## <u>GIRLFRIENDS</u> LEAVEBEHIND <u>"Mommy Dearest"</u> WRITTEN BY BONITA ALFORD

Logline: Joan's latest boyfriend has a daughter from a previous relationship; Toni's new boyfriend seems to be looking for a mommy, not a partner; Lynn doesn't know what to do when Vosco announces he wants to pursue a music career; William finds out Yvonne can't have children.

Joan is dating Victor, and things are going great. However, she's a bit taken aback when he asks her to finally meet the "other woman" in his life-who turns out to be his young daughter from a previous relationship. Joan is stunned. Joan shakes hands with the little girl, who couldn't be more charming.

Joan discusses this latest development with her friends. She always felt she'd be a mom other one day, but she never considered the possibility of being a step mom. Lynn talks about her experience of being raised by an adoptive mother, and cautions Joan to be sure that she's ready for that kind of responsibility. Maya offers to let Joan borrow her son Jabari for a day to see if she has any maternal instincts. Joan spends the day with Jabari, and it proves to be a challenge. It helps Joan see how much of a full-time job it is to take care of a child. She realizes she's not ready right now, so she breaks it off with Victor. Joan said it's the hardest break up she's ever had to do, because she wasn't just breaking up with Victor, but his daughter, too.

Meanwhile, Toni is attracted to a man from church and they start going out. He seems like a great catch at first, but she starts to notice some odd behavior. For example, one night he asks her to read him a bedtime story or bring him a glass of water. She says it feels like he's looking for a mother, not a mate. She breaks up with him when he shows up wearing diapers and wants her to spank him for being a "bad boy."

When Vosco wants to pursue a career as a recording artist, Lynn is torn between wanting to support him in his decision and her desire for him to pursue a more stable career.

William has to do some soul searching on his own when he finds out that Yvonne can't have children.

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