

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Bobby (00:00):

You look nice right now.

Tiffany (00:01):

Thank you.

Bobby (00:03):

What color are you trying to put on today?

Tiffany (00:05):

We want to do black. I'm going to dye my hair.

Bobby (00:06):

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Black?

Tiffany ([00:07](#)):

Yes. Dye, right there.

Bobby ([00:08](#)):

Yes, what do you want? Permanent.

Speaker 3 ([00:08](#)):

Yes, that's what she was talking about. That's what I needed.

Speaker 4 ([00:08](#)):

What's up? What are you looking for?

Tiffany ([00:12](#)):

You got nail polish?

Speaker 3 ([00:12](#)):

I guess the little teeth supposed to go underneath your weave and make sure it's dry, I don't know.

Bobby ([00:16](#)):

Wherever you're going to hit the bleach it's going to lighten it a little more.

Speaker 5 ([00:18](#)):

Three packs of synthetic D-Wave hair. 32nd hair glue to put the track in. Three pairs of number 79, human lashes. She likes big lashes and one pair of gold bamboo earrings.

Tiffany ([00:34](#)):

All right, thank you.

Speaker 5 ([00:36](#)):

All right, see you.

Bobby ([00:36](#)):

My name is Bobby. Some people call me JJ. Store's name is JJ discount. The address is 626 Cherry Hill Road and I've been up here about 12 years. Hello, JJ's. Because I grew up in Maryland. Do you really

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need that much, seriously? All my life I've been up here. I want to say, about 48 now. Wait a second, hold on. That's why I don't have an accent.

Bobby ([00:57](#)):

People find it hard to believe that I'm actually Korean. Yes, one pack of it. They get a little surprise when they show up because when they talk on the phone, they don't think that I'm Korean. All right, fine. I got it.

Bobby ([01:06](#)):

I came to America when I was four years old. Yes, '72, 1972. Back then Korea was a third world country. No indoor plumbing. If you're coming from a third world country, you're not seeing the supermarket. Family came and they can't read English. They see a can with the pictures and they're like, "Oh, that looks good." They took it, ate it, it tasted good and then later on they realized it was dog food.

Speaker 6 ([01:33](#)):

Is that really true?

Bobby ([01:34](#)):

Yes, it's true, it's true. Eating dog food is not going to kill you. There was a small group of Korean immigrants, so, they all kind of tight knit because of that. Everybody in the neighborhood. Across the street, there was somebody, down the street there was somebody else. There was a Caucasian kid that was a couple of years older than me and I don't really speak English, I just want to play. I'm four, five, I'm board. He was out there, he had a bike, so I started tagging along with and he was like, "What's your name?" He said, "I'm going to call you Bobby." I said, "All right." There you go.

Tiffany ([02:20](#)):

I'm just in the mood for curly. I always change my hair. You can ask him, I'm always changing my hair.

Bobby ([02:25](#)):

This one?

Tiffany ([02:26](#)):

I'm Tiffany. I'm 21 years old. I grew up during the time when we had recreation centers and all of that, and I just want you guys to remember Just think about when we actually had pal centers and recreation centers and how we actually had relationships with the police officers in our neighborhoods and we were actually cool with them.

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Tiffany ([02:50](#)):

Have you guys noticed that ever since they took all of our afterschool programs, pal centers, recreation centers, or whatever, either everyone wants to be a gang banger, everyone is going to jail, everyone's high on Xanax, Molly, or any type of drug. Everybody's pregnant. There's no guidance. It's rare you will find a 21 year old female with less than two kids in Baltimore City. That's just something to think about.

Bobby ([03:18](#)):

\$10 dollars, [inaudible 00:03:20] so that's \$4.60. Right. All right, great.

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