

It's Your Business Radio Drama: 12-Part Series Scripts

“Episode One: It’s Better to Air the Dirty Laundry”

Music: How Come, How Long (up and under)

SFX: Stations changing, other cars blowing horns

Mr. Gibbs: (horn blowing and brakes screeching) Maggie! Watch the road!

Mrs. Gibbs: Ma B is on.

SFX: Stations changing

Ma B: Beautiful People,

Mr. Gibbs: There!

Ma B: This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. NEWS FLASH: Local business wonder, Damon DeCur was arraigned on near fatal assault of live-in girlfriend, Denise Champion. After a party, a neighbor saw girlfriend fly through the glass patio door.

Mr. Gibbs: (overlapping monologue) I don’t want to hear this mess.

Ma B: (continuing) DeCur says Denise ran through; the neighbor thinks she was thrown. Police records show previous 911 calls.

Mr. Gibbs: Where’s my cellphone?

SFX: (overlapping) dialtone followed by dialing.

Ma B: (continuing) Denise’s in a coma. DeCur’s out on bail. IT’S YOUR BUSINESS. Talk to me. (beep of phone)

Mr. Gibbs: Why’re you airing folk’s personal laundry on the radio?

Ma B: Sir, Ms.Champion is just one of the sistahs dying from abuse. Back after the break. It’s your business.

Music: Instrumental bridge up and under

Mrs. Gibbs: Abe, why did we pretend not to know Jack was beating our Ruth?

Mr. Gibbs: Don’t get in married folks business.

SFX: horn and screeching brakes.

Mrs. Gibbs: My God, Abe. He beat on Ruth while our grand children watched, and we didn’t say anything!

Mr. Gibbs: If I’d said anything, I would have hurt him.

Mrs. Gibbs: But our silence was consent!

Music: up and under as stinger

Ma B: People, I lived it, almost died it, got out, and survived it! My best friend put my dirty laundry in my face or that could’ve been me in a coma. Better to air the dirties in public than lose your sister-friend-mother-child. Gotta talk about it! Stop domestic violence. IT IS YOUR BUSINESS.

ANNOUNCER: To find out how you can help, visit www.endabuse.org. This message is brought to you by the and Family Violence Prevention Fund and The Ad Council with the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community.

“Episode Two: A Time to Speak”

Music: How Come, How Long (up and under)

SFX: radio program in the background

Tanya: This color is you, girl. Try it on.

Charlise: I don’t think that’s my style, it’s kind of —

Tanya: To the dressing room. Be there in a minute.

Ma B: (off mic) Beautiful People.

Tanya: That's Ma B. Turn it up.

Ma B: (on mic) This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. Ma be with you to the very end. NEWS FLASH on domestic violence trial of local businessman, Damon, for the near murder of girlfriend, Denise Champion. Her sister testified today that DeCur had a history of violence, and she knew about Denise's it but didn't say anything. Hey, people, silence can kill. It's your business. (Beep) Talk to me, caller.

John: My sister's dead 'cause I didn't get in her business.

SFX: (off mic) cash register

Ma B: Happens too much. Gotta let the sistah know you know -- that you're there for her.... It's your business. (Beep).

June: Some women don't think a man loves 'em 'less he hits.

Ma B: Love is not a punch in the mouth; it's a kiss. Talk to her. (Music up) Break time. It's your business.

Music: under

Tanya: (coming on mic) Charlise, you're working that dress, girl! Turn around (in drawn breath) What's that on your back?

Charlise: Some dye from my hair.

Tanya: No. That's a bad bruise, Charlise.

Charlise: Why can't you mind your own business?

Charlise: He's been stressed out.

Tanya: You think that excuses him?

Charlise: No, but —

Tanya: There are no buts except the butt that's getting whipped. It has to stop.

Charlise: Look, James is a good man.

Tanya: A good man doesn't beat his wife.

Charlise: What do you want me to do?

Tanya: Let me help.

Charlise: How?

Tanya: You can come to me. You can come to any of the family. Let us help.

Charlise: I want to.

Tanya: That's a start. Give us a hug.

Music: up and under

Ma B: This is Ma B. One in four Americans knows a woman who has been abused in the past year. It IS your business.

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"Episode Three: Isolated Woman"

Music: How Come, How Long, Not right, so wrong. We can't let it carry on.....

SFX: Thumps, and bumps, grunts and groans.

Doris: (Crying). Please let me have them.

Ma B: (in the background) Beautiful people.

George: No. And turn that blasted radio off.

SFX: THUMP of radio against a wall. Radio goes dead. Door slams. Footsteps fading off. Quick sounds of scrambling. Radio comes on suddenly as it is plugged in again.

Doris: That's my mother's radio.

Ma B: This is Ma B Lady Queen Sister Friend. NEWS FLASH on the domestic violence trial of Damon DeCur: Denise Champion's friends testified that DeCur started isolating Denise -- monitoring every move. People, know a woman out of touch and out of reach? REACH OUT. It's Your Business. Talk to me. (beep)

Paul: (agitated) Why would a woman stay and get beat? She could sneak off.

Ma B: That's like asking why all slaves didn't take the underground railroad and escape. You get beat down and terrorized. It's your business! (beep)

Doris: (A whimper)

Ma B: Caller?

Doris: (in almost a whisper) I don't know what to do.

Ma B: Are you hurt?

Doris: My shoulder's bruised.

Ma B: Is there someone who can pick you up?

Doris: (crying) I'm from the islands. I've only been here six months. Nothing I do is right. Anything I say, he goes off --

Ma B: Sister, hear me, please. He's got a problem you can't fix. You have to get out of harm's way.

Music: up and under (instrumental)

Doris: How? I have nobody.

Ma B: There are shelters and safe houses. Hold on. Someone here will help you.

Doris: Thank you, Ma B.

Ma B: People, too many women suffer alone-- in silence! Know a woman who has unexplained injuries or seems isolated and cut off? Tell her you noticed. Tell her you care. It IS your business.

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"Episode Four: We CAN Do Something

Music: How Come, How Long (up and under)

SFX: Radio program in the background, barber shop sounds — clippers, scissors, etc.

LeRon: Hey, Counselor, you're coming in here looking like Damon DeCur.

Counselor: Well, you look like Dennis DeBull!

LeRon: Man, what you doing to my head!?!

SFX: Laughter. (Overlapping comments) "You asked for it." "You got it.!" (Laughter)

Ma B: Beautiful people.....

LeRon: Hey, turn the radio up. It's Ma B.

Ma B: This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. Ma be with you to the very end. Here's the flash on domestic violence trial of local business man Damon DeCur for allegedly causing his girlfriend's near death experience. Brother of Denise is calling for a boycott of DeCur's businesses. What ya think? Back after this break. It's your business.

Jamal: If it was my sister, there wouldn't be enough of him left to boycott. And Counselor here could defend me.

Counselor: Don't want to do that, man. You beat him up, you go to jail, and he'll be out beating on the sister.

LeRon: We can't protect our women?

Jamal: Up to me, he'd be the one with nothing to protect. Wouldn't need no jock strap to play ball neither.

Counselor: Use your heads, not your hands, brothers.

Dave: Run it, then, Counselor.

Counselor: Give him the twenty/twenty rule. Let him know that twenty eyes are watching and twenty feet are coming.

Jamal: Listen up. Turn it up, man.

Ma B: (coming on mic) You're right, caller. Boycotts work on a businessman. BUT, it calls for group action. Family and friends, tell the man — that you know what he's doing; his behavior is wrong under any conditions; you are watching him like a hawk.

Counselor: Yeah. Twenty eyes are watching and twenty feet are coming.

LeRon: Come on man, we got to give James the 20/20.

Counselor: Keep it together, brothers.

Dave: Stay Safe.

Music: up and under

Ma B: If you just tuned in, this is Ma Be Lady Queen Sistah Friend. We CAN work together to stop domestic violence. It IS your business.

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"Episode Five: At Work"

Music: How Come, How Long.....

SFX: Kids on the playground off mic.

Mr. Lane: Ms. Jackson, is she alright?

Mrs. Jackson: I thought he broke her arm. But, she's alright.

Mrs. Jackson: Now?

Ma B: (over the radio, off mic) Beautiful people.

Mr. Lane: Please. Turn up your radio please.

Ma B: (volume up) This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. NEW FLASH: In the domestic violence trial of business man, Damon Decur, co-workers of Denise Champion testified that she showed signs of abuse: nervousness after frequent DeCur phone calls. Co-Workers said DeCur seemed like a "nice fellow". Back after the break. It's your business.

Mr. Lane: Come in, Ms. Grace.

Grace: Sorry about the scene with my husband. I'll ask him not to come, but I need this job, Mr. Lane.

Mr. Lane: I'm not firing you. But I am concerned about you, and I want to help you stay safe.

Grace: How?

Mr. Lane: I've requested a court order that says he can't come within 100 yards of this school.

Grace: But, how....

Mr. Lane: We'll keep all of your work inside this building. And ---

Grace: This is so embarrassing.

Mr. Lane: He should be ashamed. Not you. -- Now, if you permit, security will walk you to your car everyday. And I'll give you time off to get a restraining order.

Grace: Why would you do all of this for me?

Music: sneak in (Instrumental)

Mr. Lane: Ms. Grace, I saw your bandaged wrists and your occasional limps. I'm ashamed that I didn't ask if you needed help sooner. But I promise you we'll have a domestic violence policy

after our meeting this week.

Grace: Thank you.

Ma B: Some companies have policies to protect battered women. Ask at your workplace. Speak up. Speak out. Speak often against domestic violence. At home, at play, and at work -- It IS your business.

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"Episode Six: Mother Wit"

Music: How come How Long

SFX: Kitchen sounds

Ruth: Tanya, have some tea and cake.

Tanya: Mama, I didn't come for tea. I came to listen to Ma B and talk about Charlise and James.

Ruth: Hmmm.

Tanya: Mama?

Ruth: James is a good man.

Tanya: She's got bruises.

Ruth: He has a good job. Bought a nice house, and he's good to her kids.

Ma B: (Faintly in the background.) Beautiful People.

Tanya: And he's beating your daughter.

Ma B: (off mic.) This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend.

Tanya: Turn it up, please.

Ma B: (up) NEWS FLASH on the domestic violence trial of local business man Damon DeCur. DeCur's friends recall his work in the community; how good he is to his mother. People, even a man who does good things for a lot of people can be doing terrible things to his wife or girlfriend. A wolf in a wool suit is still a wolf. Back after this break. It's your business.

Tanya: You know about a wolf in sheep's clothing, don't you Mama?

Ruth: We kept this family together.

Tanya: Yeah, Mama, together -- Charlise, Leron, and me huddled -- scared -- listening to your screams. You want Charlise to take what you took?

Ruth: No.

Tanya: Then tell her she doesn't have to take it. Tell her Daddy was wrong.

Ruth: I didn't want to believe it.

Tanya: We have to help Charlise -- for her sake and the kids.

Ruth: How?

Tanya: Tell her you love her too much to watch her take what you took.

Ruth: You think she's home now?

Tanya: Yes.

Music: up and under

Ruth: God, help me. I'll tell her.

Ma B: Domestic Violence comes in every shape, shade, and size. Mothers, tell your daughter a man should never hit her -- that there's no excuse for abuse! It IS Your Business.

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“Episode Seven: Gotta Have A Plan”

Music: How come, how long, not right, so wrong

SFX: phone rings

Mrs. Gibbs: Hello. Oh, Tanya, your grandpa's not here.

Ma B: Beautiful people.....

Mrs. Gibbs: Lord, Ma B is on. Call you later.

SFX: phone hanging up

Ma B: This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. Ma B with you til the very end. News Flash: an article sparked by domestic violence trial of Damon DeCur, says a woman is fighting for custody of her children and her personal property. She ran from punches in only a nightgown. Bad guy gets it all. Our guest is domestic violence expert, Joan Marks. Talk to me. It's your business. (beep)

Mrs. Gibbs: My granddaughter is being abused. I want to help her get out without losing everything.

Ma B: It took me four years to get my children and my things. Help us, Dr. Joan.

Joan: M'am, sometimes you just have to go. Unfortunately most women leave in the heat of a beating without a plan. If you want to leave a bad situation, tell friends or family what's happening; set up signals with them for escape.

Mrs. Gibbs: My granddaughter has two children, and she helped pay for that house and at least half of the things of it.

Joan: M'am. Safety comes first. Help her create an escape plan that includes the children, and let her know you will be part of it. Then, have her find her important papers like – birth certificates, marriage license – and some money if she can – and give them to someone she trusts.

Ma B: Sistahs, you must have a plan! Remember, don't lose your life and don't lose your head. Plan. Stop domestic violence. It IS your business.

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“Episode Eight: A Close Shave”

Music: How come, How Long.....

SFX: Barbershop sounds (electric clippers)

Ma B: Beautiful people! ...

James: Can we listen to something else?!

MaB: This is MaB Lady Queen Sistah Friend.

Dave/Barber: Sister makes good sense.

Ma B: ... News Flash on the domestic violence trial of local businessman, Damon DeCur. In exclusive interviews, Denise Champion's uncle admitted he had suspicions his niece was being abused but said nothing. People, what message does our silence give? Speak up after this break. It's your business.

Music: up and under

SFX: Ding dong of a door entrance sensor. Clippers stop. Footsteps coming on.

Chorus of Men: Hey, Dave James

Dave: My cue to exit. (turning down the radio)

Music: out

LeRon: Stay where you are, James. We're here – Grandpa, Pebo, Jamal, Uncle Jack

James: I don't need the roll call. What's up?

LeRon: I'm speaking for all the men in the family.

Chorus: That's right. Straight up..... Yeah.

LeRon: We know you've been abusing Charlise, and ----

James: That's a lie! I never—

LeRon: James, we've seen the bruises.

James: No, man

LeRon: ---Beginning right now, you're under the family's 20/20 WATCH. Our twenty eyes are watching you like a hawk, .

Chorus: Um-hum.

LeRon: ...And our twenty feet are coming fast (sfx: the family men stomping in place) to support and protect Charlise and her children.

James: Look, let me explain---

LeRon: James, a real MAN does NOT beat his wife. Do it again, and WE'LL call the police. The violence stops here!

James: I'm out of here.

SFX: (footsteps, bell of the door monitor, signaling opening of door)

LeRon: (calling to him) Think about it hard, James. (Going off mic) Thanks Dave.

Dave: Brothers, I'm with you. Hey, turn my radio up your way out.

Ma B: This is Ma B saying, 'Speak up, speak out, speak often against domestic violence.' Tell everybody it's wrong. Your word could be the peacemaker. It IS your business.

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"Episode Nine: Calm Before the Storm"

Music: How Come, How long...

SFX: Playstation sounds.

Marlin: I hate this game

SFX: crash of a control pad.

Adam: Hey, that's my game pad you're throwing around!

Marlin: Too bad.

Adam: What's eating you?

Marlin: Nothing!

Adam: It's your dad again.

Marlin: He's beating my mom. He was cool for six months. My mom even smiled again. I don't know what to do.

Adam: Call Ma B.

Marlin: My old man would kill me if he heard me on the radio talking about family stuff.

Adam: Ma B says, "Let him deal with it." She's on now.

SFX: radio stations switching. Telephone dialing.

Ma B: Right, caller. Witnesses said local businessman, Damon DeCur, was on good behavior after the first 911 call. Girlfriend's sister said they all thought everything was on the up and up. Now Denise is in a coma. What do you think, callers? Talk to me? It's your business.

(beep)

Marlin: Um. My Dad has beat my Mom since I was little. He stopped for about six months. Now he's back at it. I want to take him on myself, but he's a mean-?

Ma B: What do you think kept your Dad in check for those six months?

Marlin: My Mom's family was watching him and he knew it. Once things seemed okay, everybody quit watching, and he went berserk. Last night was real bad.

Ma B: Is your mother hurt? Does she need medical help?

Marlin: She seems okay. But I'm scared. (voice cracking) It's getting worse.

Music: Up and under (instrumental bridge)

Ma B: Hold on. We have someone here to talk to you. Don't hang up. Okay?

Marlin: Okay.

Ma B: People! It takes the whole community to turn this around. Do the 20/20 on abusers. Let them know at least 20 eyes are watching and 20 feet are coming. You may have to keep it up for years or for a lifetime. Speak up, speak out, speak often against domestic violence. It IS your business.

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"Episode Ten: Turning Point"

Music: How Come How Long.....

SFX: Sirens and feet running. ER sounds.. Loud radio in the background belonging to a man already seated in the waiting room.

Tanya: (out of breath, coming on mic) They just brought my sister in -- Charlise Gato.

Nurse: Excuse me. Sir, would you turn your radio down. (radio volume goes down just a little). I'll call you when she's finished with the doctor.

Ma B: (off mic) Beautiful People.

Ma B: (coming on mic as Tanya goes to sit closer to the man with the radio) This is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. NEWS FLASH on the domestic violence trial of local businessman, Damon DeCur. Girlfriend, Denise Champion, is out of a coma, but can she testify? Does DeCur have reason to be nervous? Back after this break. It's Your Business.

Nurse: The radio, sir. (radio volume goes way down) Miss, your sister is being released.

Charlise: (overlapping) Has been released

Tanya: Look at your nose, Charlise.

Charlise: Bloody but not broken.

Tanya: Hurt anywhere else?

Charlise: I'm okay, Tanya. Will you take me home?

Tanya: Home?!

Charlise: I have to go home for my kids and some important papers.

Tanya: Let Jamal and LeRon do it.

Charlise: I know where the things are and James is still at the police station. Let's go.

(running)

SFX: footsteps picking up pace.

Tanya: Then what? (running)

Charlise: To the court house for a restraining order and (slowing down) then, to Grandma and Grandpa's. They're waiting for us.

Tanya: (overlapping) Thank God, you are leaving.

SFX: beep of car opener/alarm.

Music: Up and under

Tanya: (quietly after stopping at the car and taking a breath) What convinced you this time?

Charlise: (near tears) Mama begged me not to take what she took from Daddy all those years.

Tanya: Oh, Char, saying that was a big one for her.

Charlise: I know.

SFX: Car doors shut and car engine starts. Radio comes on.

Ma B: Domestic violence is a leading cause of serious injuries to women. Speak up. Speak out. Speak often against domestic violence. This is Ma Be saying, "It IS your business."

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"Episode Eleven: Safety Net"

Music: How Come, How Long....

SFX: Children at play on a school playground. Cars on the street.

James: (coming on mic) Hey, kids!

Tanya: Jay and Lisa, it's okay. You can get in the car. (car doors closing) James, what are you doing here?

James: Came to pick my kids up from school. Why are you here?

Tanya: Their mother sent me. You know -- the one whose nose you all but broke.

James: It was an accident, Tanya.

Tanya: (cutting him off) You can't take the kids, James. Charlise got a court order.

James: Where is Charlise?

Tanya: I can't tell you that.

Tanya: Well, the kids are coming with me.

Tanya: Don't want to argue with you, James. Charlise's court order says you have to stay away and everyone has been informed: the school, her job, your church. (getting in the car) Everyone is watching to make sure you never lay a hand on my sister again.

SFX: Car door closing. Engine starting. Radio coming on. Banging on hood of car

Ma B: Beautiful people, this is Ma B Lady Queen Sistah Friend. In the domestic trial of Damon DeCur,

SFX: incessant banging on top hood of the car.

Ma B:best friends of Denise Champion said DeCur harassed Denise when she tried to leave.

SFX: laying on horn

James: (screaming off mic) She's my wife. Those are my kids.

SFX: radio turned down. Window rolled down.

Tanya: Please, move away from car. The principal is ready to call the police if he needs to. I suggest you go away quietly.

James: Kids get out the car and come with me.

Jay: (actor who played Marlin) No. You hurt my Mom.

Tanya: Good bye, James.

SFX: car pulling off

MA B: Alright caller, that's true. Getting a woman to leave an abusive relationship is not

always the end of the situation. Experts say a woman should put together a safety network to help her get safe and stay safe. Stop Domestic Violence. It IS your business.

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"Episode Twelve: Out and Safe"

Music: up and under

SFX: doorbell ringing.

Ma B: Beautiful People.

Mr. Gibbs: (calling off mic) I'll get the door. (on mic). Ma B's on.

Ma B: This is Ma B Lady Queen Sister Friend. NEWS FLASH on the domestic violence trial of local businessman, Damon DeCur. Denise Champion testified. DeCur knocked her through the glass door. Now, the jury is out. (SFX: doorbell and knocks) Back after this break. It's Your Business.

SFX: Incessant knocking

Mr. Gibbs: (coming on mic) It's James.

Family: (off mic) It's James?.... Okay.... Right...Ready.

Mr. Gibbs: (overlapping) Hold your horses, young man.

James: (door squeaks open as he speaks. First word is through the door; second part of question is overly loud as the door opens) Where's Charlise?

Mr. Gibbs: She's here.

Mrs. Gibbs: (coming on mic) And so are we.

Family Chorus: (coming on mic simultaneously) Hi, James. ...Hello. ...Hey, James....What's up, James? Yo. (Etc.)

James: (sarcastically) LeRon, Jamal, Mama, Ruth, Tanya, Papa. Another family reunion? Can I talk to my wife, ALONE?

Mr. Gibbs: Sorry, James, you lost that right when you laid your hands on my granddaughter.

James: I can't see my own wife?

Mr. Gibbs: Not now. And not unsupervised.

Chorus: That's right.

James: You can't keep me away from her and my kids!

Mr. Gibbs: James, Charlise asked me to show you a copy of her restraining order issued by the courts. The sheriff is looking for you now.

Chorus: That's right. You got it.

Mr. Gibbs: When she wants to see you, we'll call. And one of us will be with her. Every time you look, we'll be watching. All of us.

Chorus: 20/20. Twenty eyes are watching, Twenty feet are coming.

SFX: Door opening. Footsteps going off.

Music: up and under

Family: Get it together, James. We'll pray for you.

Charlise: (tearfully) Thanks for being here for me.

Family: We love you, Charlise. Thank God, you're safe.

Ma B: Help get a sistah/friend out of harm's way. Create a safety net of friends and family for her. Let the abuser know everyone's watching. Speak up. Speak out. Speak often to stop domestic violence. It IS your business.

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