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)
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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 -

Nicol 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.

Nicol 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.

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

INT - HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Nicol walks down the hallway.

MYA
Hey

Nicol 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.

Nicol laughs.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: 5.

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?

Nicolai 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.

Nicolai 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 the 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.

(CONTINUED)
That’s a first.

Alyssa gives a weak laugh.

You can’t die. You know that, right? There’s no way that you can leave me alone with Charity.

Mya’s phone rings.

Hello
(Beat)
Okay.

INT - NICOLI’S OFFICE-DAY

Nicolı 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.

We’ve got good news.

Two matches

Praise the Lord

Edwin begins to cry.

Charity and Mya

So, what’s next?

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.

How long does that take?

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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

NICOLI
How about we let the two of you talk?

Nicol 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)
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 bed 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?

Nicolai lifts her chin.

    NICOLI
    I’m not scared of you.

Nicolai 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.