Lean your head all the way back.

I felt some instant relief.

Let me know if it’s too hot.

Close your eyes.

Dee took off her gloves and threw them out.

Hey Dee, how’s she doing?

Next, was the conditioner.

Then she added a neutralizing shampoo a few times to stop the chemical reaction.
L'cherie: Get up so you can sit under this dryer.

I'm about to put her under the dryer so the conditioner can set.

I sat next to L'cherie.

My mom and See left.

And I ate the happy meal my mom got me.
and stared at the wood panel walls,

Then I waited

1:15pm

watched stylists get supplies,

Stared at the bits of hair on the floor...

flipped through magazines

snuck in a glance at Cherokee and admired her proportional face

1:45pm

and listened to the dryer hum

at some point I fell asleep

YA DONE HERE EBONY I'M GONNA RINSE YA OUT

2:15pm
WHERE'D MY MOM GO?

SHE'S WAITIN' IN THE OTHER ROOM

DIFFERENT RIGHT?

NO GOING BACK NOW

YEAH

HOW YA WANT YOUR HAIR DONE?

I watched my mom through the mirror.

She looked uncomfortable and... and kinda worried.
LIKE THIS, LIKE TATIYANA ALI.

LET ME SEE HERE

UMMM...

HM... UH

THE FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR'S TATIYANA ALI INTERVIEW

ASHLEY BANKS GETS REAL

UMM... YOUR HAIR IS A DIFFERENT UMM... A, IT'S DIFFERENT FROM HERS.

DAILY HAIR ROUTINE

FAVORITE PRODUCTS
How 'bout I give you some bangs?
Okay, and some loose waves?
Sure, your hair won't look like her's though. You'd need a weave.

Join the caravans of love... are you ready?

Tatiyana Ali had fantasy hair.
While I had plain old basic hair, hair whose default direction was up and out.

You stupid bitch!!

Bend your head down.

Keni Oil

Dee put this sweet smelling oil in my hair before she pressed it.

Aunt Phyllis, I'm about done.

Alright I'm getting up.
I stood up, untied the plastic sheet, and hung it over the chair. Then, I turned around...

Mom, can I have a bottle of the Kemi oyl?

Whatta ya think of your hair?

I like it. Thanks Dee.
WHAT'S THE TOTAL DEE DEE?

SIXTY DOLLARS SINCE EBONY HAD VIRGIN HAIR. IT WILL BE CHEAPER NEXT TIME.

My mother always stacked her money in her bra.

$20...30...40...60... AND HOW MUCH FOR A BOTTLE OF THAT KEMI OYL?

THEY COME IN DIFFERENT SIZES. LET ME SEE... THE BIG ONE IS $20. THE MEDIUM IS $10. AND WE

HAVE SAMPLE SIZES FOR $3.

WHAT THE... THAT MUCH FOR SOME OIL... I'LL TAKE A SAMPLE.
Dee and my mom hug one more time. Then, Dee hugs me.

**REMEMBER TO WRAP YOUR HAIR EVERY NIGHT**

Stop tucking your hair behind your ears like some white girl.