

LOVE WON'T LET ME WAIT

written by

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FADE IN.

INT. INSIDE CHARMAINE'S CONDOMINIUM - MORNING

CHARMAINE'S (32) 5'9", beautiful, upward-bound, and Chief Operating Officer at Johnson Memorial Hospital.

She walks through the condo again ensuring all appliances are off.

She waters the orchids while singing to them and gently rubbing their petals.

She adjusts the window blinds then poses in front of the full-length mirror.

INT. CHARMAINE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

She looks into the mirror, applies lipstick and blush, scoops some styling gel, runs it through her hair, washes her hands then dries them.

INT. CHARMAINE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She inhales the vanishing aroma of bacon, gathers her briefcase and keys and exits her condo.

EXT. CONDO HALLWAY

Charmaine starts towards the elevator and runs into her neighbor, MR. NEWHART (70's), distinguished, and walks a cane. He pushes the elevator buttons again.

MR. NEWHART

Good morning, Ms. Walker.

Mr. Newhart straightens his handkerchief. He pulls his comb from the inside jacket pocket, fashions his hair and returns it.

CHARMAINE

Good morning, Mr. Newhart. How are you today?

Charmaine observes her cell phone again to verify the time.

MR. NEWHART

The world is sure a better place
with you in it.

CHARMAINE

You're a Mack from way back,
aren't you Mr. Newhart?

The elevator door open and they enter.

INT. INSIDE ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

MR. NEWHART

I do the best I can for an old
man.

CHARMAINE

And a poet and didn't even know
it. You get my day off to a
pleasant start every morning. Why
are you up so early in the morning
every day?

MR. NEWHART

I run my errands early to get out
of the way of the crazies out
there later in the day.

The elevator doors open.

INT. CONDO LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

CHARMAINE

You're a very smart man,
Mr. Newhart. Have a great
day.

INT./EXT. LOBBY - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Charmaine tries to open car door but drops the keys. She bends
to pick them up and the phone rings. She lets it go to voice
mail while opening the door.

INT. INSIDE CHARMAINE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

It rings again and again but she doesn't recognize the number.
It rings again as she's pulls out of the parking lot.

CHARMAINE
Hello, who's calling?

SANTINO'S (40ish), curly hair, tattooed, and next in charge at the site.

SANTINO
This is Santino. I work for Devon at the construction site.

CHARMAINE
Well, Devon left an hour ago. He said he was going to work, but evidently he didn't.

SANTINO
Miss, you don't understand. There's been an explosion and Devon is tramped under tons of debris.

CHARMAINE
What? Not my Devon. Please say it isn't so.

SANTINO
Can you get here as soon as possible?

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

Emergency vehicles begin to arrive on the scene.

INT. CHARMAINE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

CHARMAINE
I'll be there as soon as I can.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

FOSTER ARRINGTON'S (34) arrogant, confident, smart ass, fellow COO and Charmaine's nemesis.

MARILYN'S (42), driven, focused, Director of Revenue Cycle for last 5 years, with desires to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Health System in 3 years.

FOSTER
Marilyn, how long are we going to hold up this meeting for Charmaine? I have

other sites to visit to chastise some delinquent staff members.

MARILYN

We'll give her five minutes and then start the meeting. She can do her presentation another time.

Marilyn distributes information packets around the conference table.

FOSTER

No need to wait.

Foster pulls out flash drive from his pocket. He tosses it from hand to hand almost dropping it.

MARILYN

And why's that, Arrington?

FOSTER

I took the liberty of preparing a presentation on the same topic.

Foster's plug drive into the computer and accesses his presentation.

MARILYN

You don't say.

FOSTER

I do say. We're having similar issues in our departments. I can test my report here before presenting to my physicians.

MARILYN

You don't trust Charmaine's analytic abilities?

FOSTER

I'm not saying that at all.

MARILYN

Then exactly what are you saying?

FOSTER

I'm just better at what I do than she.

Foster pops his collar.

MARILYN

Are you the cause of her delay? Did you stop past her home and flatten her tires or siphon her gas?

FOSTER

I'd never do so a thing. I do love the mind games and have disposed of her in my dreams.

MARILYN

Don't even joke about anything like that to me.

Phone rings.

MARILYN

Hello?

CHARMAINE

It's me, Marilyn.

MARILYN

Where the hell are you? I can't keep covering. Resolve this shit with your man ASAP.

CHARMAINE

But Marilyn...

MARILYN

But shit. You're either going to the Employee Assistance Program immediately or I'm terminating you.

Charmaine begins to cry and Marilyn runs out of the conference room.

CHARMAINE

Marilyn, please listen to me. I'm begging you.

MARILYN

No more.

CHARMAINE

There's been an accident at the construction site and Devon's been buried alive.

Dodging through traffic.

MARILYN

Oh dear Lord, I'm so sorry darling. Are you sure?

CHARMAINE

One of his employees called and told me to get to the site immediately.

MARILYN

Handle your business. Call me with an update real soon.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Marilyn reenters the conference room to break the bad news to Charmaine's colleagues.

INT. CHARMAINE'S CAR - LATER

Charmaine weaves through traffic, runs red lights almost striking pedestrians. She opens the windows and the sunroof. She inhales and exhales deeply while crying nonstop.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MOMENTS LATER

Charmaine arrives and parks. Emergency personnel contemplate the situation. Onlookers discuss the odds of survival. Charmaine slips through the tapped off area and officers attempt to restrain her.

SANTINO

Let her through officers.

Santino and Charmaine walk to the office.

CHARMAINE

How do you know me?

SANTINO

He kept pictures of you on his desk.

CHARMAINE

Were there pictures of other women, too?

Santino deliberately ignores her question.

SANTINO

He told me if anything ever happened to him to contact you.

CHARMAINE

That seems very odd for someone who excluded you from their life.

SANTINO

Well I don't know about all that.

CHARMAINE

Does your company have a history of accidents?

SANTINO

Nothing to this magnitude.

Retrieves a bottle of spring water and offers it to Charmaine and she declines.

CHARMAINE

That's no consolation.

SANTINO

He spoke about you all the time.

CHARMAINE

Have there been any updates? Can they find him? Is he still alive?

SANTINO

It's a very delicate situation. To further complicate matters, there's a gas line below which could erupt at any moment.

CHARMAINE

My last words to him were very cruel. I'll never forgive myself if he's dead.

Santino pats Charmaine on the shoulder.

SANTINO

You can't blame yourself for what happened.

CHARMAINE

If I'd just let things be, he wouldn't have left early and been involved in this horrific accident. So it's indirectly my fault.

Several knocks on office door.

SANTINO

Come in.

LUIGI'S (45) balding, multiple piercing, and involved in construction since dropping out of high school.

LUIGI

Hey Boss, we've done a headcount and everyone's here except for Devon.

SANTINO

Thanks.

CHARMAINE

What's your position in this company?

SANTINO

I'm Devon's second in command. I run things when he's not here.

LUIGI

The police want to talk to Devon's next of kin. There's no one listed so they'd like to talk to Ms. Charmaine.

CHARMAINE

Why me? Does someone know something they're not telling me?

LUIGI

I asked the same question and they say its standard procedure.

SANTINO

I'm sure they're routine questions. We can tell them you'll come down to the station after you regain your composure.

LUIGI

Or they can send an officer to your residence. I'm sure they'll understand.

CHARMAINE

Those are wonderful suggestions.

SANTINO

Please keep us informed of any updates.
If there's anything we can do to help
you through this, please let us know
immediately.

LUIGI

The entire crew loved Devon.

CHARMAINE

I'll be right here on the site for a
while.

Charmaine exits the office.

INT. TINA'S APARTMENT -KITCHEN - EVENING

TINA AND LESLIE, (33), Charmaine's best friends and sorority
sisters.

TINA

Leslie, are you watching the news?

Tina removes spinach from the salad spinner and places in bowl.

INT. LESLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LESLIE

Yes I am, baby. What a terrible
accident.

Leslie removes stockings and panties, and then tosses them
towards the bedroom.

LESLIE

Oh, what a relief it is.

TINA

Have you spoken to Charmaine to make
sure she's okay?

LESLIE

I've tried her several times but she
didn't answer.

INT. TINA'S KITCHEN

TINA

You know damn well she's tripping right about now.

Tina adds ingredients to the salad, drizzles dressing followed by shredded Parmesan cheese.

LESLIE

I know I'm wrong girl, but I hope that muthafucka is dead.

TINA

He's been dogging our girl and Karma has finally caught up with that bitch.

LESLIE

If there's anyone who deserves to get it, it's Devon. Listen to us, we've already buried him.

TINA

And let the church say Amen. Do you believe any of the rumors you've heard about Devon?

LESLIE

You've got to be a little more specific as they're quite a few.

TINA

I'm not talking about the usual got a few girls on the side shit.

LESLIE

What the fuck are you talking about?

TINA

I've heard he was doing some foul shit girl.

LESLIE

Girl, speak up and talk normal. You know damn well you don't have a bit of hood in you.

TINA

Whatever. I heard he was a big man on the streets.

LESLIE

Translate.

TINA

I've heard he's involved in all kinds of things like prostitution, numbers and some other shady shit.

LESLIE

Well he's a jail bird, so anything's possible. But shouldn't we give him the benefit of the doubt that he turned his life around?

TINA

Thirty percent over the first six months and sixty-seven percent over a three-year period.

LESLIE

Okay, Professor Tina. And what about the rest?

TINA

They're smart enough not to get caught up again.

LESLIE

So, you don't believe anyone that's been incarcerated can change their stripes forever?

TINA

I'd say maybe three percent.

LESLIE

And Devon couldn't possibly be in that number?

TINA

Hell no. You don't like him either.

LESLIE

Yeah but for how he treats our girl, only. Wait, there's Charmaine on television.

TINA

It explains why we couldn't reach her. Do you think we should go console her?

Tina begins to get dressed.

LESLIE

You know we gotta go. She'd be there
for us in a heartbeat.

Leslie searches for her car keys while staying glued to the TV.

TINA

Her hair is still sharp though.

LESLIE

Yeah, that bitch.

TINA

Who's that fine ass construction worker
standing next to her?

LESLIE

He can excavate my pussy anytime.

TINA

Back off mamma, I've got dibs. You had
first shot at the last guy. I'll meet
you out front in five minutes.

INT. JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

DWIGHT'S (34), married, 2 kids, recently hired, Foster's friend
since childhood and an adulterer.

DWIGHT

Foster, your presentation was on the
money earlier today.

FOSTER

I'm glad you thought so. Marilyn didn't
seem to give a damn one way or another.

Foster and Dwight exit the conference room.

EXT. HALLWAY LEADING TO ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Brief walk to elevator lobby.

EXT. ELEVATOR LOBBY

DWIGHT

Marilyn is aware of your skills.
(MORE)

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

And for those who aren't, you damn sure make it a point to tell them.

FOSTER

I'm just a very, very confident Brother with the skills to back it up.

DWIGHT

You are a pompous, egotistical, self-centered, know-it-all douche bag.

FOSTER

Really?

DWIGHT

But I still love you because you're consistent. You're always you and never front for anyone.

FOSTER

Any other insults while you're at it?

DWIGHT

To be so confident, you always need a 'job well done' or a pat on the ass every time you do something. And if you don't get it, you get very upset.

FOSTER

What you trying to say, dawg?

DWIGHT

Nothing I haven't said over the years. It's all about you and nobody else. I'm the only person still in your life from back in the day.

FOSTER

So you're my shrink now?

DWIGHT

Have been since we were teenagers. I need to present you with a big ass bill.

Playfully punches Foster in the arm.

FOSTER

You won this round, punk.

DWIGHT

So what did you think about the breaking news today?

FOSTER

What news?

DWIGHT

You've just proven my point. I'm talking about Charmaine's boyfriend possibly being buried alive.

FOSTER

Oh yeah. She'll be alright, she's a big girl.

DWIGHT

Wow. That's all you have to say?

FOSTER

What the hell do you want from me? It's not my problem.

DWIGHT

It's something behind your outright hatred for this woman and I'm going to find out what it is sir.

Dwight looks at his watch and heads for the stairwell. Foster follows.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

FOSTER

She's just another obstacle in my way. Nothing or no one will prevent me from reaching the mountaintop.

DWIGHT

Are you sure you don't have feelings for this woman subconsciously?

FOSTER

Read my lips. I have no feelings one way or another for that witch.

EXT. GROUND FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

DWIGHT

You're not hooked up at the moment.
She's having issues with her man.

(MORE)

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

This might be a perfect opportunity for
you.

FOSTER

Even I'm not that low to prey on
Charmaine in her current situation.

DWIGHT

Dude, she's been going through shit
with this brother since we've been
working here.

FOSTER

Even if I were slightly interested, she
hates my guts.

DWIGHT

So have you heard from Twania
lately?

FOSTER

I haven't heard a word. It's like she
dropped off the face of the earth.
She's cut me off completely.

DWIGHT

Why don't you just go by her job?

FOSTER

Have you lost your damn mind?

DWIGHT

You know her jogging path and where she
works out. Why don't you go and try to
start a dialogue?

FOSTER

She made it perfectly clear she
didn't want to see me this or any
other lifetime.

DWIGHT

Just give her a little time. Turn it
over to the Lord and it'll be alright.

FOSTER

You have more faith in this matter than I do.

DWIGHT

I've got to run to my next meeting. I'll catch up with you tomorrow.

FOSTER

Kiss the wife and kids for me.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

Large floodlights illuminate the night as man and machine work in harmony. Dump trucks continuously haul away rock, steel and other debris.

The Command Center halts all operations. A ladder is lowered into the pit and several workers descend to investigate.

Charmaine, Tina and Leslie walk across the street to the hotel.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

They check in and take the elevator up to their suite.

CHARMAINE

Ladies, I truly appreciate you staying with me during this ordeal.

TINA

We've always had each other's backs.

The ladies hug and cry.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

The ladies enter and split up to do a complete inspection. They return to the living room and Leslie turns on the T.V.

TINA

This is really nice.

CHARMAINE

Yes, truly.

LESLIE

I could get my freak on here.

TINA

You could get your freak on in a broom closet.

LESLIE

Go to hell, Leslie.

Leslie begins to twerk and Tina joins her.

TINA

Why don't you get your ass out of the window and get some rest?

CHARMAINE

I want to be awake when they find him. I'm going to hold on to him for dear life.

LESLIE

Yeah but you're going to look like shit if you don't get any sleep.

TINA

Besides, that fine ass Santino said he'd call me with any updates.

Tina removes wig then stocking cap unfurling her long, jet-black hair. She then removes her green contacts and, finally, jewelry.

LESLIE

Why is he calling you?

TINA

I told him Charmaine was too distraught. He's also taking me out on a date.

LESLIE

What about me? You didn't think to give him my number in case you were occupied?

TINA

I love you Leslie, but you're the enemy just like any other woman when it comes to finding a man, baby.

LESLIE

Oh not you Ms. *I-don't-need-nobody cause-I'm-every-woman-mantra quoting-hussy.*

TINA

Yes, I have a big ass S between my breasts. But a sista stills needs to be fucked and hard.

LESLIE

You bitch.

Leslie places her hands on her hips then burst into laughter.

TINA

Yeah, but I'm a bitch with a date, okay.

INT. LARGE PIT AT CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

The remaining debris is now being removed manually so not to injure Devon.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - CONTINUOUS

CHARMAINE

There seems to be some new activity across the street.

Charmaine moves to another window to get a better view.

LESLIE

There's a parade of news crews coming down the block.

TINA

I wonder why Santino didn't call me.

Tina searches for her phone.

LESLIE

With all those news vans, someone's gotta be broadcasting something.

TINA

Oh shit, he called several times. My damn phone is on vibrate.

CHARMAINE

Just grab y'all shit and let's go.

LESLIE

Wait a minute. There's a special news bulletin coming across the bottom of the screen.

INT. ACTION NEWS 6 STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

The station logo is being displayed.

STUDIO ASSISTANT (O.C.)

We interrupt your regularly scheduled programming to bring breaking news. Here's our award-winning news team Craig Love and Aleshia Derson.

INT. ACTION NEWS 6 STUDIO - LIVE - CONTINUOUS

CRAIG LOVE

Thanks Jim. There's been an unbelievable development that would've stymied even Sherlock Holmes. There's no trace of Devon Morgan.

ALESHIA DERSON

Personal items have been found but no trace of his body. This operation has changed from a search and rescue to a crime scene.

CRAIG LOVE

Police dogs are now searching the entire site. The question now is, where is Devon Morgan and is he alive?

ALESHIA DERSON

We'll update you as we receive additional details. We're Aleshia Derson and Craig Love. See you when we see you.

STUDIO ASSISTANT (O.C.)

We now return you to your scheduled programming.

CHARMAINE

What do they mean there's no fucking body? Then what happened to him? Did he just disappear into thin air?

LESLIE

It sounds like something else is going on, baby.

TINA

Let the authorities do their job. At least there's a possibility Devon's still alive.

CHARMAINE

Fuck that shit. I'm going down to the site to check for myself. They had to miss something.

Charmaine gathers her things and runs towards the door. She trips and hits her head on the coffee table. Her friends dial 911.