

The Cycle

by Ibrahim

Who:

Julianne - 14 yo, female, light skin - Bronzeville, Chicago, IL - strict parents, very smart, funny, she wants to go but her parents won't let her - she wants to go to Harvard or Yale

The TA - True Americans - yt people - faction of society - who are the main reason there is so much violence on her community - they are a racist group that hages on mostly minorities.

Where:

Bronzeville/South Lakefront High - CPS -

When:

2016 - Trump was elected - October - for homecoming/halloween dance

What:

Smart girl, Julianne, wants to go to a great school and rebuild her community to be safer, but her parents will not let her go to the big dance. So she sneaks out and sees a h8 group shooting guns in the air, and she is running to her school when one of the people from the group sees her and shoots her.

Focus on her helping the community - h8 group at the top, and then she has an epiphany to help other people so she trise to help the racists out so there is protection. While they're shooting for fun they see her running and they think it would be hilarious to shoot at her so they did.

Why:

Intended audience - BIPOC and white people - men and women - all ages - The audience should learn that how they affect their neighborhood.

Scene 1

SR is Julianne's apartment building. SL is the main street. The audience is where the alley is. We see the wooden porches, traditionally found on the back of Chicago apartments, not really fire escapes. There is a line of green garbage cans next to the wooden stairs. There is a sidewalk between the side of the building and the street. There is a streetlight on SL. It's night time and we see Julianne drop her back pack to the ground as she sneaks out of the building from the top floor and winding her way down the back porch. She has her backpack with her and it is stuffed with her homecoming dress. Latasia is onstage pacing looking for Julianne and sees her back pack on the ground and calls out to her.

Latasia:
(whisper)
Where you at?

Julianne continues winding her way down the 4 flights of stairs.

Julianne:
(whisper)
Shhhhhhh! I dont want the neighbors to hear you.

Latasia:
Julianne, we gotta go! The dance starts in 5 minutes!

Julianne:
I had to sneak out without making a peep, ok? It took as while!

The girls are face to face and Julianne grabs her back pack and throws it on her back. The two girls start running toward the school. We hear cars honking and driving with people yelling. Two white guys from True Americans (TA) walk on SL with guns dressed like military guys. The girls freeze. TA shoots in the air. The girls turn around and run the other direction.

TA 1:
You better get outta here!

TA 2:
One day this neighborhood is gonna be full of our people!

Scene 2

Lights crossfade to morning. We here city morning sounds, busses and birds. Julianne and Latasia are outside sitting on the back steps in fall clothes. There are some leaves on the ground. Julianne is traumatized and Latasia is trying to get her out of that funk.

Latasia:
These kinda things happen and you just live with it.

Julianne:
I never experienced this. Why is this happening here right now?

Latasia:
It is what it is. Things like last night are regular.

Julianne:

I have to change this neighborhood so this doesn't happen to anyone else.

Latasia:

That's a great idea, but how do we even start?

Julianne:

We could always ask my parents. They've lived here since they day they were born. They won;t give up without a fight.

Latasia:

OK, I'm in! Go get em.

Julianne:

Moooooooooom!

Latasia:

Ms. Rosie!!!!

Ms. Rosie:

What do you want?!

Julianne:

Mom, you've lived here for a long time. How do you deal with the people here?

Ms. Rosie:

Which people?

Latasia:

The True Americans!

Ms. Rosie:

Just stay away from them. It's not worth the trouble.

Julianne:

This is our neighborhood. I'm not gonna give up that easy.

Ms. Rosie:

You do you, just don't get in trouble.

Latasia:

(sarcastic)

Thank you SOOOOOOOO much.

Ms. Rosie:

I've had enough of you two for today. I'm going back upstairs.

Julianne:

She was not very helpful.

Latasia:

I told you so, you just live with it.

Julianne:

I refuse to just live with it.

Julianne climbs back up the stairs to her top floor apartment and Latasia walks off SR.

Scene 3

The street light comes on and the lights fade to evening. The lights on the building come on and we hear the TV playing and people cooking. TA 1 and TA 2 start shooting OS and Julianne steps out the back door and leans over the railing to see what's happening. We hear the honking and yelling from last night and TA 1 and TA 2 walk on SL toward SR.

TA 1 & TA 2:

This is America. This is America. This is America. This is America.

Julianne hides behind the railing. The lights go off in the building one by one and the TVs, radios, and cooking all stop.

TA 1 & TA 2:

This is America. This is America. This is America. This is America.

TA 1 and TA 2 walk off SR slowly. Latasia runs OS and climbs up to her friends house. Julianne's Mom comes out to the porch too.

Julianne:

We have to find a way to get them out of our neighborhood.

Ms. Rosie:

I think you're right - it's never been this bad before.

Latasia:

Your THINK we're right?! We can't even go to school - we don't feel safe.

TA 1 and TA 2 start shooting OSR and the 3 women flinch.

Ms. Rosie:

I don't want to do this but we're gonna have to get the cops involved.

Julianne:

Are you sure there's no other option. Maybe we could get the DA involved?

Latasia:

Maybe, but I don't think the D.A. is gonna help. This is outside their jurisdiction.

Ms. Rosie:

We have to do something or someone's gonna get hurt.

Julianne:

There's no good choice. We don;t do anything and a lot of people will get hurt or we do SOMETHING and a few people get hurt. Maybe even us.

Latasia:

I'd rather it be me than my little sister.

Ms. Rosie:

And I'd rather it be me than you, Julianne. I am gonna go call the police.

Ms. Rosie goes inside to make the phone call and Latasia and Julianne are still outside.

Julianne:

This is getting out of hand. If we can't stop them a lot of people will get hurt.

Latasia:

I just hope the cops won't hurt any of us when they come through.

Julianne:

Our community has gone through a lot and even though this might be a step back from everything that we've done, we can still do this and survive.

Latasia:

I just hope none of the True Americans are police officers.

Julianne:

There would be no way to stop them then.

Ms. Rosie opens the screen door and pops her head out.

Ms. Rosie:

The cops are coming. You kids better speak up about what you two have been through.

We hear sirens in the background and the True Americans enter from SR and stand in the middle of the street blocking the path of the cop cars. Julianne, Latasia and Ms. Rosie go inside to avoid the trouble and are looking out the window cautiously. We see the front end of the cop car pull on SL and two cops get out. The cops are 30 yo and both white and both men.

John:

Yo, it's good to see you, we missed you at dinner last Sunday.

Mike:

At least pretend you don't know them.

John rolls his eyes and groans.

John:

Hey, I hear you've been causing lots of trouble and hurting innocent people (*chuckling*), so I'm gonna have to take one of you guys in for questioning (*chuckling*).

TA 1:

Can we grab a burger on the way?

John and TA 1 laugh and John puts his arm around TA 1 leading him to the car.

John:

DUH! I'm starving. Let's get outta here.

TA 2 and Mike make their way to the car. Julianne, Latasia and Ms. Rosie come out on the porch super angry at what they saw.

Latasia:

(Yelling at the cops)

You both are no help! And due to that we are gonna call your higher ups to deal with you guys!

John:

Do you think our sergeant cares? Nobody cares what happens in your neighborhood.

Mike:

Watch yourself John, you never know who's recording!

John:

They can take their phones out, it's not gonna affect my job.

John and TA 1 & TA 2 laugh again.

Ms. Rosie:

As she pulls her phone out to record.

Ok, if you say so!

Mike:

Sorry, Maam. My partner doesn't know what he's talking about.

Latasia:

Well, you need to get him in line!

TA 1:

Hey! I'm protecting our country from a GREAT threat! You should be thanking me - I did this for our country.

Julianne:

Protecting us from what?! You're the ones causing trouble!

TA 1:

Us?! Look at this place? It's a mess!

Julianne:

That's your fault! All of this is your fault!

Mike:

Everyone shut up! John, you two get in the car - you ladies stay safe.

The car drives OSL.

Ms. Rosie:

That was so pointless. We did all of this just to be terrified.

Julianne:

We can't give up just yet! This is our home.

Latasia:

And I'm ready to fight for it!

Julianne:

No, violence isn't the answer. We have to find another way.

Latasia:

Why? They don't care if they hurt us.

Julianne, Latasia and Ms. Rosie climb down the stairs defeated. They all stand in a line facing the audience DS. All lines directed to audience.

Latasia:

(angry)

Are you angry? Cuz I am?

Julianne:

There was never a viable non-violent option to get them out of our neighborhood.

Ms. Rosie:

I've been working on this for longer than you've been alive.

Latasia:

So that's it.

We hear cars honking and driving with people yelling. Two white guys from True Americans (TA) walk on SL with guns dressed like military guys. The girls freeze. TA shoots in the air. The girls and Ms. Rosie turn around and run the other direction.

TA 1:

You better get outta here!

TA 2:

One day this neighborhood is gonna be full of our people!

Light out.