

Ms. Dependable

By

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INT - MYA'S OFFICE- DAY

MISTI DRUMMOND, female mid to late 20s, enters the office with flowers. MYA TURNBO is an African American female, early to mid 30s, caramel complexion with a bob or a short cut. Mya sits behind her desk. Plaques adorn the wall. Misti sits the flowers on Mya's desk.

Mya opens the card on the flowers. The card reads "To: You From: Nick."

MYA (CONT)

That man doesn't understand "no."

MISTI

Try telling him yes.

Mya pushes the flowers back.

MYA

Did Evan ever send over the itinerary for next week?

MISTI

I just forwarded it over.

Mya looks down at her phone. She looks back up to the flowers.

MYA

They are pretty.

MISTI

Have you found a date for Alyssa's wedding?

MYA

I'm *in* the wedding.

Mya closes her laptop and packs it up.

MISTI

You can still bring a date. Mya, do it for me.

Mya stands up.

MYA

Is everything set for tonight? I don't want any surprises - no strippers.

(CONTINUED)

MISTI
No strippers

MYA
No dancers

Misti pouts

MISTI
Fine.

INT - BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

RECEPTIONIST sits at the desk. Mya enters and greets everyone in the shop. ALYSSA TURNBO, African American female, late 20s, has a CUSTOMER in her chair.

Mya eyes Alyssa.

CUSTOMER
He had the nerve to say, "you're not getting no younger." I told him, "well, you're not getting no richer."

Alyssa motions for five more minutes.

CUSTOMER (CONT)
My Richard and I would have been married for forty years this November. That man could make me laugh like nobody else - just silly.

Alyssa turns the customer to the mirror to check out her reflection. Customer looks at her reflection with approval.

CUSTOMER (CONT)
Perfect as always.

Customer reaches for her purse and pulls out cash.

CUSTOMER (CONT)
I gave you a little extra. Go down to one of those lingerie shops and get him something special.

ALYSSA
Thank you, Ms. Gene.

Customer stands up and speaks to the rest of the patrons in the shop as she leaves.

(CONTINUED)

ALYSSA (CONT)

Why do you always have to be so punctual?

MYA

Why do you always have to be late?

ALYSSA

This weekend, I can be whatever I want. I'm the bride.

Mya smirks.

ALYSSA (CONT)

My purse is in the back. Let me get it. Then, we'll be set.

Alyssa walks back to the closed off section of the shop.

Mya stands in the middle of the shop checking her phone. After a minute passes, Mya becomes visibly frustrated and walks to the back.

Alyssa is laying on the floor in her doorway. When Mya spots her, she runs to her. She begins to scream for help.

INT - HOSPITAL - FAMILY/WAITING ROOM

Mya, CHANCE TURNBO, CHARITY TURNBO, EDWIN HASKIN AND YVETTE TURNBO are situated in the family room. Dr. NICOLI JAMES stands before them to brief them on Alyssa's situation.

NICOLI

We've gotten Alyssa stable.

Yvette breathes a sigh of relief.

NICOLI (CONT)

Alyssa's kidneys are in very bad shape.

CHANCE

How bad?

NICOLI

From what we can tell, she's in the latter stages of chronic renal failure.

Charity moves to Yvette to comfort her. Edwin stands up.

(CONTINUED)

EDWIN

Chonic? Wait. Are you saying -

Nicoli raises his hand to stop Edwin.

NICOLI

Alyssa needs a transplant. We've already put her on a list for a donor. However, she is sitting at spot 93,001. I know this is a lot to take in right now. But, if one of you are willing to be a donor, this could make it a lot easier.

EDWIN

I'll do it.

Nicoli smiles at Edwin.

NICOLI

Do you know your blood type?

Edwin shakes his head.

NICOLI

Chance, can you take him to the lab? Anyone else?

YVETTE

We're all willing.

NICOLI

Well, take them all. I'll put in the order.

Nicoli walks out of the room. Mya walks out after him.

INT - HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Nicoli walks down the hallway.

MYA

Hey

Nicoli turns around and sees Mya. He stops as she approaches.

MYA (CONT)

I've had men do lots of things for my attention but this is a first.

Nicoli laughs.

(CONTINUED)

NICOLI

You didn't seem to like the flowers. So, I had to raise the bar.

Mya laughs.

NICOLI (CONT)

Chance is like the brother I never had. I wanted to make sure everything that could be done was done.

Mya gives a warm smile.

MYA

So, what aren't you saying?

Nicoli starts to speak. Mya stops him with a look.

NICOLI

Alyssa has a rare blood type. Your mom won't be a match. I doubt Edwin will be either. So, her siblings is the best chance she has.

(Beat)

It's going to be okay.

Nicoli reaches for Mya's hand. He gives it a squeeze. He gives a reassuring smile before continuing his walk down the hallway.

INT - HOSPITAL - ALYSSA'S ROOM - EVENING

Alyssa is asleep in a hospital bed. Mya sits in the visitor's chair working on her laptop. Alyssa eyes open just enough to tell she is waking up.

ALYSSA

Did you cancel the venue?

MYA

The venue, the caterer, the florist, the photographer, everybody.

ALYSSA

What about the guests?

MYA

Them too. I'm sure your room will be filled with flowers in the next couple of hours.

(CONTINUED)

Alyssa motions for Mya to help her.

ALYSSA
Sit me up

Mya raises the back of the bed for Alyssa.

MYA
How are you?

ALYSSA
I'm great.

Alyssa chuckles.

ALYSSA (CONT)
Grandma told me all those sodas
would catch up to me one day.
(Beat)
First, when they told me what was
wrong, I thought they said anal
failure. I started crying; all
those squats for nothing.

Mya laughs.

ALYSSA (CONT)
How's Ed?

MYA
That man loves you.

Alyssa smiles.

MYA (CONT)
I sent him to the cafeteria.

ALYSSA
Good. I don't want him sitting up
here staring at me all day.

MYA
Did you know about any of this?

ALYSSA
I hadn't been feeling well but it
wasn't anything I couldn't handle.
I would've told you - promise.
(Beat)
Mya, I'm scared.

MYA
That's a first.

Alyssa gives a weak laugh.

MYA (CONT)
You can't die. You know that,
right? There's no way that you can
leave me alone with Charity.

Mya's phone rings.

MYA
Hello
(Beat)
Okay.

INT - NICOLI'S OFFICE-DAY

Nicoli sits behind his desk smiling. Charity wrangles her two children. Edwin paces. Yvette sits in one of the visitor's chairs. Chance and Mya lean on the wall.

YVETTE
We've got good news.

NICOLI
Two matches

YVETTE
Praise the Lord

Edwin begins to cry.

NICOLI
Charity and Mya

EDWIN
So, what's next?

NICOLI
First, we've got to figure out our donor. Then, there's some additional testing that we have to do to conclude if we can go forward with the procedure.

EDWIN
How long does that take?

NICOLI
On average, one to six months. We're going to try to get it done as quickly as possible.

(CONTINUED)

CHARITY

So, are we going to flip a coin or something?

NICOLI

How about we let the two of you talk?

Nicoli stands up. Yvette, Chance and Edwin file out the room.

CHARITY

Go with Mema.

Charity's children run after Yvette. Nicoli exits and closes the door.

CHARITY

You want to do it, don't you? Save the day like you always do.

MYA

Actually, I think you need to do this.

CHARITY

Need to?

MYA

It would be good. Everybody in this family has given up something for Charity. Now, it's time that you return the favor.

CHARITY

I ain't never asked none of y'all for nothing.

Mya sighs.

CHARITY (CONT)

Why don't you do it? You ain't got nothing to lose - no kids, no man.

MYA

Kids and men aren't the only things in life.

Charity stands up.

CHARITY

The answer is "no."

Charity walks out of the office.

(CONTINUED)

CHARITY (O.S)

Come on

Nicoli, Chance, and Edwin look back in the room as Charity storms out.

EXT - HOSPITAL - DAY

Edwin and Mya sit outside the hospital entrance.

EDWIN

Charity can't do it, okay. You can.

MYA

She'll do it. She just needs some time.

EDWIN

You're a match though.

MYA

Listen, I know Charity-

Nicoli walks out of the doors and walks towards the pair.

EDWIN

We're not talking about her. We're talking about you. You can do it, right?

MYA

I can't. It's complicated.

EDWIN

Your sister is dying. What's complicated?

MYA

Give Charity a day or so

EDWIN

And I thought my family was screwed up

Edwin pushes past Mya. Nicoli stares at Mya. They share a moment. Mya goes to her car.

INT - MYA'S HOUSE -BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mya sits cross legged on her bad in her pajamas. Her laptop is in front of her. She types feverishly. She picks up her phone and dials a number. They speak for a minute. She hangs up disappointed. She goes back to typing.

Her alarm goes off on her phone. She goes to the bathroom and stands in front of the medicine cabinet. She opens it.

INT - HOSPITAL - ALYSSA'S ROOM - DAY

Edwin sits by Alyssa's bed. Alyssa is sitting up. The TV is on.

ALYSSA

You need to calm down. If she says it's complicated, it's complicated.

EDWIN

Why are you giving her a pass?

ALYSSA

I'm not giving her anything. I know my sister. She's right. Charity will come around.

EDWIN

And if she doesn't?

ALYSSA

We'll cross the bridge when we get there.

EDWIN

We're there, Lysa. Why does it feel like I'm the only one worried about losing you?

Alyssa motions for Edwin to come close. He leans in towards her and they share a kiss.

ALYSSA

I was thinking. I don't want to wait. We should get married next Saturday just like we planned.

EDWIN

Where?

ALYSSA

I don't care. We can do it right here if we have to. As long as we're together.

(CONTINUED)

Mya walks into the room. Edwin looks back and scowls.

MYA
May I come in?

Alyssa looks at Edwin.

EDWIN
Yeah

MYA
I've been looking online. There are a couple of websites for living donors. I connected with a lady out of Austin. It seems promising. I'm waiting on a callback.

ALYSSA
I'm sure it'll be fine. I've got another project for you though. Ed and I have decided to move forward with our wedding date.

Mya questions Alyssa with her eyes.

ALYSSA (CONT)
So, I need you to call the florist and the caterer. It's just going to be family but I want every flower that I ordered.

Charity walks in the room.

CHARITY
I'll do it.

Alyssa, Edwin and Mya turn to look at her. Alyssa smiles.

CHARITY
(Looks at Mya)
And don't think that I'm doing this because of you.

Edwin goes to her and hugs her.

INT - MYA'S HOUSE - FOYER - EVENING

Mya walks to the front door. She opens it to find Chance on the porch.

CHANCE
You called it.

Mya turns around without responding. She walks towards the kitchen. Chance pulls the door closed as he enters the house.

INT - MYA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Mya looks in her refrigerator.

Chance sits at the bar.

MYA
[Do] You want something to drink?

CHANCE
Lemonade

Mya makes two drinks. She sits one in front of Chance.

CHANCE (CONT)
How were you so sure she'd come around?

MYA
Because I practically raised her and under all of that attitude is a scared little girl who just wants to be loved.

CHANCE
Can I ask you something?

MYA
No

CHANCE
You don't even know what I was going to ask.

MYA
I practically raised you too. I have my reasons, Chance.

CHANCE
What kind of reasons?

MYA
Personal reasons.

CHANCE
What happens if something happens during testing?

(CONTINUED)

MYA

I found a living donor in Austin.
I've already talked to Nic. Both of
them will undergo testing. If
something happens with Charity, we
have a backup. See, handled.

CHANCE

I need to use the restroom.

Chance stands up. He heads to bathroom.

MYA

Use the one in my bedroom. I need
to get a plumber out here to fix
the other toilet.

INT - MYA'S HOUSE - MYA'S BATHROOM

Chance washes his hands.

CHANCE

Sis, you got any aspirin in here?

Chance opens up the medicine cabinet behind the mirror.
Numerous prescription bottles fill the cabinet. Chance
removes one and reads the label.

INT - MYA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Mya is in the kitchen washing vegetables.

Chance walks into the room.

MYA

Are you staying for dinner?

Chance shakes the pill bottle. Mya turns around. She
advances towards a teary eyed Chance.

MYA (CONT)

Give me those.

Chance keeps the bottle out of her reach. They struggle.

MYA (CONT)

Give them to me!

Mya walks away and hits a wall.

CHANCE

I guess this is your reason.

(CONTINUED)

MYA

Don't judge me. Don't you sit there
and judge me like you're better.
Like-like you're some sort of
saint.

CHANCE

Mya

MYA

Get out.

CHANCE

Mya

MYA

Get out!

Chance walks towards her and tries to embrace her. Mya
refuses it.

INT - HOSPITAL - ALYSSA'S ROOM -MORNING

Mya walks into the room.

ALYSSA

I was waiting for you to come by.

Mya walks to Alyssa and kisses her forehead.

ALYSSA (CONT)

I haven't had coffee in five days.
This has got to be illegal.

(BEAT)

Chance came by before his shift.

MYA

Figures

ALYSSA

I'm glad he found them.

Mya cuts her eyes at Alyssa.

ALYSSA (CONT)

I am.

MYA

I'm sure he already told Mama.

Alyssa shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

ALYSSA

He just told me because he don't want me mad at you.

MYA

That's my Chance.

ALYSSA

You need to tell them.

MYA

Who?

ALYSSA

All of them. It's time.

(BEAT)

If you don't want to tell them, I can.

MYA

I got it.

INT - HOSPITAL - FAMILY ROOM

Yvette, Charity, Edwin and Nicolai sit on the couch. Chance sits on the arm of the couch closest to the place Mya is standing.

MYA

I know there's been some questions about why I-

Mya takes a deep breath and swallows hard.

MYA (CONT)

I have HIV.

YVETTE

What?

MYA

And it's killing me to see my sister laid up in some hospital bed asking God for a miracle when it was always supposed to be me. I was supposed to be the miracle. He'd already worked it out. And now - well, there. You wanted to know. That's why.

Mya leaves the room. Yvette and Charity are immobilized by the news. Chance follows Mya.

(CONTINUED)

Mya is stopped in the hallway. Chance puts his hand on her shoulder.

MYA

Just leave me alone, okay?

Chance lingers for a moment then walks away. A moment later another hand rests on Mya's shoulder.

MYA

I said leave me alone.

Mya spins around to see Nicolai. Mya drops her head.

MYA (CONT)

What do you think of me now?

Nicoli lifts her chin.

NICOLI

I'm not scared of you.

Nicoli kisses Mya.

MYA

My sister's getting married on Saturday. I need a date.

INT - HOSPITAL - ALYSSA'S ROOM

Edwin is dressed in a tuxedo. Alyssa is in her gown in the bed. The family is dressed in their Sunday's best. A minister stands before Edwin and Alyssa. Nicolai stands beside Mya. The room goes up into glorious applause as Edwin kisses his bride.