

COUNTING ON KENDRA

Written by

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ACT I

INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

A stylish but messy apartment. KENDRA HAWKINS (33) lounges in bed while watching videos on her phone.

YOUTUBER (V.O.)

And that's our list of sneaky ways  
supermarkets get you to spend more.

Now, we want to hear from you. Comment  
your penny-saving supermarket hacks.

An incoming video call from 'Avon' distracts Kendra from smashing the 'like' button.

INTERCUT - VIDEO CALL

AVON WAUKEE(35), #BlackBoyJoy incarnate, is at a park.

AVON

Congrats on being up before noon. Can

I assume the new meds are working?

Kendra rolls her eyes while retrieving pills from her bedazzled dispenser. She washes them down with an iced coffee.

AVON (CONT'D)

Well, C-CAP loved my idea and wants  
you to host my financial literacy  
workshop any weekday at ONE P.M.

She tosses the empty can across the room. It lands near a growing heap of iced coffees teas, and other canned drinks.

KENDRA

Can't. Too early.

AVON

But I booked you for an afternoon like you requested.

KENDRA

What you want me to say? One P.M. is too early. I spend every morning shitting my guts out. I can't --

AVON

(interrupting)

Pause and rewind. You say you're feeling sick but -- and I say this with love -- you don't give any of these routines a good shot.

Kendra gives Avon a death stare.

AVON (CONT'D)

How 'bout water instead of canned drinks loaded with preservatives, artificial sweeteners and ...

Avon realizes Kendra's silence is grace, not agreement.

KENDRA

I can't put my life on hold just because my body wants to malfunction more than a McDonald's ice cream machine. Water. Coffee.

(MORE)

KENDRA (CONT'D)

No matter what I do, I still feel sick. So, let me enjoy what I can enjoy.

Avon's camera wobbles.

AVON

I'm sorry.

KENDRA

Thanks. You're making me dizzy.

AVON

It is forty-five degrees in Chicago, and I am living.

KENDRA

You need to leave this city if forty-five degrees is cause for celebration.

AVON

I'm playing with this C-CAP kid whose raggedy momma is always late. What can we do to accommodate you?

KENDRA

I dunno. I'll think of something. Right now, all my brain cells are dedicated to making it to the store so I can restock.

AVON

The store? Didn't you switch to a delivery app?

KENDRA

Yes, and letting my toilet paper run low is my new tactic to encourage physical activity.

AVON

My butthole just clenched. Like, real tight. You living fast and dangerous, Ms. Kendra.

The friends imitate clenched buttholes with their lips.

AVON (CONT'D)

Come on. Roll out of bed like a sea lion diving for some fresh herring.

KENDRA

And then what? Get stuck on the floor?

AVON

I didn't gift you that bedazzled cane for nothing.

INT. SUPERMARKET - LATER

PATRICIA NAYMOND (40s) closes her coupon binder and begins dumping air fresheners into her cart.

Kendra, mounted on a motorized shopping cart, zips down the aisle.

KENDRA

(to Avon)

-- My entire existence has been a crisis of sorts for the past year, if not longer.

Without noticing Patricia, Kendra reaches out and grabs an air freshener.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I want these so bad. I'm tired of  
smelling my shit.

TMI. Patricia does an awkward spin and dip.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Whatever makes the smelly smells makes  
me sick, though.

AVON  
(through phone)

On that note, we praise Mary Jane.

KENDRA

Blaze up. Bless up. But seriously,  
I've been minimizing my situation.

Patricia really wants those air fresheners, but she also  
doesn't want to disturb Kendra's private conversation.

AVON  
(through phone)

Don't. If you'd gone for the 'small'  
stuff, you'd still be here because of  
medical racism.

KENDRA

True. Did I tell you about this three-  
month alternative healing retreat?

AVON  
(through phone)

How do you know it's not a scam?

KENDRA

Everything is a scam.

Kendra plops the air freshener back on the shelf. After  
Kendra zips away, Patricia doubles back for the remainders.

INT. SUPERMARKET - REGISTER - MOMENTS LATER

The Cashier makes a face while scanning Patricia's stockpile of air fresheners.

CASHIER

Will you be needing bags today?

PATRICIA

No. Do you have boxes?

CASHIER

Then your total is seven hundred and  
fifty dollars and thirty-two cents.

The sound of Velcro unsticking causes Kendra to look up from the magazine rack. Patricia is opening a super tricked out couponing binder.

Kendra's mouth forms an 'O.' She rests her hand on her heart.

KENDRA  
(sotto to self)

Extreme couponing.

The CUSTOMER between them is preoccupied with their phone.

Kendra fumbles to sneak a picture. Taking real notice of Patricia, she pauses.

Patricia is black, dressed fly, has a bomb twist-out, and -- from the looks of things -- is about to get a major discount on her purchases. Kendra wants more than a blurry picture!

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Ma'am with the bomb braids and binder.

May I have a selfie and can I  
livestream your ring up?

PATRICIA

Of course. Are you also a couponer?

KENDRA

Yes! I live for a discount!

Kendra uses her cane to walk from the scooter to Patricia.  
The Cashier makes a call that goes unnoticed by both women.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I'm a forensic accountant. I love  
anything to do with crunching numbers.

PATRICIA

Cool! My subscribers would love --

KENDRA  
(interrupting)

You're a money blogger!

Patricia extends her hand.

PATRICIA

Patricia Naymond. Known on the web as  
Penty Patricia because I'm serious  
about my pennies and petty with these  
coupon policies.

The women take a selfie. The STORE ASSOCIATE appears at the  
register and exchanges a few unheard comments with the  
Cashier.

KENDRA

I'm going to follow you. I'm  
CountingOnKendra, but I don't really  
post. I want a money blog, but life  
keeps getting in the way.

Kendra taps through her apps.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Found you. I just tagged you in the  
photo.

STORE ASSOCIATE

Ma'am, are you paying cash today?

PATRICIA

Um. Yes. I'm paying with my debit card. Is there a problem?

STORE ASSOCIATE

My colleague noticed your binder and wanted to inform you that you may only use one coupon today.

Kendra livestreams the interaction between Patricia, the Cashier, and Store Associate.

PATRICIA

(to Cashier)

Just to clarify, 'one per purchase' means one per item. And, when it says on the same coupon, 'limit of two per shopping trip,' that means you can use two coupons on two items on that one shopping trip. But no more than that.

STORE ASSOCIATE

Correct.

PATRICIA

But you're saying I can only use one coupon per transaction.

The Associate inspects one of the coupons.

STORE ASSOCIATE

Limit one per purchase.

PATRICIA

Okay. That's just the first line. You know that a purchase is not a transaction. You do know that, right?

STORE ASSOCIATE

A purchase is the total transaction.

PATRICIA

No, a purchase is the item. A transaction is the shopping trip.

The Associate and Patricia are visibly annoyed.

KENDRA  
(to Associate)

May I interject --

STORE ASSOCIATE

I don't want to be on camera.

KENDRA

My camera is pointed down.

PATRICIA

We're all relaxed.

Kendra places her basket on the belt.

KENDRA

During my one trip to this store, I placed some items for purchase in my basket --

STORE ASSOCIATE

Who are you?

KENDRA

I'm Kendra, a CPA and educated  
couponer. I know money --

STORE ASSOCIATE

Her coupon reads 'one specified item.'  
And that's per purchase. And that's  
the total purchase.

The Customer behind Patricia makes a face that says they're  
confused by the Associate's logic.

KENDRA

A transaction is marked whenever a  
customer swipes their card.

STORE ASSOCIATE  
(to Patricia)

Ma'am, you have two options: Pay for  
everything now, or put back what you  
can't afford. Otherwise, I'll have to  
call Security.

KENDRA

Is this the discounted hill you want  
to die on?

INT. AVON'S LIVESTREAM - AVON'S CAR - DAY

The shot is stylized like an Instagram live with hearts,  
comments, and views on the screen.

Avon drives while addressing viewers.

AVON

I'm almost at the station, y'all.  
Thank you. Thank you for all the likes  
and re-posts.

(MORE)

AVON (CONT'D)

Hopefully, Kendra and Patricia are okay. I'm still shocked that pig officer roughed them up over some dang coupons. My girl was chill the entire time. Check her livestream for Officer Farber's full name and badge number. Please keep tagging me and corporate. They might be trying to DM Patricia and Kendra, but they don't have their phones since they're in lock up. Yes, CarefreeBlackWoman, this is some bullshit.

Avon honks his horn.

AVON (CONT'D)

I swear Chicago traffic be the worst.

END OF ACT

## Act II

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra sits fully dressed on the exam table. Doctor Biagi sits slumped in a chair.

BIAGI

And that's everything?

Biagi tosses his blank notepad on the desk.

BIAGI (CONT'D)

Have you tried cutting down on carbs?

A moment. Kendra purses her lips.

KENDRA

Have I tried restricting carbs to manage my light sensitivity issues and the throbbing pain near the base of my neck?

BIAGI

Yes.

Kendra suppresses a response.

BIAGI (CONT'D)

I mean, other than that you're healthy as a horse.

KENDRA

That doesn't make any -- What about  
the 3-month alternative healing  
program in Ecuador?

Biagi sits up for the first time.

BIAGI

Don't be a sucker. Those con men smell  
desperation and promise miracles to  
anyone who will listen. Trust science.

KENDRA

But, you haven't addressed my  
concerns.

BIAGI

I think your job is stressful and your  
body is manifesting these symptoms as  
a coping mechanism.

KENDRA

And that's your official science-based  
opinion?

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Avon is washing his hands. MR. DIRTY HANDS exits the stall  
and the restroom without so much as a glance at the sink  
area.

AVON

So, we just not washing our hands?

Mr. Dirty Hands doesn't know how to respond.

AVON (CONT'D)

Yo man, your hands definitely touched  
your junk.

Mr. Dirty Hands ignores Avon and pushes the door open.

INT. VLAD'S OFFICE - DAY

A modern and well-kept office. VLAD ILIESCU (50s) and REGINA KENT (50s) enter holding stacks of folders.

VLAD

We need to switch up our catering. I  
can't eat another slice of Eli's.

REGINA

I can't either, but my brain is an  
idiot that can't say 'no' to sugar.

They laugh. Regina looks for somewhere to rest her stack.

REGINA (CONT'D)

By the way, Hawkins' doctor sent over  
approval to extend her sick leave by  
three months.  
(beat)

Also, she's taking full leave.

VLAD

Kendra Hawkins wants full sick leave  
for three months?

Vlad takes a seat on the edge of his desk.

VLAD (CONT'D)

She is about to be gone longer than  
she worked here. Why did we even hire--  
Dammit! This is why some people --

REGINA

Careful. H.R. in the room.  
(beat)

So, should I call the temp agency or --

Vlad is upset and thinking of how to respond. Regina waits patiently.

VLAD

Get Hawkins on the phone.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kendra appears concerned while on the phone.

PATRICIA (V.O.)  
(through phone)

Gosh, you don't sound excited. We're going to be on Good Morning Chicago!

KENDRA

Only 'cause they tape super early.

PATRICIA

Don't worry about being on TV. Just think about how this opportunity will boost my -- our platforms.

Mr. Dirty Hands steps into the waiting room where Kendra and a few other patients are sitting.

AVON  
(walking into view)

Your penis has been steeping in piss and now your hands are contaminated.

MR. DIRTY HANDS

Buzz off, man.

Kendra looks up from her phone. She and everyone else is trying to decipher the situation.

AVON

Some people live as if people with  
compromised immune systems don't  
exist.

KENDRA

Pat, I gotta go.

Kendra ends the call. Mr. Dirty Hands keeps walking.

AVON

That man didn't wash his hands!

Everyone recoils and shames Mr. Dirty Hands with looks of  
disgust. This stops Mr. Dirty Hands in his tracks.

MR. DIRTY HANDS

Oh my god. Seriously, man?

KENDRA

Not washing your hands is hella gross.  
Hygiene is not just about you; Some of  
us are immunodeficient.

AVON

And if there's ever a place with  
people who don't need more trouble,  
here would be the place. Nasty ass  
dirty hands man.

The man waves them off and heads out.

KENDRA

Ew.

Kendra gathers her things and links arms with Avon.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I wanted to cuss you out again for waiting until after my appointment to realize you had to pee, but apparently, you were doing the lordt's work in his divine timing.

AVON

I'm shocked The Big Guy still has my number because I be heathen-ing.

KENDRA

Guess who's going to be on Good Morning Chicago because she stood up for what's right in the couponing world?

Avon squeals.

AVON

Bitch, you lyin'!

KENDRA

If I'm lying, I'm dyin'!

AVON

I mean, technically--

Too real. Too soon. Kendra still has love for Avon though. Avon is about to celebrate with more hugs and giggles, but Kendra cuts him off.

KENDRA

But I can't do early mornings. I can barely do afternoons.

AVON

Bish, we're gonna make this work. I  
will wheel you there if I have to!

INT. PATRICIA'S LIVESTREAM - PATRICIA'S STUDIO - DAY

The shot is stylized like an Instagram live with hearts,  
comments, and views on the screen.

PATRICIA

So, yes y'all. I haven't heard from  
Kendra in a few days, but trust that  
we're both excited to be on Good  
Morning Chicago. Please tune in so  
that maybe ya girl can have her own  
segment.

Patricia squeals.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Oh yes, ChiefRebel, keep sending your  
money questions. Kendra is working on  
your replies.

INT. VLAD'S OFFICE - DAY

Vlad and Regina sit across from Kendra. Regina gestures for  
Vlad to speak.

VLAD

So, what will it be Ms. Hawkins: Will  
we see you on Monday, or can we expect  
your letter of resignation?

KENDRA  
(congested, crying)

Going to the store is proof that I'm well enough to work a full-time job because, in life, people can either be bed-ridden or pulling sixty hours a week in the field. There's no in-between?

VLAD

Kendra, let us not mince words. The weight loss looks good on you. We've allowed you to express yourself with your very creative hairstyles--

REGINA  
(interrupting)

Regina Kent interrupting to clarify that those comments were not meant to sexualize.

Regina hits 'stop' on the recorder. Doh! Vlad could kick himself.

REGINA (CONT'D)

I'll wrap this up.

Regina hits 'stop' on the recorder again.

REGINA (CONT'D)

At this point, you've been on sick leave longer than you've worked full time. Take the weekend to review your options.

INT. PATRICIA'S STUDIO - DAY

Patricia takes the Good Morning studio logo off of her vision board. She crumples the paper and tosses it in the trash. She misses. Instead of getting the paper, she grabs her phone to place a video call to Avon.

INTERCUT - VIDEO CALL

Avon is at the park working out.

PATRICIA

Hey, Avon. What's up with Kendra?

AVON

Kendra? Everything seems normal to me.

PATRICIA

She totally flaked on responding to Good Morning Chicago and now I can't be on the show because they wanted both of us.

AVON

Oh. Well, Kendra sometimes has problems --

PATRICIA

All she had to do was show up. Me and all my subscribers were counting on her. Do you know if she's even working on the money questions?

AVON

Money question? Wait, catch me up.

ACT 3INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Avon browses his phone while stacking Kendra's dirty dishes next to the sink.

AVON

Patricia says you're getting so much  
love. You need to ride this wave and  
get your finance blog booming.

Avon scrapes old food from a bowl into the trash.

Kendra uses her cane to hobble into the kitchen. Despite her silk robe and cute turban, she looks worse for wear.

AVON (CONT'D)  
(reading comments)

"Why are you couponing and not  
studying to be a lawyer? I wish I had  
you with me every time I got denied at  
CVS."  
(beat)

Read the bio, sis. My bestie is a  
whole ass CPA!

Avon flashes his friend a big grin. Kendra groans as she settles into the chair.

Avon turns on the faucet. He tests the water temperature with his hand.

AVON (CONT'D)

This ish always takes forever.

KENDRA

Sometimes I just fill my measuring cup  
and heat it in the microwave.

AVON

Cancerous but smart.

He goes to grab a measuring cup.

AVON (CONT'D)  
(reading comments)

"Anyone who does not understand why  
she was alarmed and offended when  
security and police was called is  
uneducated and naive. Y'all need  
Patricia and Kendra to teach y'all how  
to save yo raggedy lives and coints."

Avon fills the measuring cup with water from the sink.

AVON (CONT'D)

Kendra, I'm telling you, the girls are  
here for it.

Kendra grabs an opened iced coffee can. She shakes to gauge  
how much is inside.

Avon sets the measuring cup down.

AVON (CONT'D)

Don't do it.

KENDRA

You're right. Can you bring me a fresh  
one?

Avon takes a new can from the fridge. Kendra retrieves pills from her pillbox.

Avon hands Kendra the drink. He pauses to see how she's reacting to the comments. Nothing. He scrolls to another comment.

AVON

"I DMed you a money question. Can you help me?" Girl, your DMs are blowing up.

Kendra clears her throat after swallowing her cocktail of pills.

KENDRA

Avon, my health is unpredictable and I have real bills to pay. I don't have time to play social media influencer.

AVON

I'll set up the Patreon. Just say the word. What, you got six months of cash? Sublet this spot, move in with me, and let's make it work.

Kendra begins to cry.

KENDRA

Having a shitty body will derail your life. You do everything they tell you to do, and you still feel crappy.

Avon kneels next to Kendra and rests his head on her lap. He turns to the phone to read a message.

INT. LUPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

LUPE (40s) sits in her living room watching a news replay of Patricia and Kendra's supermarket couponing debacle.

AVON (V.O.)  
(reading)

Hey, Kendra. What you did to help my  
friend Patricia was really badass.

The doorbell rings. Lupe pauses the T.V. to answer the door.

INT. LUPE'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Lupe opens the door. Over her shoulder, we see her son DEVON (10) and GABRIEL (40s) walking towards the apartment. Gabriel wears his police uniform.

LUPE (V.O.)

I share custody of my 10-year-old son  
with my ex-husband, Gabriel.

Lupe hugs Devon before letting him into the house. Gabriel hands Lupe a check. After reviewing it she's not happy.

LUPE (V.O.)

His child support checks are always  
short. I'm always struggling to pay  
bills. I know it shouldn't be like  
that because it wasn't like that when  
we were together.

Lupe questions Gabriel. He snatches the check from her and threatens to tear it up. Lupe apologizes.

LUPE (V.O.)

I want him to pay his fair share. But  
things are tricky because he's a cop.  
Patricia's couponing group really  
helped me make ends meet. I asked  
about you and she said you were an  
accountant, not a lawyer.

(MORE)

LUPE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This might be a reach but it seems  
like you know a bit about finance law.

Gabriel hands over the check and walks back to his car.

INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Avon and Kendra are as they were -- Kendra sitting at the  
kitchen table and Avon on the floor next to her.

LUPE (V.O.)

Kendra, can you please help us?

Avon repositions himself to face Kendra.

AVON

You have to help her. She has a kid.

Kendra takes her phone from Avon.

AVON (CONT'D)

You help her and I'll help you. Your  
goddamn handle is @CountingOnKendra.  
If this ain't some Oprah-type universe  
manifestation shit, I don't know what  
is.

KENDRA

Fine. But for the record: I'm just an  
accountant, not no damn Harriet the  
Spy.

Avon squeals with delight.

AVON

Also, do Patricia right and call those  
GMC people.

(MORE)

AVON (CONT'D)

That show might be the perfect platform to solve your money problems.

KENDRA

Fine.

AVON

And don't be prideful, Tink Tink. Play up your cause by using that cane.

KENDRA

I hate you.

Avon gives Kendra a bear hug.

INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Kendra's alarm sounds, but she's not in bed. We hear puking sounds and then a toilet flush. A hunched over Kendra walks painfully slow towards the bed.

KENDRA

Siri, dismiss alarm.

The alarm stops. Halfway to the bed, Kendra takes a seat on the floor. She can't go any further. Kendra's phone rings.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

Siri, answer.

AVON

Girl, I bet money your raggedy butt couldn't fast for two days so I'm here to help you get dressed for the show.

KENDRA

I caved and had Taco Bell.

AVON

Taco Bell? Good lord, not even the strongest among us can handle that sludge.

It hurts Kendra to laugh.

INT. GOOD MORNING CHICAGO - DAY

The hosts of Good Morning Chicago, MEL and AMIR, interview Kendra and Patricia.

MEL

And we're back with extreme couponing experts: Patricia Naymond and Kendra Hawkins.

AMIR

So ladies, do you have day jobs, or do you just live off of reselling discounted goods?

PATRICIA

In the beginning, no. I had a job as a nanny. But once I started sharing my couponing tips on Facebook and YouTube, it kinda became my job.

AMIR

I bet making a stink about not getting a discount on social media helped.

KENDRA

Firstly, they were in the wrong. Secondly, we didn't plan that.

(MORE)

KENDRA (CONT'D)

And more than saving money, couponing  
has opened my world to so many new  
activities: hot yoga

PATRICIA

Helicopter rides.

KENDRA

You talkin' 'bout that good one from  
Value Pak that was like 70% off?

MEL

You got a 70% discount off a  
helicopter ride?

PATRICIA

Yes, indeed. I'm a savvy couponer.

MEL

That's amazing. I don't know too many  
people who have been in helicopters.

AMIR

I haven't been in one but it doesn't  
sound like something I'd want on  
discount.

PATRICIA

Well, you really should. I get a high  
from the discounts and the adventures.

MEL

That's fantastic. You're like a  
savings influencer.

AMIR

Aren't you worried that aggressively using coupons will put stores out of business?

KENDRA

Amir, it sounds like you have a problem with couponing. We aren't frugal jerks unwilling to pay full price. Sometimes you're the only person in your family who "makes it" and use coupons to help your community.

PATRICIA

That's true. I donate most of my surplus and --

KENDRA

Sometimes your scumbag ex won't pay their fair share of child support, so you're stuck maintaining a household on a single income. Some people have invisible disabilities and can't work a 40-hour week.

PATRICIA

Yes, in my coupon community we have --

KENDRA

Unlike you, Amir, I don't shame people for trying to survive.

(MORE)

KENDRA (CONT'D)

If the manufacturers can't afford to offer a discount, then they shouldn't make the damn coupon.

Everyone is stunned. It silent.

KENDRA (CONT'D)

I would storm off, but I'm sick and I left my cane in the greenroom.

Avon rushes on set waving the bedazzled cane.

AVON

I told you to take the cane!

END OF PILOT