

INT. VIOLET'S APOTHECARY - DAY

The apothecary is a cluttered masterpiece of organized chaos. Glowing jars of pickled newt eyes, hanging bundles of dried swamp-weed, and books floating in mid-air.

VIOLET CHAMILLE (Purple Chameleon) is mixing a bubbling cauldron with a long glass rod. She adjusts her spectacles with the tip of her long, curled tail.

She adds a drop of blue liquid. The cauldron BURPS a smoke ring in the shape of the heart.

VIOLET

Perfect. The Love-Me-Not Serum is ready for the Mayor.

Suddenly, the front door is KICKED OPEN.

SHURI SNOLIKU (Green Snake) slithers in frantically, her long tail knocking over a stand of walking canes. She is wearing an oversized cloak, clutching the hood tight around her face.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Shuri? You're early for tea. And you're destroying my inventory.

SHURI

(Muffled)

Vi, you have to help me. I made a mistake. A big, thirsty mistake.

VIOLET

Did you drink the "Instant-Shed" tonic again? I told you, itchy scales build character.

SHURI

No! I found a bottle in your "Do Not Touch" pile. It looked like lime soda!

VIOLET

Shuri... that was the Hydra-Growth Hormone.

Shuri rips off her cloak.

REVEAL:

Shuri has THREE HEADS.

The NECKS stretch out like a hydra. MIDDLE SHURI looks mortified. LEFTY is sobbing uncontrollably. RIGHTY is eyeing the jar of preserved flies on the counter with intense hunger.

MIDDLE SHURI
LOOK AT ME! I'm a freak show!

LEFTY
(Wailing)
We're going to die alone! Who dates a woman with three appetites?!

RIGHTY
(Snapping jaws)
Are those flies organic? I could eat a dragonfly. Or a very large beetle.

Violet stares. She blinks slowly. Her purple scales ripple into a shocked pale blue, then settle back to purple professional mode.

VIOLET
Okay. First, calm down. Second, Righty, don't eat the inventory.

Violet rushes to a massive bookshelf. She leaps up, sticking to the wood with her hands and feet, climbing it like a spider. She grabs a dusty tome: *Polymorphs and Pitfalls*.

She drops to the floor and flips pages frantically.

MIDDLE SHURI
It's bad, isn't it?

VIOLET
It's... aggressive magic.
(Reading)
"The Hydra-Effect becomes permanent if not reversed by the chiming of the midnight bell."

LEFTY
(Screaming)
PERMANENT?!

RIGHTY
Does that mean we get three birthdays?

VIOLET

(Checking the pocket watch)
It's 2:00 PM. We have ten hours. I can brew the antidote, the *Uni-Cranial Reversal Draft*. But I'm out of ingredients.

MIDDLE SHURI

What do we need?

VIOLET

Scale of a Golden Dragon-Koi. Pollen from the Screaming Orchid. And... the venom of the Shadow Spider.

Shuri's three heads look at each other.

MIDDLE SHURI

The Shadow Spider? Those things live in the Void Caverns!

VIOLET

Then we better get moving.

Violet grabs her medic bag. She looks at Shuri.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Put the hood back on. We're going on a field trip.

EXT. REPTILE MARKETPLACE - DAY

A bustling bazaar. Lizard-folk, Turtle-merchants, and Gator-guards roam.

Violet moves through the crowd with purpose. Shuri follows, her cloak lumpy and writhing as the heads argue underneath, her tail gliding over the cobblestones.

RIGHTY (O.S.)

(From under cloak)

I smell roasted crickets!

MIDDLE SHURI (O.S.)

Shut up! Be small!

LEFTY (O.S.)

It's dark in here! I'm claustrophobic!

Violet stops at a stall run by ALABASTER, a massive, grumpy ALLIGATOR with green-and-yellow scales. A tank behind him

holds a massive, glistening GOLDEN KOI.

VIOLET
Alabaster, I need a scale.

Alabaster leans over the counter, his massive jaws click shut.

ALABASTER
Violet. Top of the mornin'. That fish is for display only. Prize winner.

VIOLET
It's a medical emergency.

ALABASTER
Unless that emergency involves a sack of gold coins, the fish stays whole.

Under Shuri's cloak, chaos erupt

RIGHTY (O.S.)
FISH!

Righty RIPS through the fabric of the cloak. The green snake head lunges toward the tank.

ALABASTER
What in the swamp?!

Alabaster snaps his jaws at the intruder, but Middle Shuri acts fast.

MIDDLE SHURI
NO! HEEL! DOWN!

Middle Shuri grabs Righty's neck, strangling her own sister-head. Lefty pops out, crying.

LEFTY
The fish is too beautiful to die!

The marketplace goes silent. Everyone stares at the three-headed snake woman.

VIOLET
(Sighs)
Plan B.

Violet triggers her camouflage. She VANISHES completely.

While Alabaster is distracted by the squabbling heads, a floating pair of tweezers appears near the tank (held by invisible Violet). Pluck! A single gold scale is removed. The Koi doesn't even notice.

Violet reappears next to Shuri, grabbing her arm.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Run.

They escape - Violet sprinting, Shuri slithering rapidly - as Alabaster realizes what happened and roars.

EXT. JUNGLE OF ECHOES - LATER

The duo trudges through dense, bioluminescent jungle.

Shuri is exhausted. All three heads droop.

MIDDLE SHURI

I can't feel my coils. Or my tail tip.
Or my left neck.

VIOLET

We're close to the Screaming Orchids.

LEFTY

Why do they call them Screaming
Orchids?

Suddenly, a patch of purple flowers ahead opens their mouths and emits a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK.

LEFTY (CONT'D)

Oh. That's why.

VIOLET

We need the pollen from the center.
But they snap shut if they sense
movement.

RIGHTY

I'll bite 'em.

VIOLET

No biting. I need you to be...
harmonious.

MIDDLE SHURI

What?

VIOLET

They scream to ward off predators. But they open for a lullaby. Shuri, you have a beautiful voice.

MIDDLE SHURI

I do. *They*
(pointing to heads)
are tone deaf.

VIOLET

You have to harmonize. It's the only way. I'll sneak in while you sing.

Violet turns INVISIBLE again.

Shuri rears up her long body before the flower patch. The flowers scream.

MIDDLE SHURI

Okay girls. On three. "Scales of Silver."

RIGHTY

Boring song.

MIDDLE SHURI

SING IT!

They begin. It's rough at first. Righty is too loud, Lefty is wailing off-key. The flowers scream louder.

MIDDLE SHURI (CONT'D)

Focus! Listen to each other! Lefty, feel the rhythm! Righty, soften the bass!

Slowly, the heads sync up. A beautiful, three-part harmony echoes through the jungle. It's haunting and lovely.

ALL THREE HEADS

(Singing in harmony)
Scales of silver, moon above, rest your leaves in quiet love. Drift away on winds so deep, silent jungle, go to sleep...

The Screaming Orchids stop shrieking. They sway. Their petals unfold, revealing glowing yellow pollen.

Invisible Violet moves fast. We see the pollen being scooped

into a jar floating in mid-air.

The song ends. The flowers snap shut.

Violet reappears, grinning, holding the jar.

VIOLET

That was... actually really moving.

MIDDLE SHURI

(Smiling)

We didn't sound half bad.

RIGHTY

I carried us.

INT. VOID CAVERNS - NIGHT

Pitch black. Wet dripping sounds.

Violet holds up her hand, creating a ball of magical purple light.

VIOLET

The Shadow Spider is nocturnal. We just need a drop of venom from its fangs.

LEFTY

(Whispering)

Can we just ask it nicely?

A giant HISS echoes. A SPIDER the size of a minivan descends from the ceiling on a web. It's pitch black with red eyes.

MIDDLE SHURI

Slither away?

VIOLET

Distract it. I need to get close to the fangs.

MIDDLE SHURI

DISTRACT IT?! IT'S A NIGHTMARE WITH LEGS!

The spider lunges.

Righty snaps into action.

RIGHTY
HEY UGLY! OVER HERE!

Righty lunges at the spider, hissing. The Spider is confused by the aggression.

Middle Shuri dodges a leg swipe. Lefty spots a loose stalactite above the spider.

LEFTY
Middle! The rock! Use your tail!

Middle Shuri whips her massive tail around, grabbing a loose boulder in her coils and hurling it. It misses the spider but hits the stalactite.

CRACK. The Stalactite falls, pinning one of the spider's legs. The spider SCREECHES, jaws wide open, venom dripping.

VIOLET
BULLSEYE!

Violet's TONGUE shoots out - ZWEET! - sticking a vial right under the spider's fang, catching a single drop of black venom, and retracting instantly.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
GOT IT! GO GO GO!

Violet grabs Shuri's hand. Violet casts a spell - "Accelero!" - and they blur out of the cave at super-speed just as the spider breaks free.

INT. VIOLET'S APOTHECARY - NIGHT

A clock on the wall ticks ominously. 11:45 PM.

The cauldron is boiling violently. Violet is moving like a whirlwind, tossing in the ingredients.

VIOLET
Koi scale... pollen... venom...

She stirs furiously. The potion turns a sludge-brown.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
No, no, no! It's supposed to be pink!
Why is it brown?

Shuri is sitting on a stool, her tail coiled nervously around the base. The magic is taking hold permanently. The scales on

the three necks are fusing together.

MIDDLE SHURI

Vi... I feel heavy.

LEFTY

(Weakly)

I'm sleepy...

RIGHTY

Even I'm not hungry anymore.

Violet checks the book.

VIOLET

"Stir counter-clockwise with a thought
of pure singular intent."

Violet grips the rod. She closes her eyes. She thinks of Shuri. Her best friend. The snake who always brings her soup when she works too late. The one person who understands her chaotic life.

The cauldron begins to GLOW pink.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Come on... come on...

11:58 PM

The potion flashes bright neon pink.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

DONE!

Violet pours it into a goblet. She rushes to Shuri.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Drink! Middle head! It has to be the
middle!

Shuri is groggy. Lefty and Righty are slumped over, barely conscious.

MIDDLE SHURI

I can't... lift my arms...

Violet brings the cup to Middle Shuri's lips.

VIOLET

I've got you. Just swallow.

Middle Shuri drinks. She drains the cup.

11:59 PM.

Nothing happens.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Shuri?

Shuri BELCHES loudly.

Suddenly, a cloud of pink smoke EXPLODES from Shuri, filling the room.

Violet coughs, waving the smoke away.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Shuri?!

The smoke clears.

Shuri sits on the stool.

One head.

She blinks. She feels her neck. Smooth. Singular.

SHURI

One?

She looks left. Empty air. She looks right. Empty air.

SHURI (CONT'D)

ONE!

Violet lets out a breath she's been holding for twelve hours and slumps against the counter, sliding down to the floor.

VIOLET

Oh, thank the Ancients.

Shuri slides off the stool - wobbly but whole - and wraps her tail and arms around Violet in a hug.

SHURI

You did it! You saved me!

VIOLET

(Hugging back)

Of course I did. I'm the best witch doctor on the planet. Also, I didn't

(MORE)

VIOLET (CONT'D)
want to buy you three scarves for
Christmas.

Shuri laughs, wiping a tear.

SHURI
I think... I think I'm going to stick
to water for a while.

VIOLET
Wise choice.

Violet stands up, dusting off her lab coat.

VIOLET (CONT'D)
Though, I have to admit... the three-
part harmony was impressive. Maybe we
should start a band?

SHURI
Don't push it, Chamille.

VIOLET
Fair enough. Now, help me clean up
this mess? Righty ate half my
inventory of dried newts.

SHURI
(Rubbing her stomach)
Is that why I feel like I ate a swamp?
Ugh.

Violet laughs. She waves her hand, and the brooms in the
corner spring to life (ala Fantasia) and start sweeping.

VIOLET
Come on, I'll make us some tea. *Actual*
tea.

They walk toward the back room, arm in arm, tails swaying
behind them.

SHURI
You know, for a second there... Lefty
made a good point about the
stalactite. Maybe I should listen to
my gut more often.

VIOLET
Just don't listen to the gut that
(MORE)

VIOLET (CONT'D)
wants to eat my furniture.

FADE OUT.

THE END