

Niecy (Denise Miller)

Age:38 - Black Female

Denise "Niecy" Miller, 38, is a character torn between loyalty and her own desires. With an athletic and authoritative presence, she openly embraces her bisexuality. Her marriage to Cornell is marked by a complex power dynamic, including moments of dominance and physical abuse. Her relationship with her son, Phawnee, is distant, resembling more of an older sibling's dynamic than that of a traditional mother.

Niecy's complexity adds sensuality, power, and conflict to the family dynamics, making her a central and intriguing figure in the story.

Eleanor Benson

Age:58 - Black Female

Eleanor Benson, a 58-year-old African American woman, radiates grace and wisdom. She's a devoutly religious matriarch within the family, known for her unwavering faith and strong-willed character. Eleanor is the mother of Niecy and the grandmother of Phawnee, offering both maternal care and spiritual guidance. She challenges Niecy when necessary and is deeply concerned for Phawnee's well-being.

Eleanor's presence adds depth to the family dynamics, providing stability, wisdom, and a voice of reason during moments of conflict and crisis.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Niecy and her mother, ELEANOR BENSON (64), having a private conversation in a waiting room.

NIECY
(standing)
I was just glad to see that Phawnee
taking his ass back to school.

As Eleanor ponders the plaudits, a red flag arises.

ELEANOR
Going back to school?

NIECY
I didn't want to tell you, but he tried
to drop out of school yesterday.

ELEANOR
He dropped out of school?!

NIECY
I was so done with him I wanted to kill
him.

ELEANOR
What did they do to him?!

NIECY
Who?

ELEANOR
Them white people at that school.

NIECY
Nothing.

ELEANOR
Of course, you would take their side.

NIECY
There are no sides to take.

ELEANOR
Was someone bullying him?

NIECY
No.

ELEANOR
Did you even ask?

NIECY
I have to go.

ELEANOR
(dragging the accusation)
Do you even care?!

NIECY
I have to go.

ELEANOR
Where?

NIECY
I have to cover a shift.

ELEANOR
Your son is getting cut open, and you're worried about work?!

NIECY
Mom, if you want to support me-

ELEANOR
-Phawnee could die!

NIECY
(heading out the door)
Go home.

ELEANOR
Someone needs to be here with you?

NIECY
I'm fine.

ELEANOR
Is your little friend working tonight?

NIECY
Tia?

ELEANOR
(looking away)
Mhm.

NIECY
Is there something you want to add?

ELEANOR
Your husband should be here.

NIECY
I have to go to work.

ELEANOR
(getting angry)
Work. Work. Work! Work. Work.

Angry tears drain from Eleanor's eyes as Niecy makes her exit.

Character Report for "NIECY"

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

NIECY: (standing)

I was just glad to see that Phawnee taking his ass back to school.

NIECY: I didn't want to tell you, but he tried to drop out of school yesterday.

NIECY: I was so done with him I wanted to kill him.

NIECY: Who?

NIECY: Nothing.

NIECY: There are no sides to take.

NIECY: No.

NIECY: I have to go.

NIECY: I have to go.

NIECY: I have to cover a shift.

NIECY: Mom, if you want to support me-

NIECY: (heading out the door)
Go home.

NIECY: I'm fine.

NIECY: Tia?

NIECY: Is there something you want to add?

NIECY: I have to go to work.

Character Report for "ELEANOR"

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

ELEANOR: Going back to school?

ELEANOR: He dropped out of school?!

ELEANOR: What did they do to him?!

ELEANOR: Them white people at that school.

ELEANOR: Of course, you would take their side.

ELEANOR: Was someone bullying him?

ELEANOR: Did you even ask?

ELEANOR: (dragging the accusation)
Do you even care?!

ELEANOR: Where?

ELEANOR: Your son is getting cut open, and you're worried about work?!

ELEANOR: -Phawnee could die!

ELEANOR: Someone needs to be here with you?

ELEANOR: Is your little friend working tonight?

ELEANOR: (looking away)
Mmhm.

ELEANOR: Your husband should be here.

ELEANOR: (getting angry)
Work. Work. Work! Work. Work.