

TIMA

No, it's not. I'm not borrowing a strange kid's hula hoop to look like a fool. No, worse, like some sort of perv. There are women predators too, you know.

HELEN

Girl, I've watched every episode of Criminal Minds. Well, everyone with that fine ass Shemar Moore on it. But you're borrowing a hula hoop, not luring the kid into a white van.

TIMA

So this 300-year-old prophecy mentions hula hoops. Does it mention TikTok videos too?

HELEN

It mentions embracing the circle of life.

TIMA

And that reads hula hoop to you?

HELEN

On my birthday, I had a circle of friends stand around and sing "Chain of Fools" by Aretha Franklin to me. I had to improvise with the times. So do you.

TIMA

That sounds adorable. This sounds silly.

HELEN

Light. Open. Curious. Adventurous. Remember? And you'd better hurry. That kid and their mama may leave any minute.

TIMA

Shit!

HELEN

The child is coming this way! With the hula hoop.

Start Here

(HULA HOOP KID ("KID") walks by HELEN and TIMA, carrying a hula hoop over their shoulder. KID yells back at their mother.)

KID

Yes, ma'am! My cone and your bomb pop.

(TIMA jumps up. Waves a friendly but awkward hello at the off-stage mother.)

TIMA

Ok kid. Let me see that hula hoop for a minute.

HELEN

That's real smooth.

KID

No. You're a stranger. You wanna steal my hula hoop!

TIMA

I'm an adult. I could own a garage full of them if I wanted to.

KID

Then why do you want mine?

TIMA

(Timidly)

It's my birthday....and we're out of town, and I wanted to show my grandma that I still know how to use one.

KID

(Thawing)

It's really your birthday?

TIMA

Cross my fingers. How about I rent your hoop and pay for your ice cream? I'll just be right here. You can see me from the food truck.

KID

And for my mama's bomp pop too?

TIMA

You drive a hard bargain. But yes.

(KID hands TIMA the hula hoop and then sticks their hand out for the money.)

Here's \$10. Keep the change. I'll be done by the time you get back.

KID

There's not much change that will be left over.

Stop

HELEN

(Reaching into her person and handing KID a \$20 bill.)

Oh, for God's sake. When I was a child, I could have bought the entire county ice cream for \$20. (As KID starts to walk off.) Don't get cute, kid, give me the \$10 back. And Tima, add that 20 to your tab.

(KID gives HELEN the \$10 bill back after pocketing the \$20 and exits.)

TIMA

I'm paying for everything on my birthday when my rich grandma is visiting? That doesn't seem fair.

HELEN

You're financing your own quest, which falls on your birthday. And hurry up with that that thing, before Young Hula Hoop Hustler comes back and wants to add another fee.

(TIMA awkwardly starts using the hula hoop.)

TIMA

I look silly as hell.

HELEN

You only think you look silly. Throw your hips into it.

TIMA

Words I'd never thought I'd hear from my grandmother.