

you're acting out of pocket. Our friendship has gone through too much and for too long for it to reduce to that. Claire too! She welcomed you into the community when you didn't know anyone? When you needed help becoming a drag queen? When you wanted to begin your transition? We sat here, in this dressing room, and celebrated with you, cried with you, cheered you on throughout your process. I will always give you space to speak your mind and feel your feelings, but I will not let you disrespect the years of friendship Claire and I have given you.

(to BRANDI NEUX)

START

DIANA: You're in the gig.

LADY OLIVIA MONROE

You've got to be kidding? Really? She doesn't know what we've been through to be here. She has no respect. And you know what's she'll do once she reaps the benefits and ovations? She'll never do it again or leaving us in the dust and act like she did all this on her own. I'm tired of seeing this time and time again. And on today of all days. Pride! A time famously synonymous with birthing new queens because the twinkies think it'll be fun and gaggy to post on their profiles for their friends to see. Click-bait. That's all we are to these people: click-bait and clout She even admitted that all her friends were coming. What she doesn't realize is that her inexperience will hurt all our reputations. Diana was right to be skeptical when she walked in. This kid doesn't know the difference between Stonewall and a brick wall. You can all masquerade thinking that you're excited for her, but I know you have all been thinking and hoping that this one'll work out. That she'll be different.

(to BRANDI NEUX)

Why do you think we're all getting to kick off Pride? We worked for it. We spent hours, days, months, years, to earn our spots here. You think just because you come in here wearing a busted wig and sloppy makeup we'd just let you walk out on that stage. Girl, please. We are not on the same level. And since you want to be educated so bad, let me teach you a something: I'm sure you have had plenty of hardship in your life, but I am certain it does not equate to the obstacles I've faced. You were born into a world where you can go around being as flamboyant and extra and loud as you want with minimal aggression. You do not know what it was like to move through this life being glared at and hated and threatened solely for wanting to be our authentic selves. Life may seem all

happily ever after on those shows you watch, but those are not shows that represent our community completely. We are the representation. Myself, Claire, Diana, Disarray. We are pillars of the community. Do you understand how important this gig is tonight? The club is going to close. The only thing that can stop that is getting those promoters and sponsors to invest in the club. That's why we were asked to do this gig. We are the best of the best and the community is depending on us. They look to us like lighthouses when times are tough. What words of encouragement can you offer? Can you fuel the fire of revolution? Can you calm the waters of a hurting community? No. How can you? You don't know. You don't try to learn. You only wish to learn things that benefit you. So I guess to answer your question: No. I don't like you. I don't trust you. You are not ready to be in the spotlight because you do not know what standing in that spotlight means. I refuse to leave the fate of all this to the dreams of a baby queen. We can't. I can't. This place is our home. My home. I refuse to lose another home.

END

*A song begins to play. LADY OLIVIA MONROE lipsyncs along. Its a song not unlike "I Have Nothing" (Whitney Houston). The lights fade and LADY OLIVIA MONROE stands in a spotlight. She somehow appears now in a gorgeous, sparking evening gown. The kind of gown that takes your breath away. Her performance is moving, tragic, heartbreaking. When the song is completed. We remain in a room of silence. The group is speechless. BRANDI NEUX speaks.*

BRANDI NEUX

I'm sorry. I'm sorry to all of you. I guess I just got too wrapped up in all the excitement that I might be a drag queen that I wasn't really thinking about what an imposition I was being.

CLAIRE VIEW

You're not an imposition.

BRANDI NEUX

Yes, I am.

CLAIRE VIEW

No. I saw how you were living your best life on that dance floor. I knew from that moment that you have it in you to be a great drag queen.