

THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION

Written By

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A BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: "THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION"

SUPER: "THIS IS A STORY OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE GENERATION KNOWN AS GENERATION X, OR "THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION". THEY ARE AT AN APARTMENT WHICH BELONGS TO ONE OF THE MEMBERS AND THEY SPEAK ON DIFFERENT TOPICS AND WHY THEIR GENERATION IS SEEN AS SLACKERS BY THE BABY BOOMERS."

FADE OUT.

EXT./ESTAB. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

It is a nice day and the weather is sunny and warm.

SUPER: "NEW YORK CITY"

EXT./ESTAB. CITY STREETS - DAY

The streets are quite animated.

SERIES OF SHOTS - THE ANIMATION IN NEW YORK CITY

-- People walk along the sidewalks in Manhattan.

-- Cars, trucks, vans and cabs cruise along the streets of Queens.

-- Street vendors sell their food on the sidewalks.

EXT./ESTAB. RIVERSIDE DRIVE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The doorman stands in front of the building. People walk past the doorman and the building.

INT. THE FIFTH FLOOR - DAY

The number/letter combination on the door reads: Five-F. A fist KNOCKS on the door four times and when the DOOR OPENS, PAUL MACKEY, a forty-two year old Caucasian male, is happy about who he sees.

PAUL

I'm glad you guys came.

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: "PAUL MACKEY - 42 - LIBRARIAN AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY".

As the scene resumes:

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Come on in.

As Paul opens the door wider:

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Five other people, who are members of Generation X, enter the apartment and they say hello to Paul in their own way and Paul does the same. As he CLOSES the door after the last person comes in:

PAUL  
It's great that you guys and gals  
came over. I'm really happy to see  
all of you.

CRYSTAL ANDERSON, a forty-one year old Caucasian female, turns toward Paul and she also smiles.

CRYSTAL  
We're happy to be here, Paul. I'm  
happy that you invited us over.

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: "CRYSTAL ANDERSON - 41 - AD EXECUTIVE AND EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATE".

As the scene resumes:

CARL MATTHEWS, a forty-three year old African American, who is gay (that's right, he's gay) and he is the next visitor to speak.

CARL  
Yeah, Paul. I, on behalf of the  
others, would like to shake your  
hand for this opportunity to join  
you here in your apartment.

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: " CARL MATTHEWS - 43 - WORKS AT THE LOCAL MOVIE THEATER - MEMBER OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY".

As the scene resumes:

GLORIA PETERSON, a forty-two year old African American female, is the next to speak.

GLORIA

(to Paul)

I agree with Carl. I'm glad you have given us the opportunity to give us a platform to talk about our views on the world in which we live in.

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: "GLORIA PETERSON - 42 - FILMMAKER AND A "WOMEN IN FILM" ADVOCATE".

As the scene resumes:

TED STEINER, a forty-four year old Jewish male, is the next one to speak.

TED

(to Paul)

It's great that you invited us here to discuss our views on topics that are important to us. I mean, after all, we are members of the "forgotten generation".

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: "TED STEINER - 44 - ACTOR AND A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST".

As the scene resumes:

PORTIA RODRIGUEZ, a forty-three year old, Latina, is the last to speak.

PORTIA

(to Paul)

I'm also glad that you invited us over. Generation X is always the "forgotten generation". The Baby Boomers and the Millennials get a lot of attention, but we just get totally ignored.

FREEZE FRAME the scene.

SUPER: "PORTIA RODRIGUEZ - 43 - WORKS AT SIMON AND SCHUSTER - AN ADVOCATE FOR THE LATIN COMMUNITY".

As the scene resumes:

Paul walks over to his friends and shows off his hospitality.

PAUL  
Would any of you like some coffee?  
I've just made a pot.

PORTIA  
I would.

CRYSTAL  
Same here.

GLORIA  
Me too.

PAUL  
(to the guys)  
How about you guys?

CARL  
Sure. I'd love a cup.

TED  
I'd like a cup, as well.

PAUL  
No problem. I'll get the coffee.

As he walks toward the kitchen and the others walk over toward the couch and two chairs and take their seats on them:

GLORIA  
I gotta tell you guys: It's not  
easy being a member of Generation  
X.

TED  
You're not kidding, Gloria. Like  
Portia said earlier...We are the  
generation that's totally ignored.

CARL  
What's even worse is: Our  
generation is not being taken  
seriously. Sure, the Baby Boomers  
get a lot of attention and so do  
the Millennials. In our case, we  
were brought into the world and  
were totally overlooked as a  
generation.

CRYSTAL

Let's also not forget that we are the generation that are trying to clean up what the Baby Boomers left behind...and trust me when I say: They left behind a lot.

CARL

Yeah...and as a member of the LGBTQ community, I have to say that being gay wasn't an issue in the sixties as it is now. Yeah sure, the Baby Boomers were protesting the war in Vietnam and were advocates for peace and free love, but unfortunately, that ended in the early 1980s when the AIDS epidemic was reported.

(re: Crystal, Gloria, Ted and Portia)

And at first, AIDS was considered a gay man's disease when the virus was prominent in 1982 and three years later, when the number of people who were infected with the virus was prominent, it turned out the majority of those who were infected were heterosexual.

BACK TO CARL

He is a little upset about his community being pegged as a community who spread the AIDS virus back in 1982 when it was a brand new thing that he and the rest of Generation X had to deal with back then.

CARL (CONT'D)

And what is really amazing about the Baby boomers was they were really pushing the bounds of sexual awakening in the 1970s. Things like: Swinging, wife swapping and Plato's Retreat.

TED

Yup...and they were really getting scared in the 1980s when the AIDS virus made news.

(re: Crystal, Gloria, Carl and Portia)

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

Every member of the Baby Boomer generation who had sex in the late 1960s and early 1970s were panicking and wondering if they had gotten the virus because of all the free love they were so passionate about.

GLORIA

And we Generation X-ers had to deal with STDs when we were growing up because the Baby Boomers acted so irresponsibly when they were young. When we were growing up, we had to make sure that we didn't make the same mistakes that they did. We are the generation that was supposed to make the world better.

PORTIA

You're right, Gloria. And now, that most of us, who are now in our forties and working, now have to deal with a dictator in the White House.

GLORIA

My biggest question is: Why is he still in the White House? He is a terrible excuse for a human being and an even worse excuse for a President. He disrespects women and he makes it easy for the rich and he himself doesn't pay taxes.

Paul, who is in the kitchen, has a platter in his hands. On the platter is six coffee mugs, a bowl of sugar and a carton of cream and six plastic spoons.

As he walks over to the group and puts the platter on the coffee table, he takes his seat on the couch and his friends pour themselves some coffee and make it how they like it.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

He is also a liar and an embarrassment to politics. Why he is still in the White House is beyond me.

CARL

With Trump in the White House, he is not making it easier for the LGBTQ community.

(MORE)

CARL (CONT'D)

When Obama was in office, we had nothing to worry about. We didn't have to be ashamed of being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. We are a proud community; no matter who is in office. Thank God I came out during the Obama Administration.

GLORIA

I've got something to tell all of you.

PAUL

What is it, Gloria?

GLORIA

I want all of you to know that...I'm bisexual.

SERIES OF SHOTS - GLORIA'S FRIENDS

-- Paul smiles at this bit of news.

-- Crystal is happy for Gloria coming out.

-- Ted has a proud look on his face as he looks at Gloria.

-- Carl is proud of Gloria.

-- Portia is also happy for Gloria.

BACK TO GLORIA

She is proud of herself for coming out to her friends. She lets out a big sigh of relief and has a big grin on her face.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Whew! That was a relief. I feel like an incredible weight has been lifted off my shoulders.

PAUL

Wow, Gloria. How did you know that you were bisexual? If you don't mind me asking.

GLORIA

Ever since last year. I had a major girl crush on Rosario Dawson.

(MORE)



GLORIA (CONT'D)

I have been dating men ever since I was in my twenties and thirties, but when I watched the movie "Kids", which was Rosario's first movie, I have had such a crush on her and I have seen every movie that she has ever been in.

CARL

I'd like to propose a toast.  
 (the group holds up their coffee cups together)  
 I, on behalf of the rest of us Gen X-ers, would like to congratulate Gloria Peterson for coming out and being true to herself and her community. She is a great person and I wish her the best.

As the group hit their cups together at the same time:

PAUL/GLORIA/CRYSTAL/PORTIA/  
 Here, here.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You guys are so sweet. I appreciate your love and support.

Her friends praise her in their own way.

PAUL

Did you come out to your family?

GLORIA

Yes, I did. They were really supportive when I came out. Now, that I'm an advocate for women in film, I'm happy to say that I am a proud member of the LGBTQ community.

She looks toward Carl and gives him a thumbs-up and a wink.

Carl responds with a smile and he winks back at Gloria.

PAUL

In my opinion, this world is not going to be easy one to live in with Trump still in office. Our generation is not going to be acknowledged with this administration. Did anyone happen to catch Trump's latest on Brett Kavanaugh?

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

As a member of Generation X, I think Trump and Kavanaugh are absolute fuck-ups.

CARL

I think the entire Trump Administration is a bunch of fuck-ups. The only reason that he is in office is because he is jealous of the progress that Obama has made. Trump thinks that he is the best thing to happen in the White House. What a fuckin' joke!

PORTIA

He claims he has done a lot for America, but I don't believe that. I'm still waiting for him to make America great. All he has done was either take credit for Obama's work or getting rid of the bills that Obama has passed.

(re: Paul, Carl, Crystal, Ted and Gloria are enjoying their coffee as they listen to Portia)

And speaking as a Latina, he has not done anything for Puerto Rico and they have been suffering ever since their tragedy took place. And he wanted people in Mexico to pay for a border wall? And he wants taxpayers to pay for it? I say: Fuck that shit! Trump claims he is a millionaire, which he isn't. This is a guy who had help from his daddy. I got better things to spend my hard earned money on.

BACK TO PORTIA

She is a little upset, but she maintains her composure.

TED

This is a guy who doesn't take his job as President seriously. He is always at the golf course. He also claims that Obama has been at the golf course more than him, but statistics say otherwise.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

Every time Trump opens up his mouth, a lie comes out and his administration and his supporters are kissing his ass and covering up the lies he has told and keeps on telling. And we also have a sexual attacker in the Supreme Court thanks to Susan Collins.

CARL

I support Ford and her telling her story about how Kavanaugh sexually attacked her. Did anyone see the confirmation hearing? Kavanaugh is not fit to be a judge. His attitude in the hearing proved it. Kavanaugh lied throughout the entire hearing.

TED

Trump claims he is a smart business man, but he is also a person who declared bankruptcy six times and when the news of his refusal to pay taxes comes out, it will be the seventh time he will declare bankruptcy.

GLORIA

This also a guy who disrespects women. It's amazing that the women in his administration lie for him when Trump gets caught in a lie.

(re: Crystal and Portia  
listen to Gloria,  
attentively)

I'm a would-be filmmaker, who happens to be a woman and an advocate for women in film and a proud member of the LGBTQ community and as a black woman, I have got a lot to fight for and this administration we have in the White House is not making it any easier to deal with.

BACK TO GLORIA

She speaks from the heart. This is how she feels and her friends feel the same way as she speaks.

TED

Here, here...and we Gen X-ers are just being totally ignored and shunned.

(MORE)

TED (CONT'D)

What the world fails to understand is that we have made strides and a lot of contributions in the world and the Baby Boomers and this administration think that we are slackers and living off the government...but it seems like when they were in charge back in the 1960s, the world didn't get any better.

CRYSTAL

My personal favorite quote from the Baby Boomers is: "When I was your age, we didn't have the things you have now. The world was a lot different than it is now".

(she rolls her eyes in disgust)

When the Baby Boomers were our age, they made it difficult for Generation X. Don't forget: We're the generation that came after the Baby Boomers and they left a lot of problems and difficulties for Generation X to handle.

(she takes a sip of her coffee and swallows the sip)

And to this day, Generation X is still trying to clean up the mess that the Baby Boomers left behind.

PORTIA

Thank God I didn't vote for Trump.

(the others say the same thing in their own way)

That man has no respect for anyone who is not white...and as long as he and members of his administration continue to cover up Trump's lies, our generation will never be taken seriously.

CRYSTAL

I'm so glad David Wolff published his book "Fire and Fury". That book has told the truth about Trump and that damned administration.

(re: her friends listen in silence)

(MORE)

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)

It is great that he stood up to that poor excuse for a human being and a president because he doesn't belong in the White House. He is a reality television personality and he is treating the presidency as such.

CARL

I miss Obama. He understood Gen X and the problems they were going through during his administration. The Republicans just hated him because he actually cared about everyone that Trump, his administration and his supporters doesn't give a damn about.

The group members sit in their seats and enjoy their cups of coffee as they continue to discuss their views on politics.

TED

Thank God we have a man like Robert Mueller. He sees the Trump Administration as the fraud that it is. In my opinion, he should get those idiots in the White House and get rid of all the bills he passed and expose Trump's lies and corruption and throw him in jail where he belongs.

PORTIA

I agree...and in the spirit of the "Me Too" movement, women of all races, really need to be taken seriously...and the women who came forward, Ford included, about them being sexually abused or attacked, I commend them for doing so and I hope that continues.

TED

In my opinion, the "Me Too" movement makes it difficult for men, like me, to date.

PORTIA

What do you mean, Ted?

TED

Well, what I mean is: Ever since my girlfriend broke up with me when I was in my thirties, it's been hard to find a girlfriend and the "Me Too" movement is making it a lot more difficult.

(re: his friends listen  
and feel Ted's pain)

I'm afraid that if I give a girl a nice compliment, it will be misconstrued as sexual harassment. Don't get me wrong, I'm against men who sexually and physically harass women to gain power over them, but it's men like that that make it difficult for me like me to date.

GLORIA

Don't feel bad, Ted. Not all men are disrespectful to women.

PORTIA

Gloria's right, Ted. You are one of the good guys.

TED

I appreciate the compliments, girls, but it's gonna take a lot more than nice compliments for men like me to get a date nowadays.

PAUL

Just keep living your life, Ted. Some girl would be happy to go out with you.

TED

How did everyone feel about the death of Kurt Cobain?

PAUL

Wow, I was coming home from work and when I turned on the television, his death was all over the news.

CRYSTAL

Yeah, when I saw the news that Kurt Cobain died, I cried. He and the rest of the members of Nirvana spoke to us Gen X-ers with their music.

CARL

And that old bastard Andy Rooney insulted a fan who was grieving over his death. It was on CBS News. He sarcastically said and I quote, "Wipe your tears, darling. You're breaking my heart." I think he insulted us Gen X-ers with what he said. He will never understand that Nirvana's music spoke to us Gen X-ers and they knew about us and what Generation X was all about.

CRYSTAL

There is only one thing I can say to Andy Rooney...and that is: "Fuck him and the horse he rode in on."

CARL/TED/GLORIA/PAUL/PORTIA

Here, here. Fuck Andy Rooney!

CRYSTAL

Does anyone else hate the fact that Kavanaugh got sworn in as a Supreme Court justice?

CARL/TED/GLORIA/PAUL/PORTIA

(they raise their hands)

I do.

CRYSTAL

Kavanaugh is the perfect example of why the "Me Too" movement exists.

Her friends put their hands down and agree with Crystal's statement in their own way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Two pizza boxes are set on the coffee table. One pizza is pepperoni and the other is plain. There are some slices missing from each pizza.

SUPER: "AN HOUR LATER"

PULL BACK TO REVEAL the six friends as they continue to sit in their seats. Gloria, Ted and Portia have pizza slices in their hands. Gloria and Portia have pepperoni slices and Ted has a plain slice.

The gang continue to talk about the issues that concern their generation.

GLORIA

I have to say: Trump does not care about the shootings in Florida or Las Vegas. All he did was offer his prayers and best wishes. Can you believe that? Instead of doing something like making stricter gun laws, he offers his prayers and condolences. What a stupid fuck!

PAUL

He also spends most of his time on Twitter complaining about absolutely everything under the sun. He needs to get the fact that we don't care what he hates. We just want him out of the White House.

TED

I agree. No one in our generation gives a damn about Trump. He is an idiot and he has no business being in the White House. He sexually abuses women, he breaks up families and he is nothing but a bully and he gets upset when things don't go his way.

PORTIA

I still think that Trump got into the White House because of Russian collusion. He is always hanging around Putin. I think Trump and Putin are lovers...

(her friends laugh)

...but I don't think he would be accepted in the LGBTQ community.

Carl and Gloria sit next to each other on the couch.

CARL

Amen to that, sister. They would be kicked out of our community without even thinking twice.

(takes a slice of  
pepperoni from the box)

(MORE)



CARL (CONT'D)

And I am sure that the rest of the Gen X-ers would back up our community and get them kicked out if they even think about joining our community.

Gloria pats Carl on his left arm with her right hand.

As Carl takes a bite of his slice:

PORTIA

Trump is an insult to America, point blank. He needs to be held accountable for his tyranny. I think that getting Trump out of the White House would be a start to making America great again. I mean, America was already great before Trump and it will be great once he is impeached.

(re: her friends listen to her, attentively)

Obama handled his presidency with class and honor. I tell you, if he could run a third term, I would definitely vote for him again.

Her fellow Gen X-ers agree with Portia in their own way.

Paul takes a slice of the plain pizza and Crystal takes a slice out of the pepperoni out of the boxes.

PORTIA (CONT'D)

Let me ask you guys and gals something: Will Generation X ever get recognized or get credit for the things that they have done and will continue to do?

CARL

Well, probably not with this administration in the White House, but as a proud member of the LGBTQ community, I will still fight for my rights as a gay man.

GLORIA

And as another proud member of the LGBTQ community, I will continue to fight for my rights as a bisexual woman and I will continue to be an advocate for women in film.

TED

And I will continue to be an advocate for civil rights among all races.

CRYSTAL

And I will continue to be an advocate for equal rights among all races.

PORTIA

I will continue to be an advocate for the Latin community and I will continue to fight for our civil rights and recognition in America and Mexico.

PAUL

I guess I will keep getting the word out that Generation X is not going anywhere and we will get the recognition that we have been fighting for since we came into the world.

PORTIA

I've got to admit...it won't be easy, but if we keep on doing what we're doing, Generation X will be recognized and respected.

The others agree with Portia in their own way.

CARL

And to parody a well known motto in the gay community: "We're here. We're Generation X. Get used to it."

PAUL

(smiles and gives Carl the thumbs-up)

That sounds great, Carl. I think we Gen X-ers should use that new motto as a statement to the Baby Boomers and the Millennials to let them know that we're not going anywhere anytime soon.

GLORIA

I totally agree with Paul. We Gen X-ers seem to be the forgotten generation, but what the Baby Boomers and the Millennials don't realize is that members of Generation X have created a lot of things that we use today like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.

TED

The personal computer, cell phones, apps for cell phones. Members of Generation X are responsible for a lot of things that the Baby Boomers and the Millennials are using today.

PORTIA

I agree. So, how come our generation isn't recognized?

TED

Probably because when the Baby Boomers were our age, they had some failures in the things that they were protesting against and trying to make better, so they think that our generation was going to end up the same way. Hence, them calling us...

(makes air quotes)

..."slackers".

PORTIA

The majority of Gen X-ers sure put that to bed. We certainly did. We are not, and never have been, slackers.

The others agree in their own way.

As the friends enjoy their pizza and the MUSIC PLAYS:

Gloria smiles as she holds a slice of pizza in her hand and she talks MOS.

SUPER: "GLORIA HAS GONE ON TO WRITE AND DIRECT A FILM ABOUT GENERATION X. IT WAS BASED ON THE GROUP'S DISCUSSION. IT PREMIERED AT THE TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL AND HAS GOTTEN GREAT REVIEWS. SHE IS STILL AN ACTIVE ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN IN FILM."

Ted pops the last piece of pizza in his mouth and chews it. After a few chews, he swallows it and he talks MOS.

SUPER: "TED IS CURRENTLY PLAYING THE LEAD IN A PLAY ABOUT A JEWISH TEEN FIGHTING FOR HIS CIVIL RIGHTS WHEN HIS CHARACTER IS DENIED ENTRY INTO A RESTAURANT THAT IS RUN BY RACISTS."

Portia looks calm as she takes a bite of her slice of pizza. As she chews and swallows the bite, she talks MOS.

SUPER: "PORTIA IS STILL WORKING AT THE LOCAL PUBLISHING COMPANY AND HAS AGREED TO DONATE FIFTY PERCENT OF HER FUTURE EARNINGS TO THE DEVASTATION IN MEXICO."

Paul talks to his friends MOS.

SUPER: "PAUL CONTINUES WORKING AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY AND DECIDED TO JOIN TED IN THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. TED PROUDLY AGREED."

Crystal holds her slice of pizza in her hand and she is the next to speak MOS.

SUPER: "CRYSTAL CONTINUES TO WORK AS AN AD EXECUTIVE AND SHE IS STILL AN ACTIVE ADVOCATE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN."

Carl is the last to speak MOS.

SUPER: "CARL, ALONG WITH GLORIA, IS STILL ACTIVE IN THE LBGTQ COMMUNITY. CARL INTRODUCED GLORIA TO HIS BOYFRIEND AND THEY ALL BECAME GOOD FRIENDS AND ADVOCATES IN THE COMMUNITY."

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPER: "GENERATION X RULES!!!"

ROLL CREDITS.

FADE OUT.