

THE DEVIL'S AMONGST US

written by

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TEASER

FADE IN.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

PASTOR JAKE WILLIAMS'S (38) African American, tall, handsome, and in his first role as a Senior Pastor for the Damnsville Baptist Church. He was an Associate Pastor for 3 years at his previous church.

He closes the passenger side door for his wife BARBARA, (35) Caucasian, wealthy family, and *trying* to be supportive of her husband's dreams.

She pulls down the visor, looks into the mirror and begins applying lipstick.

SHELIA WASHINGTON'S (36) single, attractive, well educated, with plans on making the pastor her personal property.

She's exiting the sanctuary heading towards the parking when she spots Pastor Williams and blindsides him.

SHELIA

Why hello Pastor, I hope all is well.

Pastor tries to shake her hand but she hugs him in a vice like grip.

Her hands slide from his back to his ass and she squeezes.

Pastor finally breaks free and straightens his suit.

PASTOR

Yes it is, Sister Sheila.

SHEILA

God has blessed us with a glorious day.

PASTOR

Yes, HE has. I'm taking the wife to dine at an outside cafe.

SHEILA

Oh, she's in the car? I hadn't even noticed.

Sheila waves and smiles insincerely. She turns up her nose then faces the Pastor.

SHEILA (CONT'D)

Pastor, can we discuss Sista Purcell?

PASTOR

Contact my secretary and she'll get you an appointment.

SHEILA

How about dinner?

Pastor deliberately ignores her and changes the topic. He downplays her advances.

PASTOR

What's the gist of your conversation?

SHEILA

It's time for her to sit her old ass, I mean behind, down. She's a relic of how things used to be. It's a new church Pastor.

PASTOR

Contact my secretary and we'll talk. Have a blessed day.

Pastor Williams heart is beating.

SHEILA

And you too, Pastor.

Pastor Williams tries to resist watching her walk away but succumbs then sighs.

Sheila's phone rings.

JUANITA'S (35) sexy, self-employed, independent, and friends with Sheila since grade school. She always has Shelia's back, good, bad or ugly.

JUANITA

Hey gurl, whatcha doing?

SHEILA

Just ran into Pastor Williams.

JUANITA

And how did it go?

PASTOR

I can't stand seeing him with that bitch.

JUANITA

You mean, Sista Purcell?

SHEILA

No, his wife.

JUANITA

Bless her Lord. Did you talk to him about Sista Purcell?

SHEILA

I've got to set up a meeting. That bitch gotta go, too.

JUANITA

She's an old lady. Just give her time. It won't be too much longer.

SHEILA

Not unless I help her along.

JUANITA

You think it'll be worth it?

SHEILA

You damn right. It'll give me even more access to the Pastor. I can take her place at their meetings.

JUANITA

And what about his wife?

SHEILA

She doesn't know what to do with that kind of man.

JUANITA

She's held on to him for 4 years.

SHEILA

That's because he hasn't had his world rocked, yet.

JUANITA

Has he been receptive to your advances?

SHEILA

Not yet.

JUANITA

Can you let the man get his feet wet? He's only been here six months.

INT. PASTOR SNIPES CABIN - NIGHT

PASTOR LEROY SNIPES'S (67) charismatic, trusting, loving husband and self-exiled pastor after 17 years of service with the church.

He sets the alarm, gets under the covers, kisses his wife, and finally puts on his night mask.

SHELLY SNIPES, (55) exiled Church Mother, retired, restless, and aggravated, initiates a conversation.

MRS. SNIPES

Honey, when are we moving back home?

PASTOR SNIPES

As soon as I clear my good name.

MRS. SNIPES

The cabin's fine for a weekend getaway but it's been months.

PASTOR SNIPES

I need you to be strong for me.

MRS. SNIPES

I miss my friends and most importantly, my life.

PASTOR

And so do I, sugar.

MRS. SNIPES

You were never officially accused nor did it ever go to the police.

PASTOR SNIPES

But the rumors had taken hold. The looks of disdain from the congregation were becoming unbearable.

MRS. SNIPES

You could've just ignored those folks.

PASTOR SNIPES

They've begun losing respect for me.

MRS. SNIPES

You should've addressed the church instead of leaving the way you did, Leroy. It made yourself look guilty.

PASTOR SNIPES

They'd already stop believing in me.

MRS. SNIPES

All the years you've devoted to those folks? I'm sure some would've supported you.

PASTOR SNIPES

The bottom line is I didn't keep my eyes on the church finances. No matter how you look at it all roads lead back to me.

MRS. SNIPES

Let's just start a new church.

PASTOR SNIPES

We can't Shelly. Whoever's doing me will do the new pastor. I have no choice but to let them play their hand and expose them.

END TEASER