural Jamaican bungalow. Homely and sitting in a large yard where a goat grazes tied to a tree stump.

On the VERANDA, a SMALL BOY is cleaned up by a WOMAN. The boy is injured, cuts on his knees, bruising to his face. This is YOUNG BERES (10). He winces as the woman - YOUNG AUNT SISSY (30s) - cleans his facial wounds.

YOUNG AUNT SISSY
Relax, Beres, come on nuh?

She tuts, continues wiping the wounds with a damp rag.

SUPERIMPOSE: JAMAICA, 1978

Out in the yard, a MAN - EVERALD (30s, lighter skinned) strides toward the veranda. He's big, broad and rugged from years of laborious farm work. Wears a deep frown on his face, swinging an OLD MACHETE as he approaches the veranda.

EVERALD
(re: YOUNG BERES)
Sissy, wha happen to him?

YOUNG AUNT SISSY
Some boys down the lane beat him up
and take him snow cone.

YOUNG BERES looks down, can sense EVERALD's disapproval.

EVERALD
What dem call?

YOUNG BERES
...Curtis. And him friend them.

EVERALD
Curtis? Hector bad breed, jacket
son?

YOUNG BERES just nods. Fury courses through EVERALD. Clenches his jaw tight, then... He turns and strides away purposefully, gripping the OLD MACHETE tightly now.

EVERALD (CONT'D)
(without turning)
Beres, come on!

YOUNG AUNT SISSY and BERES swap looks, unsure.

CHAMPI ON

EVERALD

By disrespecting you, Beres, that boy disrespected your name and therefore, he disrespected me. A man is just his name and without pride in that, he has nothing future. **No** legacy. You understand?

No

YOUNG BERES nods. Digesting the lesson.

EVERALD (CONT'D)

This is the last day you come home with cuts and bruises and you tell me that you never win the fight. You need to make people **fear** you.

At this, EVERALD digs his MACHETE in the grass by BERES. BERES shoots a nervous glance at the MACHETE.

EVERALD (CONT'D)

Don't shame me out here. You're my one son. One. So don't shame my name. You're a Champion, boy. Start acting like one.

EVERALD picks up the pace leaving YOUNG BERES behind. We hold on YOUNG BERES, staring at the MACHETE, then after his dad as the sound of a PLANE ENGINE BUILDS and we...

SMASH CUT TO:

4

INT. AIRPLANE. TRAVELLING - DAY 12.

4

Open on BERES as we know him. His face a mixture of grief and

A smattering of applause. ARI A turns to glance at BERES who flashes a thin smile.

OPENING CREDITS.

5 OMTTED 5

5A EXT. KINGSTON HARBOUR - DAY 12. 5A

Beneath the glare of the late afternoon sun CHILDREN dive from the JETTY into the sea, frolicking. gNe

BERES
(nods; thoughtful)
Papa popular. Champion name still
ring bells out here.

BERES glances out, clocks an old house on a hill.

BERES (CONT'D)
MaOas Hector still alive?

CHALKY
Yeah, man. Still go bush.

Off BERES, pensive. Memories.

8

EXT. HOUSE. YARD - NIGHT 12.

8

A GRAND Jamaican bungalow set against rich FARMLAND and lush
countryside that stretches far into the night.

People mill about in the yard nursing styrofoam cups of

CHAMPI ON

AUNT SISSY (O.S.)
(cutting through it all)
Beres, stop mek so much noise a
people head, man!

All turn to the voice and we see a portly, older woman, supported by a walking stick, stepping down heavily from the veranda of the house. It's AUNT SISSY (70s). Now much old

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CHAMPION - EPISODE SIX -

A moment for JUNIOR to consider the answer. He doesn't have one. Changes the subject.

JUNIOR
What about you?

VITA
Still running on British time.

She moves closer to the wood fire. JUNIOR uncovers the pot to show her the contents - ACKEE AND SALTFISH.

CHAMPI ON -

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VITA takes pause after that comment. She goes back to flicking through the album. She stops at another picture and smiles, trying to work out who is who. We see what she sees.

It's an older EVERALD outside the house with a TWENTY SOMETHING BERES, next to a young, pretty Black woman who is holding a BABY BOY.

VI TA
That's Juni or's Mum?!

Aunt SISSY stops w



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CHAMPI O

JUNIOR

Them say if you can survive the
Butchers you can survive anything.

Of VITA, realising. JUNIOR indicates for another shot of rum
for VITA.

VITA

And what's 472 713 Tm /TT1 1 Tf (oT1 1 Tf (R) Tj ET 663) Tj ET BT 12 0 0

CHI CHING CHING (CONT'D)

Party a keep and dem nah ræk no

PAMPUTTAE (CONT'D)

Bad gyal a step up inna life
 we step up inna gyal face
 if she get bright
 who dat inna de scope inna me sight
 dem can't di ss me
 trust me a war
 Bad gyal a step up inna life
 we step up inna gyal face
 if she get bright
 who dat inna de scope inna me sight
 dem can't di ss me
 trust me a war
 I am the don!
 me nuh care if dem link wid a bad
 man
 Yow me cut dem dutty like a mad man
 Fire ball rain down pon dem like a
 God plan
 Tell a gyal dbn't hess
 De badness
 De badness
 If a gyal di ss
 a shoe seal in a chj

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ET BT 12 0 0 12 250 2 194 509 Tm /TT1 1 TTj ET B

SELECTA spots JUNIOR in the crowd and goes to hand him the M.C.

*
*

SELECTA
Junior! Touch the mic nj ET BT 12 0 0 12 236 s

*

(MORE)

VITA (CONT'D)

Man dem man want go out to eat and
All the gyal dem want a feature
So mek mi teach ya
How fi deal with dutty creature
Yu haffi block and delete um
If they try tek yuh pfi eedi at
Yoo yoo
M look good any time mi tek a
photo
M

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JUNIOR
What me did tell you?

*

VITA

I felt like a different person! I
wish Bosco could have seen that!

JUNIOR

Nah worry bout Bosco, Vita. This is
your night.

VITA

You're the best!

BEAT.

*

VITA

CHAMPION - EPISODE SIX - B

CHAMPION - EPI

(MORE)

ARIA (CONT'D)

But one day, he took me up Lee High Road and he showed me the restaurant: Family Fun West Indian takeaway.

VITA is processing. How has she never heard this?

ARIA (CONT'D)

I stepped foot in that place twenty four years ago, and I've never left.

VITA moves to hug ARIA but she pulls away.

VITA

Oh, Mum

ARIA

(sadness) only thing
i

BERES doesn't want to go back down memory lane.

BERES

Look. Don't listen to all that.
Your mother... don't let her put
her failures on you. You and her,
you're different. Like me and my
father. I was never like him. But I
made the mistake of wanting to be

CHA

A

CHAMPION - EPISODE

CHAMPI ON - EPI SODE SI X - BLUE REVI SI ONS -

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ARIA

Delivery is Thursday, Lennox knows that... Tell him to call me when he's back then, Ma... I know, I know... Thank you.

BERES clocks the call.

BERES

Aria, Aria come here, come watch how easy them make it for me.

ARIA visibly shakes off the weight of home and of LENNOX avoiding her.

ARIA

You lot letting him take food out your mouths again?

BERES

It just too easy, man

CHAMPION - EPISODE SIX - BLUE

CHAMPI ON - EPI SODE SI X - 12 0 0 12 251 797 Tm /TT Tm /TT Tm /TT Tm /T5 (O) Tj ET BT

VITA nod and smiles. Finally, support.

VITA
here's mum?

BERES
She's on her way.

VITA
Is she actually?

BERES
(reassuringly)
Yes, Vita.

VITA looks relieved.

BERES (CONT'D)

Mah gah find her now. Just wanted

to wish my girl good luck.

VITA, taking that in while being cautious.

28A

COM T

28A

28B

COM T

28B

29

EXT. FEST STAGE - DAY 14.

29

VITA and JUNIOR are standing by the side of the stage while
fest goers and influencers buzz around them

They take a look before JUNIOR bursts onto stage and we
launch into...

MUSIC MOMENT #3 -- VITA PARADISE - DEHALL VERSION.

ALL

It's a powerful moment for her. She comes on vocally strong, confident. *

VITA glances down at BERES in the crowd, who looks annoyed to see JUNIOR. But ARIA's sudden arrival, ALCOHOLIC DRINK in hand, that really gets VITA's attention. The look on ARIA's face as she watches VITA. A look approaching LONGING. *

The struggle within ARIA is evident. Proud of VITA but hurt. BERES looks at VITA with pride, totally ignoring JUNIOR's presence on stage. BERES glances at ARIA, squeezes her hand. *

BERES *

She sound good, don't she? *

ARIA *

Me grow her Beres, me know how she sound. *

BERES *

She reminds me of you when you were her age, you know... I should never have stopped you. *

ARIA hears him but her eyes are glued to th

30C	<u>EXT. JA FEST STAGE - NIGHT 14.</u>	30C	*
	JUNIOR continues.		*
	JUNIOR		*
	One thing that I know when are bodies are close Time stands still everything is slow mo I don't mean to impose, but what is your info Cause your body hotter than a pot de pon stove Girl you got what I want...		* * * * * * * *
30D	<u>EXT. JA FEST STAGE. CROWD - NIGHT 14.</u>	30D	*
	BERES		*
	Alright, alright, let's not start alla dat, this is a moment of celebration.		* * *
	ARIA lets out a snort of laughter.		*
	ARIA		*
	I remember when we were last here. Things were very different.		* *
30E	<u>EXT. JA FEST STAGE - NIGHT 14.</u>	30E	*
	VITA		*
	You know you got it all Aint no one else like ya Shout it to the world Baby you have my love You got it got it Aint no one else like ya Shout it to the world Baby you have my love...		* * * * * * * *
30F	<u>EXT. JA FEST STAGE. CROWD - NIGHT 14.</u>	30F	*

CHAMPI ON

JUNIOR

We need fi come back next year!

*
*

VITA tries to keep her own excitement in but is visibly on CLOUD NINE. ARIA reaches out to her, tender.

ARIA

You were amazing, Vita.

*

BERES swallows some champagne and holds

ARIA stops suddenly, pulls her hand back. She looks down.

ARIA
Sorry. I got caught up in the moment.

BERES
(gently)
Tell me you don't miss me, Ari...

ARIA
You should go- I- we can't -

BERES edges closer to ARIA. She edges closer too. After what feels like a lifetime, they kiss.

36

INT. HOUSE. DINING ROOM - DAY 15.

36

We open on the same photo of EVERALD that VITA had been looking at in the cabinet.

B

VITA
(entering the room)
Dad, you ready?

BERES has JUNIO

AUNT SISSY

Not on this hip ya. Just tell
them fi hurry up mek we bury the
ol wretch so mi can go a mi yard.

INT. SAME - LATER 15.

ARIA and VITA reach out to comfort him JUNIOR watches the men shovel. His face unreadable.

41

INT. HOUSE. DINING ROOM - EVENING 15.

41

The wake is underway. The Champions are all gathered with a handful of close family friends and cousins. The mood sombre. ARIA and VITA sit together picking at their food. BERES is speaking quietly with a group of men, beers in hand.

JUNIOR enters and makes a beeline for AUNT SISSY, handing her the plate of food.

AUNT SISSY
God bless you, mi son.

BERES
Junior, you have the thing?

JUNIOR stiffens, irate. AUNT SISSY can see it, she reaches for him sensing what's about to

BERES looks at the floor.

VITA

VI TA (CONT'D)

Say something!

AUNT SISSY is shaking her head.

ARIA stands up, stands over BERES.

ARIA

Goodbye, Beres Champion. That's the
last time you'll ever hear me say
your name.

ARIA storms away. VI TA gets up to follow

VITA
I Ōm coming with you.

ARIA and VITA share a moment of solidarity.

ARIA
Thank you, V.

AUNT SISSY (O.S.)
So unnuh a guh mek one likkle bun
drive unnuh weh?

AUNT SISSY totters in on her walking stick.

AUNT SISSY

ARIA zips up her SUITCASE and exits. OUT on SISSY with a face like a slapped bum

44

EXT. HOUSE. VERANDA - EVENING 15.

44

BERES watches forlorn as ARIA and VITA load their cases into CHALKYŌ's MINI VAN. Before she enters the MINI VAN, ARIA locks eyes with him. Her face unrea

On that BERES goes to STRIKE JUNIOR. But JUNIOR's much quicker and GRIPS BERES's striking arm and SHOVES him up against the wall, snarling in BERES's face.

BERES struggles under JUNIOR's grip.

BERES

What you want from me boy?!

JUNIOR

Not a thing, Beres.

He releases BERES and stands back. He's completely done with BERES and looks at him in disgust.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

You never do a thing for me in my life so mi nuh want or expect you to change now.

(BEAT)

The will give everything to me. All of Papa's estate. Bank accounts, h

INT/EXT. BLACK CAB. TRAVELLIN

