

THE LOOP  
By  
CHRISTIANA B.

Christiana Blount  
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## **PLAY BREAKDOWN**

### **CHARACTERS:**

CHRISTI BLACK

CHRISTI is a 15 year old african american girl, smart, stubborn, creative, open minded, caring, and anxious.

TEREASA HARRISON (Grandma)

TEREASA is a middle aged woman, controlling, determined, manipulative, one track minded, pessimistic, and judgmental.

### **SETTING:**

Chicago on the CTA bus, and CHRISTI'S house.(The kitchen, front room, CHRISTI'S room, and in the back of the bus.)

### **TIME:**

Last month of fall, in 2019, and in november.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

CHRISTI and her grandmother TEREASA goes through a struggle communicating and getting along after losing CHRISTI' S mom. After the terrible event TEREASA takes custody of CHRISTI and as they live in the same house they start fighting and trying to grasp and make out the relationship they never had to begin with. It's like blood related strangers living under one roof. But as time goes by things get better for the worst.

### **MUSIC**

Optional - You can create a playlist to help people understand the mood of the play.

### **MOVEMENT, MULTIMEDIA, OR FORMAT NOTES**

Optional - If your play uses any special elements, you can explain that in a brief note in your breakdown.

### **THEMATIC MESSAGE:**

Healing and building a relationship takes time, effort, and mental stability. But sometimes the best thing to do is just moving yourself forward.

ACT 1

**SCENE 1**

*LIGHTS UP on .....*

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TEREASA

*(On the phone)*

Where are you? Are you at home? You know what time you supposed to be in the house, right?

CHRISTI

You didn't get my text? I just texted you that I was on the last bus, I'm on my way. Im coming from Cheerleading dance practice, i already told you.

TEREASA

Aw. i ant see it. You didnt tell me about Cheerleading practice, I thought it was tomorrow. And why you so late coming from practice?

CHRISTI

I gave you and explained to you my sceduale for the week. I did tell you all this yesterday, over the phone, and im not late coming for practice i get out at 5:00 pm. Why you always act like you dont remember!

TEREASA

Escuse me! Who is you talking to! And i dont remember what you told me, i was at work! And why you talkin to me like u runnin something you can be lookin aruond you.

CHRISTI

Yea, you always at work. And eveytime i tell you something- ...nevermind. Aint nobody on this bus but me today.

TEREASA

Ok, but still im tryna let you know that its good to pay attention to your surroundings. But text me when you get to the house, and-

CHRISTI

OK.

*(Beep! CHRISTI hangs up before her grandma could finish what she has to say.)*

Owell. If it was that important or something i dont already know she would call me back. God! She get on my nerves, she dont never listen to what i have to say and when i finally do tell her sorting it goes in one ear and out the other! Or she would just get mad or try to say im being

disrespectful when im really trying to tell her how i feel and what i want to do. Anyway, before this will be stuck on my mind for the rest of the 32 stops and i go home still highly upset, im tired. Im laying down now, cuz she aint bout to ruin the rest of my day.

*(CHRISTI continues to ride on the bus waiting for her stop at the end of the bus route. But CHRISTI finds herself drowsy and almost immediately drifting off to sleep.)*

## SCENE 2

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*LIGHTS UP on CHRISTI. The scene shifts into a dreamland. The lighting becomes a softer blue. We are in a dreamland, but CHRISTI doesn't know that. She wakes up.*

TEREASA

*(TEREASA walks to CHRISTI'S room door with heavy footsteps. She knocks on the door loudly.)*

Wake up!! It's time for school!!

CHRISTI

*(With the alarm going off for school. CHRISTI'S brain suddenly wakes her up, CHRISTI opens her eyes quickly. And notices that shes in her bed, and that she hasnt even started the day yet. Thinking nothing of it CHRISTI gets ready for school. )*

Im up!! You dont hear my alarm!! Let me hurry up and brush my teeth and wash my face. So i can get out of here, she already on some shit. I dont feel like being in a bad mood today.

*(CHRISTI puts on her robe and grabs her toothbrush, toothpaste, face cream, and face towel)*

TEREASA

What you wearing today, you now you suppose to look cute and nice today? You know that right?

CHRISTI

Yea, i know and i dont know what wearing. What ever im feeling is what im wearing. And anyway I always look nice.

TEREASA

I guess. Whatever, you can wear something ugly if you want to. I dont care.

*(TEREASA shunning her shoulders and shooing off CHRISTI while saying that. )*

CHRISTI

What are you even talking about? I dont even know what im wearing and you dont know either, so how you know im gone wear something ugly? Like, who says that? And who says something so negative first thing in the morning? What is to you?

*(Syas that with hand movements and gestures.)*

TEREASA

Girl, please. Gone on and brush your teeth and get dressed so i can take you to school.

CHRISTI

Mhmm, there you go again brushing me off like you dont want to hear what i got to say. Cause you know im telling the truth about what you be doing. You aint never got nothing good or positive to say. What, you dont want to hear what i got to say cause its not what you want to hear or want me to wear. Thats a shame, how controlling you are over everything.

*(CHRISTI Stands there in dis belif and disappointment and as she about to walk away he grandma starts speaking.)*

TEREASA

Girl, bye. Stop being dramatic. And no i dont try to control everything. You heard me say something positive before so what are you talking about. You just showing out. Go and do what you have to do so i can go to work.

CHRISTI

*(CHRISTI then walks off in frustration and starts getting ready officially for school. Going into the bathroom )*

*(talking to herself)*

Not really, she barley got anything good or positive to say about anybody around her and most of the time herself. *(mubleing under her towel)*

*(After washing he face and bruxhing her teeth CHRISTI storms to her room to get dressed.)*

*(talking to herself)*

OK. What am i feeling today? Hmmm, im feeling spicey today. I already know what im gone wear. Its bout to go down on the first day of school, im bout to be fire. Im determined right now, im not gone let her fuin a good day, not today.

*(So she told herself. CHRISTI gets dressed and goes back to the bathroom)*

TEREASA

*(TEREASA get a glance at CHRISTI'S outfit and immediately get angry/frustrated. Shaking her leg and breathing hard, she gets up from the kitchen table and walks to the open bathroom )*

Thats what you wearing? Why dont you put on that pink outfit i just bought, thats cute? Its to hot outside to be wearing that anyway, that dont even match with those beat up shoes.

CHRISTI

Leave me alone! Whats to you! Thats exactly what im talking about, you literally just proved my point! You aint never got anything complimentary to say about me! What is your problem!? How about a compliment for once about my choices, damn! You seem to find every excuse and manipulation tactic to get me to do what you want! Its 70 freaking degrees outside and im wearing a crop top and ripped jeans set, What are you saying?! And my shoes, I just got these shoes you went to the store with me to get. And look at your shoes, your shoes arent even white anymore and let alone we got our shoes at the same time and yours look like they been ran over! And you now what dont worry about taking me to school today!

*(CHRISTI storms off in the heat of the moment and puts on her coat about to leave out the door.)*

TEREASA

Girl, i give you compliments all the time so dont act like i just be talking about you like a dog! No, whats your problem, talking to me like you grown! What!! What you say, your cursing at adults now, im call your daddy tonight when you get home and you can tell him what you doing and said to me! And girl you only said that cause your uncle said that, get out of here with that! And its gone get hotter later on so dont be complaining thats its too hot! And those shoes are beat up, thats what other people said too, I dont care go ahead and be the laughing stock! Make a fool of your self if you want too! You already know know what sammy did to my shoes cause some of your shoes look like that! And i can be at work early anyway without taking your ass to school! And since you wanna yell and talk crazy to me im cutting off all your TV time, phone, and going out too then, how about that lil girl! Dont go to practice today!

CHRISTI

I dont care! You only care about your job anyway, thats where you spend most of your time anyway! I dont even have practice today which you would have known if you paid me attention to me and get involved! I gotta get out of this wretched house! I dont want to be here right now.

*(CHRISTI goes out the door but still quietly closing the door. She starts down the street to the bus stop)*

*(talking to herself)*

Im so sick and tired of this shit! Everytime, everytime i think she changed the slightest bit, she always turn out to be worse than before but better at hiding it. Whatever, i dont care if i have to walk. I just have to take a break from that place right now, a break from her.

*(CHRISTI arrives at the bus stop and look for the bus)*

Lets see, witch bus do i have to take? I think i remember. Yep, i take the 75th bus to the train station, and then i take the 47th bus. Of course i would remember, ive been going this for so long before the car. Im gone be late for school at this rate. Maybe i shouldve let her drive me. No, I cant stand being in the same car for that long with her bad energy! We will eventually talk about this, but until then i have nothing to say to her. I will feel better when i get to school i guess. I hope this dont ruin my first day back, at school. Okay, okay i wanna be happy today cheer up. Put a smile on your face, sit up, and put your chin up. You gone be with your friends you havent seen in so long you should be excited. And you gone see that boy you attracted to, you know Nile. Yea, i do miss his lightskined face with slight acne, his tall athletic body, and his impulsive, kinda reckless, comedic personality. Ahh yes, those were the good days.

*(CHRISTI chuckles realising that it isnt good for her to be so angry for many reasons. So she spent the time she aired for the bus calming down before cheering herself up.)(The bus arrives to a screeching stop. CHRISTI gets on the bus)*

CHRISTI

Ooh. I was getting tired of standing there. Just in time. Now that ive calmed myself i should think logically now. I knw thart it was wrong of me to yell and curse at her and i realise that i definitely said a bit of things in the heat of the moment. But i was just seriously tring to get my point across to her so that she can understand where im coming from. And when is she going to realise her mistakes and wrongs as an adult and idivisual. It like eveny time i do something wrong i realise it and i apologise to her trowing in it in my face but i still let it go. But when is Tereasa Harrison and my guardian and person going to ever take the first step to releasing things about herself. All i know is that i have to apologise to her the next time i see her as the child in the situation aswell. Thats yet another thing my mom taught me.I wonder if she will apologise too, most likely not.

*(CHRISTI Rides the rest of the bus ride thinking and making herself happy.)(CHRISTI gets to the train station after getting off the bus.)*

*(CHRISTI puts her card in the machine and is let threw the machines metal ba. By the time CHRISTI walks down the stairs and all the way to the end of the train civilian platform where people get on the train the train pulls up. She gets on the train and cant find a seat. So CHRISTI stands and holds on to the handle. Its so crowded in that cart. ITs rush hour get to wor and school time before yor late. )*

CHRISTI

Well this wont be so bad its a short 25-30 min ride. I cant lime the next bus, let me seee.

*(Looking through her coat pockets)*

Oh me god, dont tell me i left my phone. You know what i dont even care i dont have to hear from her today until i get home.

*(CHRISTI gets off the train on her stop and gets on the next bus straight to her school)*

*(CHRISTI then spends her fun day at school with no trouble.)*

*( The end of the school day comes for CHRISTI.)*

TEREASA

Hello, yea you on the bus?

CHRISTI

No, how many times have i said i get out of school at 3:00. I havent even left my classroom.

TEREASA

OK, well text me when you get on the train you know how dangerous it is out here. People be kidnapping people, and killing people.

CHRISTI

Ok.

*(Beep. CHRISTI hangs up the phone and travels to her house safely with her grandma in contact)(CHRISTI reaches her front house gate. Just about to walking in the building.)*

*(Ringtone goes off for grandma calling)*

CHRISTI

Sigh. Stop fucking calling me i just told you i just got off tghe last bus and walking towards the house.

*(Lets phone ring. CHRISTI walks in her front door and goes straight to her room to get settled after a long day.)*

Let me hurry up at text her befor she have a damn heartattack and think i done gone missing or something.

*(She text her grandma that she was at home in the house. Her grandma stillcalls her and CHRISTI answers with a forceful hello.)*

Hello! Did you get my text?!

TEREASA

You know i dont even be paying attention to texts. You in the house?

CHRISTI

Yea, i just got in.

TEREASA



OK, listen i need you to clean that dirty bathroom. Everything else is clean except for the dishes, imma do that you just do the bathroom.

CHRISTI

Ok.

TEREASA

Ok. and make sure you lock all the doors and keep your room open so you can hear.

CHRISTI

You know i can hear regardless if I keep it open, but ok.

*(beep hangs up)*