

INT. MAGNUS RECORDS OFFICES - EXECUTIVE SUITE LOBBY - DAY

SFX: ELEVATOR DING

The doors open to reveal Kent and his entourage chatting and laughing. Everyone clamors over Kent trying to get his attention. Through all the fuss, he spots his secretary, AMELIA, signaling him. He walks over to her.

AMELIA

Mr. Davenport, the girl group
Bradley's been talking about is
your office.

KENT

Well, Amelia, it's time to use that
Davenport charm.

He checks his breathe before going into the office. Amelia rolls her eyes as she walks in front of him.

INT. MAGNUS RECORDS OFFICES - KENT'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

A quartet of young Black women (18-23) sits crammed tightly on a small beige couch in Kent's office. The girls look around in amazement at the gold and platinum plaques on the walls.

CAMILLA

looks over a list called "negotiating notes" on her phone while

KENDRA

bumps into the other girls on the couch as she searches for the perfect selfie lighting on her phone.

DEJA

elbows Kendra as she tries to keep her left leg from shaking and bouncing.

TAYLOR

twirls her hair as she looks around office with a wide-eyed expression.

The double mahogany doors push open as Amelia sashays towards the young women with Kent strolling behind her. Upon hearing the doors open, the girls stand up and fix their clothing. Kendra touches up her makeup.

AMELIA

Ladies, I would like you to meet
Mr. Kent Davenport.

He emerges from behind Amelia and looks at the girls up and down before noticing Kendra. He extends his hand to the young women.

KENT

Well, I finally get to meet the
amazing DIVA. Your performance at
R&B Night was great.

Kent's compliment makes the girls giddy as Camilla and Kendra look at each other with confidence.

CAMILLA

Nice to meet you, Mr. Davenport.
I'm Cammy. This is Kendra, Deja and
Taylor. Thank you for agreeing to
meet with us.

KENT

Where are my manners, ladies? Let's
have a seat at my desk.

The ladies follow him over to his huge wooden desk with golden accents. Kendra and Cammy sit in the two plush chairs while Deja and Taylor stand behind them. Kent takes his place as he sits in his enormous leather and wood chair behind the desk.

KENT (CONT'D)

Ladies, let's talk. I know you're
hot right now, but I want to talk
about your future with Magnus
Records.

Cammy moves forward in her chair. Kendra's eyes get wide and clutches her chest knowing Cammy's straightforward personality. In an unexpected move, Cammy expresses her enthusiasm for Kent's offer. Kendra lays her head and lets out a sigh of relief that Cammy didn't go on the attack. Kent zones out a bit as Kendra's body catches his gaze. He snaps out of it after a few seconds.

KENT (CONT'D)

Well, thanks for the compliments,
ladies. I see your group filling a
void in the market right now - the
next big R&B group.

The young women look at each other with excitement and huge grins at Kent's compliment. Kent gets up from his chair and walks to the front of his desk.

KENT (CONT'D)

Your group already has a great work ethic and strong social media and street marketing. But with Magnus behind you, you ladies can go to the next level. I mean look at your fellow Atlantan Shayla.

He points to a wall where a multi-platinum plaque with Shayla's image on it is surrounded with various awards. He strolls over to the space between Camilla and Kendra's chairs before kneeling down. His excitement spills over through his arm gestures and eye contact.

KENT (CONT'D)

I'll paint the scene for you.

DREAM SEQUENCE - STAPLE CENTER - EVENING

Ryan Seacrest interviews the group on the Grammy Awards red carpet about their latest singles and nominations before being whisked away by their publicist. Suddenly, they're on the stage singing and dancing backed by a squad of dancers and a live band. They received a standing ovation when all of a sudden Shayla comes out to hand them the Best New Artist award. The stage turns into the press room where Kent appears as a reporter.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. MAGNUS RECORDS OFFICES - KENT'S EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

CAMILLA

That sounds amazing.

KENDRA

Girl, it's more than amazing. We could be the next TLC or Destiny's Child.

KENT

That's the spirit, Kendra.

He places his hand on her knee as he makes eye contact with her. Cammy gives Kent side eye as Kendra grins at him. Deja and Taylor look at each other with surprise. He get up off the floor and faces the women.

KENT (CONT'D)

Before we talk about contracts, I just have one suggestion.

The group becomes puzzled as they look at each other.

CAMILLA

What's that?

KENT

It's really frivolous, but have you ever thought about changing your image?

DEJA

Why?

Kent goes behind his desk and begins typing on his computer. He searches the internet for images before pulling up photos of Fifth Harmony and Little Mix in skimpy, revealing stage attire. He turns the screen towards the group.

KENT

These groups are your competition. You'll need to ooze the same sex appeal and confidence as them.

TAYLOR

So you want us to be half-naked and twerking?

KENT

Of course, not. I'm just suggesting that maybe wearing heels instead of Jordans and better fitting clothes. Maybe different hair styles.

Kendra touches her hair before folding her arms.

KENDRA

What's wrong with our hair?

KENT

Natural hair is great, but for the mainstream, you maybe straightening your hair or wear wigs.

Kendra turns to Cammy for reinforcement. Cammy sits forward.

CAMILLA

While we're grateful for suggestions, why do we need to change what's worked for us?

After her comments, Cammy sits back with her arms folded. Deja and Taylor follow suit. Kent goes from gentle to stern as he stands up behind his desk.

KENT

I'm just going to be straightforward, ladies. No one wants to see four Black girls in Jordans and varsity jackets on their screen. Having a female audience is great, but the male gaze is where it's at. A group of beautiful Black women displaying their assets and owning it is better for selling records.

After Kent's words, the women look on in a stunted silence as they process this side of Kent. As if waking up from a dream, Cammy rises from her seat.

CAMILLA

Thank you for your time, Mr. Davenport, but we'll take our business somewhere else.

The ladies start to leave except for Kendra as she sides with Kent's assessment. Cammy tries to persuade Kendra to leave only to be rebuffed. In a fight for Kendra's soul, Cammy and Kent have a stare down before she, Deja and Taylor start walking towards the double doors.

KENT

How many record labels have been knocking down your door? You've been at this for a while and still no record deal. I'm your best bet for that fame and success you've been chasing.

The ladies stop in their tracks as they reach the door. Deja and Taylor look at Cammy with doubt in their eyes. Cammy ponders Kent's words as she stares at the door.

END OF ACT