

UNTIL THE  
BOUGH  
BREAKS

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A 17-hour staged drama  
inspired by the **Black  
Lives Matter** protests  
of 2020

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S:12

TO CURVE POLICE BARRIERS  
END QUALIFIED IMMUNITY  
DEMILITARIZE LOCAL PD  
MORE TRAINING/SCHOOLING  
IN DEPTH PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SCREENING

## The Characters

Monisha is a 14 year-old protégé anxious about reciting her latest poem at the upcoming BLM march.

City councilman Isaac Watson and his assistant Kira James prepare for a weekend of civil unrest.

Buzz Kowalchuck, a biker, rejoins the local contingent named The Real Heroes of America.

Jessica Channing continues to champion The National Federation of Republican Women.

Hailey Powell is a virologist.

William D. Carson is a reverend.

Steadman is offered the role of Mr Darcy in an all-Black cast version of Pride and Prejudice.

Afro-Marxist Kareem Kingsley Jnr is the charismatic leader of an influential militancy group.

Axl Quinn is the head of a BLM counter-protest gang of white supremacists.

Hudson, 19, wants to explore his true identity within the LGBTQ+ community.

Cliff Maddison is a racist police officer.

Miatta Jennings seeks reparation from the family who once owned her ancestor as a slave.

Chantelle is a nurse at the city hospital.

Barry Stone is the owner of a Caribbean bar that has been looted by protestors.

Melvin Jackson is a rookie cop.

Harriet Hall resides in a nursing home.

Cheryl Maddison is a homemaker.

Maya and Bernard are the first Black couple to move into the lower middle class white suburb of Scottsdale.

Rae and Gregg's interracial marriage is crumbling under the pressures of Covid.

Roger Channing is a prominent conservative politician.

Otis is a voluntary orderly.

Tamika Washington is a proactivist.

Natonya Dreyfus is a textile designer.

Tyrell Adams is stopped and searched after being misidentified and wrongly accused.

Samuel Jones is a local gym owner facing bankruptcy due to lockdown.

Farida Burke is a sociology student.

Cara is a cleaner for the Channings.

Undergraduates Lalique and Yasmine want to voice their anger at the killing of George Floyd.

All these lives **intersect** throughout **twelve** separate stories.

# the Plays



## **God's Only Child**

14 year-old Monisha is about to deliver her poem at the upcoming Black Lives Matter event. Encouraged by her two older sisters Yasmine and Laliq, she is afraid of taking to the podium. Their mother Cara, highly fearful of it being a super spreader event, is also nervous about the idea.



## **Can You Handle It?**

Councilman Isaac and his assistant Kira are readying themselves for Saturday's demonstration. Kira, an admirer of Afro-Marxist leader Kareem Kingsley, firmly believes that the protestors are taking the higher moral ground. Isaac, a liberal-centrist, is wary of the backlash they may receive from white voters. Both are torn between their roles at work and their inner beliefs.

## **Buzz**

Buzz Kowalchuck is a biker in his late 40s. Out of work, disaffected and brought up as a white supremacist, Buzz agrees to rejoin the local contingent named The Real Heroes of America. His childhood pal Axl is heading this anti BLM group. As a man prone to violence, Axl urges his gang to fulfill his personal ambitions.

## **Of Prejudice**

Steadman is excited when he is offered the role of Mr Darcy in the new streaming show Pride and Prejudice. With an all Black cast, his partner Tamika shows doubt at its legitimacy when she learns that the writer, director and producer are all white.

## **Pariah's Call**

Hailey Powell, a virologist, visits her old pastor William D. Carson on her way to seeing her grandmother at a local nursing home. Bill welcomes her with paternal-like pride, but once he mentions his indifference to the threat of Covid, she begins to worry about the more vulnerable members of the parish.

## **When Things Break Down**

Hudson, 19, lives at home with his father Samuel. A local gym owner, Samuel faces the harsh reality of his business going under. Hudson is uneasy since coming out as gay. As they can no longer live together, each man heads off into his own uncertain future.

## **Too Far Gone**

Maya and Bernard are the first Black couple to live in the white area of Scottsdale. Both highly educated, they joke on how no one will share their tastes and views. Cliff Maddison, a cop, is their neighbor, while his wife Cheryl is a high school graduate. Maya encourages Bernard to introduce himself to them, and the scene is set for a night of power games.

## **A Change is Gonna Come**

Jessica Channing is a well-respected member of The National Federation of Republican Women. Roger, her husband of thirty years, is a high profile conservative politician. Angered at the upcoming marches, they try not to show their thoughts while in the presence of their help, Cara. Cara eventually admits that her daughter Monisha will be speaking at the demonstration. This throws the couple into a journey of conscience, one that they are determined to win.

## **Savior's Day**

Chantelle, 36, is a nurse at the city hospital. Otis is a volunteering orderly. They meet on a corridor bench. Their attraction is mutual, but soon leads to a profound change in both of their lives.

## **A Taming of the Wind**

Natonya is shocked to find that a stranger has found her surname online, making the link to an 18<sup>th</sup> century slave owner. The woman states that she wants reparation, as her ancestor was once a victim of Natonya's family. Natonya, a mixed race textile designer, decides to meet her accuser in person, although her partner Farida is against it.

## **It's Right Where You Left It**

Rae, a paramedic, is exhausted from tending to BLM campaigners suffering from injuries inflicted by the police. Her husband Gregg feels that the street violence is making it harder for her to cope. Even though Caucasian, he tells her what is best for her life. This is made worse when she finds out his secret beliefs.

## **Life Will Be Good**

Barry Stone is the owner of a bar that has been trashed by BLM activists. An African American Trump voter, Stone goes to see his councilman to force a state of emergency on the city. When things don't go the way he wants, he sets out to find his own means of retribution.

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“... the Time has come.”

For more information please go to

[www.johnhaydenmann.com](http://www.johnhaydenmann.com)

Photo: DJ E-Clyps/Blacklight Media (Fort Wayne, Indiana, June 6 2020)