

FIRE SISTERS

"Baby Dukes"

Pilot Episode

written by

Gwennet Henry

INT. STONEY MALL - DAY

In a shopping mall in the center of an urban town, BETH, 15, rushes through with a newborn baby in her arms.

Two henchmen, ITCH, late 30s, with tattoos and DUTCH, mid 20s, wearing a Braves hat turned backwards, pursue the girl.

Beth ducks into the ladies' room before Itch and Dutch catch her. They lie in wait outside the ladies' room door.

INT. STONEY MALL - LADIES' ROOM - DAY

Beth hides the baby close to her chest and waits for two ladies to leave.

ITCH (O.S.)  
We'll wait for you, my sweet.

A flyer hangs on the wall. It reads:

Feeling Overwhelmed? We can help.  
Call The Neighborhood Child Care  
Network, 770-445-5555."

BACK TO LADIES' ROOM

Beth snatches the flyer down and writes on the back. She tucks it inside the baby's diaper. The baby stirs and licks its lips.

Beth rocks the baby close to her chest until it settles back to sleep. She positions the baby in the trash, kisses it twice and leaves.

INT. MALL HALLWAY - DAY

The men grab Beth by the arms, and pull her in a slow trot.

ITCH  
Where did you ditch the baby?

DUTCH  
Aww! Man. Alderman won't like this.

Itch tightens his grip on her arm. They fade into the crowd.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. STONEY MALL - DAY

RENEE CARTER, 35, a motherly-type and JAMELA JONES, 23, an energetic young lady, hand out flyers to passers-by.

RENEE

Any luck on your end? Mine stinks.

JAMELA

I'm not doing good either. I wish people would take foster care more seriously. It's so important.

RENEE

Yeah, not every person has what it takes to be a good parent.

Renee hands a flyer to a teenager riding a bicycle.

JAMELA

So many babies without good love. I wish we could take 'em all.

RENEE

Yep, babies having babies. But we can't take them all.

JAMELA

I just don't think we're doing enough.

RENEE

Don't worry so much. What we're doing will make a difference even if only for one child.

JAMELA

Thanks, Renee. You're right. I have a hard time remembering that.

Jamela takes a deep breath.

JAMELA (CONT'D)

Goodness! Do we have to stand here in front of Smokey Bones? It's making me hungry.

RENEE

You are the hungriest person I've ever seen in my entire life.

JAMELA  
I can't help it. I always get  
hungry so fast.

RENEE  
I need to cook you a good, old-  
fashion, stick-to-your-ribs meal.  
C'mon, let's go inside.

INT. STONEY MALL - DAY

Jamela comes out of the ladies' room holding a baby wrapped  
in a polka dot blanket.

JAMELA  
Renee, come here quick!

RENEE  
What is it?

JAMELA  
Seriously, come here.

Renee steps back a bit and gasps when she sees the baby.

RENEE  
What are you doing with a baby?  
Whose baby is this?

JAMELA  
I don't know.

RENEE  
You don't know?

JAMELA  
I heard it crying when I went to  
wash my hands. I found it in the  
trash.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD CARE NETWORK (NCCN) - DAY

In a storefront building within a run-down strip mall, the NCCN office is sandwiched between a Spanish Bodega and an ugly Citco gas station.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD CARE NETWORK (NCCN) - DAY

SAM, (32), in a pencil skirt and blazer, bangs on the windows and shoos loiterers from hanging around the office door. Renee and Jamela enter with the baby.

SAM

I sent you guys to find foster parents and you come back with a baby? Now that's funny.

Jamela hands Sam a piece of paper.

JAMELA

I found her in the ladies room in the trash. This was tucked in her diaper.

Sam reads the note.

SAM

"Please don't give my baby away."  
Did you see anybody suspicious?

RENEE

I asked around, but nobody saw anything. Of course!

SAM (CONT'D)

This has the smell of Alderman's doing.

Sam takes a long breath and picks up the receiver from the desk phone. Jamela eases the receiver from Sam's hands and rests it back in place.

SAM (CONT'D)

Jamela, you know the drill. We have to call Child Protective Services.

JAMELA  
Yeah, but if we call CPS this mom  
may never see her child again.

Sam studies the baby for a long time.

SAM  
She is a cutesy little thing.

RENEE  
There's been a lot of teen girls  
kidnapped for human trafficking.

SAM  
Please don't say that!

RENEE  
Well, lately, it's a point to  
consider, especial--

SAM  
I know, I just don't want to  
discuss tha--

The phone RINGS. Sam answers it. She hangs up and curses.

SAM (CONT'D)  
I knew it! That crook's got his  
hands in this. He's on his way here  
to talk about a missing baby.

RENEE  
The Alderman? Well..., I guess  
that's that.

JAMELA  
That's it? No. No. No.

SAM  
I'm sorry Jamela, our hands are  
tied. We'll figure something out.

Sam heads to her office. Renee follows. The baby starts to  
cry. Jamela soothes her, hides the baby under her jacket and  
tiptoes out of the office.

Sounds of POLICE RADIOS are heard. Renee and Sam come out of  
Sam's office. They look around and notice the missing baby.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Oh crap! Jamela took the kid.

END OF ACT TWO