

BELIEVE HER

Written by

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EXT. FOREST OUTSIDE A DARK CAVE

A time before man.

Grey clouds fill the sky around a dark, eerie forest. Trees as tall as skyscrapers, lush greenery covers the ground. Out of a bush comes a snake slithering along. The snake slithers into the entrance of a cave. Sounds of rattles and hissing start at a hum slowly growing deeper into the cave. Then the voice of a young woman is heard mumbling words. The noises get louder and louder as everything goes darker.

MEDUSA
(in the darkness,
screaming)
I TOLD HIM NO, SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE
ME.

Suddenly bright yellow eyes pop open within the darkness.

EXT. BUSY CITY STREET - DAY

2001. New York. CASSIE GREENWOOD (27, Black, charismatic, prepared for everything, ready for a new adventure) is walking with a coffee in hand, spring in her step, and smile on her face. She is dressed in sharp interview business clothes that presents a little cleavage. Cassie is on her way to interview for her dream company working in social media marketing.

Cassie walks up to large, glass double doors. She stares at her reflection for a second before breathing and going in. Cassie makes her way up to the receptionist desk. A woman hangs up the phone, goes to type on her desktop before peering up and seeing Cassie.

RECEPTIONIST
Good morning, how can I help you
today?

CASSIE
Good morning, I have an interview
with Mrs. Wallace.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh yes, head to the elevator. Go to
the fifth floor. When you get off
the elevator, swing a left and walk
all the way down the hall. Once you
past the breakroom you are almost
there. Then at the end of the hall
is a door with her name.

CASSIE
(happy but stressed hoping she
remembers the instructions) Thank
you so much!

Cassie heads towards the elevator and continues to mouth the directions she was just given. She passes a breakroom and whispers "Almost there". She then gets to a door with a placard on it saying "OLIVIA WALLACE (32, Black, professional, articulate, wants women to succeed): Head of Marketing". Cassie knocks.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Come in!

CASSIE
(opens the door with
slight hesitation)
Hello, I'm Cassie-

OLIVIA
(with great enthusiasm)
Cassie Greenwood! Hi, such a
pleasure. Please (gestures) take a
seat!

CASSIE
(takes a seat)
Pleasure to meet you too.

OLIVIA
(looking at her computer)
Let's pull up your resume. I'm
sorry for not being prepared, just
got out of a meeting. But there is
no excuse.

CASSIE
Oh I completely understand, you are
a very busy woman.

OLIVIA
(lightly laughs)
Ah, flattery will get you a little
farther with me. Ok, so you majored
in media management, how perfect.
Interned with a couple tech
companies. Can you tell me about
your roles over there?

CASSIE
Of course. Most of the time I was
an assistant.

(MORE)

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Get the coffee, help with scheduling. At Everpoint, I was given a chance to create my own campaign with one of our sponsors. It did so well that I landed a full-time gig with the company!

OLIVIA
That's great, so why are you interviewing here?

CASSIE
They did not offer opportunities to rise up within the company. They used third party hires for management positions. I saw more for myself than making a couple posts on a platform every now and then.

OLIVIA
Love to see someone with the drive to move on up. What made you choose to apply to us here at Swipe?

CASSIE
Swipe is a place of opportunity. There are constant openings for higher positions within the company that goes to the workers rather than outside people. Also I looked on the website and there is a plethora of summits and conferences that you can go to on company dime to broaden one's experience. Personally, I love a free trip that benefits me and my career.

OLIVIA
(mildly impressed) I see you did your research. One last question, why should I chose you to be a media representative for Swipe?

CASSIE
My graphic design portfolio proves that I am capable of handling different formats that cater to the companies I've worked for. With this being a dating app, I know my experience dating all the way back to my early college years can help with our more mature demographic.

(MORE)

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Let's be real dating has become
much harder since the internet as
taken over. Plus, I never settle
for anything that isn't the best!

OLIVIA
I must say I am extremely impressed
by you, Cassie. (extends her hand)
Thank you for coming in, you WILL
be hearing from us within the week.

CASSIE
(stands up and shakes
Olivia's hand)
Thank you so much! I hope to work
with you soon!

Cassie then exits Olivia's office, closes the door, takes a
quick breath before quietly celebrating the success of the
interview and walking away.

INT. CASSIE/BRYANNAH'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Cassie is on the couch in her pajamas watching a game show
while eating a bowl of cereal. Luna, their black cat, is
curled up next to her on the couch slightly purring. Her
phone lights up and starts ringing. She quickly puts down her
bowl and goes to answer the phone.

CASSIE
Hello? Yes this is she. Thank you
so much! Yes, I can start on
Monday!

Cassie hangs up and sets the phone down before jumping up.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(doing a happy dance)
I did it! I did it! I got the job!!

Cassie's roommate BRYANNAH SMITH (27, Black, Lesbian, loves
living life to the fullest, Cassie's best friend) walks into
the room holding a toothbrush while in her pajamas.

BRYANNAH
Was that the call?

CASSIE
It was the call!

The girls scream with joy and dance around the room for a
minute. Startled by the sound, Luna gets up from the couch
and walks towards one of the lady's rooms.

BRYANNAH
(gasps) Pause the celebration! You
gotta call your mom!

Cassie agrees and grabs her phone once again to share the good news.

INT. SWIPE OFFICES - MORNING

The elevator to the office dings and the doors open. Cassie steps out of the elevator with a box of personal belongings. Olivia comes around the corner to meet her.

OLIVIA
Cassie! So good to see you again.
Come on, I'll show you to your
desk.

They start walking to Cassie's cubicle. Olivia gives a few nods and waves as they walk while Cassie starts rambling.

CASSIE
OMG, it is so good to see you too.
I have been manifesting ever since
I left your office last week. I
have never been more excited for a
job before. I am ready to take on
projects, get to know my
coworkers...

OLIVIA
(laughing)
A little excited aren't we?

CASSIE
(stops rambling)
Sorry, I just start talking and
don't stop when I get excited.

OLIVIA
Well that's ok, we love a good
bubbly spirit around here. Alright
here we are.

Olivia gestures to an empty cubicle. There's a black swivel chair, a file cabinet, a rising desk, a desktop, and a gift basket filled with office supplies. Olivia puts her box of personal belongings on the desk before going to look at the basket.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

All of our employees get a welcome basket with all the supplies you could need.

CASSIE

Thank you, this is too sweet.

OLIVIA

Well I have a meeting to get to. Once you settle in, your cubicle mate Matt will help you with getting started on your online orientation.

CASSIE

Amazing, thank you.

OLIVIA

Good luck, Cassie.

Olivia walks away with speed. Cassie starts to unpack her belongings to decorate her desk.

INT. CASSIE'S DESK - DAY

Cassie's cubicle wall is now filled with pictures of her parents, friends, and Luna. Her desk has a couple random trinkets and the office supplies from the gift basket. She starts to try and figure out her login when MATT HENDERSON (29, White, strong male ego, smooth with the ladies) comes sliding into her cubicle while in his desk chair.

MATT

Hey! I'm Matt. It seems we are cubicle buddies!

CASSIE

Yes, hi I'm Cassie. Olivia said you would be able to help me with my online orientation.

MATT

Oh yea I got you, first we have to make you a login. Be prepared to write down your passwords because they make us change them almost every work quarter.

CASSIE

They made us do that at college. At first it was very annoying but then I realized I only needed to change a number or character rather than making a whole new password.

MATT

So you got some tricks up your sleeve.

CASSIE

I try.

Matt makes his way around the walls of the cubicle and stands behind Cassie's chair to help her get set up.

MATT

Well because you're new go to this tab to create a login. Your email will be your first initial, last name, the AT symbol, swipe dot com.

Cassie types as Matt talks.

CASSIE

Ok then I just create a password.

MATT

Yup, easy peasy.

Cassie creates a password and it brought to the home screen page of Swipe Work.

MATT (CONT'D)

Ok, so that tab right there will take you to the orientation site and you just have to complete a bunch of videos. You know the "don't steal sticky notes" and "don't hit on your female coworkers." All that simple crap, then once you're done send an email with a screenshot of your finished page to HR. After that our manager, Kyle will come speak to you and you'll probably get a tour with way too many puns. Then finally you'll get a small project to get you started.

CASSIE

Wow, that's a lot. Thank you.

MATT

No problem, talk to you later cube mate.

Cassie gives off a soft chuckle before grabbing the headset from the gift basket, plugging it into the computer, and starting her new life.

INT. CASSIE'S DESK - EVENING

It is now Friday, throughout the week Cassie has been learning the lay of the land. She was given her first official assignment and wants to prove herself.

Cassie is face to face with her computer as she's on Canva working on a graphic design for the latest upgrade in the Swipe app. Matt, holding his lunch bag, satchel, and phone, walks around their cubicle wall and silently watches Cassie as she ignores the world around her. Matt gives a slight cough to get her attention. Cassie jerks her head up and takes off the headphones.

MATT

For a minute, I couldn't tell where the computer screen began and your face ended.

CASSIE

Oh yea, I really wanted to get this project done before the end of the day.

MATT

You do know they don't expect you to be finished with the FIRST draft of your FIRST project on the same day, right?

CASSIE

Yes... no... I don't know, I just really wanted to make a good impression on my first week.

MATT

Well the fact that Kyle left before you, Olivia noticed it. I think you're doing ok.

CASSIE

Wow I didn't even notice, thanks.
(pause) I guess I better pack my things and head home.

MATT

If you want a couple other coworkers and I are going out for a few drinks. You're welcome to join us, that way you can get to know some more people than Kyle and me.

CASSIE

I guess I can get a celebratory drink for my first off-training day!

MATT

That's the spirit! Grab your stuff and let's go.

Cassie starts to pack up things to head out the office.

INT. RESTAURANT/BAR - NIGHT

Cassie, Matt, and two other coworkers, ABBY DAVIS (26, Black, Lesbian professional but loves having fun) and JUSTIN GOULD (28, Hispanic, free-spirited) are sitting at a high top each telling a funny work story. There are a variety of beer/cocktail glasses in the center of the table. A half eaten plate of nachos in front of Cassie and a newer plate of mozzarella sticks in front of Abby as she tells her story.

ABBY

(holding a mozzarella stick, using her hands expressively) After I accidentally ate Maggie's yogurt, which by the way didn't have her name on it, she went on a rampage. (imitating a southern, middle-aged woman) "WHO ATE UP ALL MY YOGURT? This is not a food pantry, we all have a job and can feed ourselves!"

CASSIE

No way she said that.

JUSTIN

Oh yes she did! And she made sure that the whole office heard it.

ABBY

Best believe after that I have only eaten food with my name on it.

JUSTIN

We also got a cute memo from HR stating that we are to not eat other coworkers food as well as berating the whole office for making a simple mistake.

MATT

I mean that memo ended up being useless because Maggie ended up yelling at an intern for taking too long to use the printer. Poor girl went home in tears that day, so Maggie got the boot.

CASSIE

Wow, that's like semi-terrible because she had one job and couldn't even do that.

ABBY

EXACTLY! Anyway enough about Mad Maggie, Cassie how you liking the big city so far?

CASSIE

Honestly I'm not sure. I never had a specific place where I grew up cause I'm a military brat so I've kinda been to all types of places. The people here are definitely more cold-shoulder than in other places.

JUSTIN

That's so real. You just have to find your people cause trust it makes the experience ten times better.

MATT

Yes, I mean I don't think I'd make it through each week at work if I didn't have these two.

JUSTIN

Awww. He's sentimental.

ABBY

You're too sweet.

MATT

Never mind! I take it back!

ABBY

No takebacksies!

MATT

Anyway, you're going to do just fine here Cassie.

Matt pats her upper leg and starts to linger a little bit, shifting Cassie's behavior. This is not the first time tonight Matt has made some weird pass at her.

CASSIE

You're right.

Cassie's phone then starts to ring, it's a spam call. However, she's ready to leave so she takes the escape.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Oh sorry guys it's my roommate, she's probably freaking out that I'm not home yet. It was nice to hang out, see you all later.

All say their various goodbyes as Cassie gets up from the table with a smile. After a few feet, her smile fades as she tries to process Matt's "friendly touch".

INT. CASSIE/BRYANNAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bryannah is watching a horror movie with a bag of popcorn in hand and Luna cuddled up in her lap. She starts to lean closer to the tv as the scene gets more intense. Suddenly the door opens and Bryannah screams while dropping her popcorn. Luna is accidentally thrown off Bryannah's lap and makes a run for it under the couch.

BRYANNAH

God dammit! Why don't you give a girl a warning!?

CASSIE

Um yea I did. I sent you like twenty texts. Now, I don't know if they make sense but I definitely spelled "drunk" and "home" right.

Cassie starts giggling uncontrollably while Bryannah picks up popcorn and notices Luna under the couch. She grabs Luna and holds her in one arm and grabs her phone.

BRYANNAH

Well shit, you did! Awww you sent drunk lovey dovey texts.

CASSIE

That's cause I loooooove youuuuu Bry
Bry.

BRYANNAH

Oh Cass, my drunk wifey come sit on
the couch and tell me all about
your night.

Cassie stumbles over to the couch and plops down. Bryannah
lets loose of Luna who finds her bed on the side of the couch
and falls asleep. Cassie places her head on Bryannah while
she rubs her head and combs through her hair.

CASSIE

So first off, Abby is a super cool
chick. Like she's travelled all
over the world. She has TWO pets!

BRYANNAH

Wow two pets, that's wild!

CASSIE

I know right! One is a husky and
one is a golden retriever. She has
thousands of pictures of the both
of them. She is the definition of
dog mom.

BRYANNAH

At least it's not one of those
purse, rat dogs that aren't cute at
all.

CASSIE

(laughs wildly) No for real, I mean
I don't understand why people think
those are cute! Anyway, Justin was
totally cute and sweet.

BRYANNAH

Why do you sound almost
disappointed?

CASSIE

He's gay.

BRYANNAH

Damm, always the hot ones.

CASSIE

I know! But he offered to show me the hottest places in town so I'm excited for that. Now hanging with Matt was a little weird.

BRYANNAH

Oh, why's that?

CASSIE

Most of the night he was casual and nice. Then he started getting sappy saying how (mocking Matt) "if he didn't have these two at work, couldn't make it through the week."

BRYANNAH

What's wrong with that? He sounds like a lovey dovey drunk.

CASSIE

It wasn't that. After they had their awe moment, he placed his hand on my leg and started to rub my thigh.

BRYANNAH

Oh yea, that's weird.

CASSIE

Right, and I don't want to make a big deal out of it cause it could mean nothing. But what if it meant something? Plus he kept making glances towards me and it felt like he was trying to find an opening to touch me.

BRYANNAH

The only way you're going to find out is by talking to him.

CASSIE

I guess you're right.

BRYANNAH

I usually am!

CASSIE

Ha, Ha. Can we turn on cartoons, wife?

BRYANNAH

Of course my drunk wifey.

Bryannah grabs the remote to switch channels while Cassie blinks her eyes slowly falling asleep.

INT. CASSIE/BRYANNAH'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Cassie is tucked up on the couch in the same clothes from the night before. Luna is still in her cat bed peacefully asleep. Bryannah comes in from the kitchen in a morning robe with some fuzzy slippers while holding two mugs filled with hot chocolate.

BRYANNAH
(nudging Cassie quietly) Morning,
sleepy head.

Cassie groans before turning over. Bryannah puts down Cassie's mug, then takes a sip out of hers.

BRYANNAH (CONT'D)
Uh, uh. You promised a trip to the
farmers market. Fresh tamales and
fruit will cure any hangover.

CASSIE
(groggily) Says who?

BRYANNAH
Said you two weeks ago when I felt
the same way.

CASSIE
Well if I said it, it must be good
advice.

Bryannah playful shoves Cassie and she sits on the couch. She reaches for Cassie's mug and hands it to her.

BRYANNAH
Drink up, we are leaving in an
hour.

Bryannah stands up and heads to her room.

CASSIE
(breathes in her hot cocoa before
taking a sip) Mmmm. Ok let's get
some tamales.

Cassie heads to her room to get ready for the farmer's market.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - AFTERNOON

Cassie and Bryannah are dressed in spring clothes nearly skipping through the market. Cassie is holding a plastic bag full of fruit and Bryannah is holding a brown bag full of tamales.

CASSIE

Ok we got the goods, can we go back to our nice, quiet, dark home?

BRYANNAH

Um no, we haven't looked at the jewelry and clothing section. You know I have to check if my girl Kesha is out today. She has the best corny t-shirts for a fair price.

CASSIE

Alright fine but let's make this quick.

As the ladies walk through the market, Cassie notices Abby talking to a vendor nearby. Unsure whether or not to say hi in her state, Abby turns around and cocks her head before yelling out.

ABBY

Cassie?! Is that you?!

CASSIE

Hey girl, long time no see lol.

ABBY

Are you ok? You are rocking some pretty big shades.

BRYANNAH

Oh she's just very hungover. Hi I'm Bryannah, her roommate.

ABBY

Hi, I'm Abby.

The girls exchange a hug.

BRYANNAH

Yes, I've heard a bit about you.

ABBY

Hopefully I didn't drunkenly say some stories from my college days cause that would have to make us immediate friends.

BRYANNAH

Didn't hear any of those but we definitely need to exchange those later.

CASSIE

What brings you to the farmers market?

ABBY

Well besides the fact that I like the majority of my groceries to be farm to table. My cousin Kesha has a booth here and I like getting to see her every weekend.

BRYANNAH

No shit, you're related to Kesha!? She is my girl!

ABBY

Yup, she's a cousin on my mom's side.

BRYANNAH

We were just headed to see her now, wanna join us?

ABBY

Absolutely. Cassie you're roommate is awesome.

CASSIE

I know, she's the best.

BRYANNAH

Duh. Now, let's get some silly t-shirts.

The girls walk over to Kesha's booth. Above hangs a banner with the title *Outside the Closet* and subtitle *For the Queens, Kings, and everything in-between*. There are racks of clothes the outline the booth, a table with different types of jewelry laid across, and a folding chair where KESHA DAVIS (27, Black, fashion designer) is sitting while typing something on her laptop.

ABBY
Hey cousin!

KESHA
What is up, girl! How are my furry
niece and nephew?

ABBY
Tearing through those toys you gave
them last week.

KESHA
Glad they like them. (notices
Bryannah) Bry!! How you know my
cousin?

BRYANNAH
I actually met her today, Cassie
knows her from work.

KESHA
What a small world.

CASSIE
Hey Kesh, how's business today?

KESHA
With the weather getting warmer,
I've started to put away the winter
items. Not that there was much to
put away. Business out here has
been doing well, no complaints.

CASSIE
That's amazing!

KESHA
Have a look around, I just came out
with some new stuff.

As the ladies start to browse, Cassie quietly pulls Abby
aside to talk to her about last night.

CASSIE
So I have a real quick question.

ABBY
Shoot.

CASSIE
Has Matt ever been, like... touchy
with you?

ABBY

He definitely used to. But I told him to nip that crap in the bud because I don't play that. Plus I don't swing that way.

CASSIE

Oh really?

ABBY

Oh yea, I am very proud of who I am and I don't let anyone dim my light. Why do you ask? Did he touch you?

CASSIE

Kind of. Last night when he started getting sappy about you guys he rested his hand on my thigh but then started to rub it and reach higher.

ABBY

Oh fuck no. You need to talk to him asap so he can cut that behavior.

CASSIE

That's what Bry said.

Abby glances over at Bryannah who is browsing the clothes and talking to Kesha.

ABBY

Her and I are going to be good friends.

CASSIE

I can definitely see that.

Bryannah walks up from behind them holding up a t-shirt that says "Squats, I thought you said Shots?" with a little cartoon character holding shot glasses.

BRYANNAH

What do you think?

CASSIE

That is for sure you.

ABBY

I love it. Always down for a shot.

BRYANNAH

Yes, you're my kind of girl!

Abby slightly blushes. Cassie notices and looks over to Bryannah who is completely oblivious while walking back to Kesha to purchase the shirt.

CASSIE

It was good seeing you again, Kesh.

KESHA

You too, Cass. Hope I see my favorite customers soon! Abby, I'll see you for dinner tonight right?

ABBY

Wouldn't miss it.

BRYANNAH

Bye girlie!!

The three women walk out of the booth and head toward the exit.

ABBY

Well it has been lovely running into you, Cassie. Wonderful to meet you, Bryannah. Hope we can hang out sometime.

BRYANNAH

Yes let's make a plan! Let me give you my number.

The two exchange numbers while Cassie sees a romance start to come into fruition.

CASSIE

Alright Abby see you on Monday!

They go their separate ways and as they open the car doors the romance starts to hit Bryannah.

BRYANNAH

She is super pretty.

CASSIE

Yes and apparently super into women.

BRYANNAH

WHAT?!

CASSIE

Yea, you couldn't tell she was crushing on you?

BRYANNAH

NO! Let a sista know! I got to text her today, but I can't sound desperate. Oh my god there is so much to do.

CASSIE

I really don't think so.

BRYANNAH

What would you know?

CASSIE

You right. Unlike you I am strictly dickly. (laughs)

BRYANNAH

(laughs) Get in the car.

The girls get in the car and close the doors.

INT. CASSIE'S DESK - MORNING

Cassie is sitting anxiously at her desk anticipating Matt's arrival. She spent the rest of the weekend preparing a speech to give Matt to set boundaries. Matt approaches his desk with a plastered smile, holding his briefcase and lunch.

CASSIE

(slight nervousness) Morning Matt.

Matt sets his stuff down and peers over the cubicle wall.

MATT

Hey Cassie. Man, you look like you just saw a ghost.

Matt walks around the wall and halfway sits on Cassie's desk with genuine concern on his face.

CASSIE

Um I'm ok, I just wanted to talk to you about last week when we all went out.

MATT

Sure, what's up?

CASSIE

I felt a little uncomfortable when you placed your hand on my thigh.

(MORE)

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I hadn't said anything that night of because we were drunk and I didn't want to make a bigger deal than it probably was.

MATT

I am so sorry. I never meant to make you uncomfortable. I can get a little touchy when drunk but that is no excuse especially since we are just starting to get to know each other. Please know that I want you to come to me with any concerns as soon as possible so I can fix my behavior.

CASSIE

Thank you, I appreciate that.

MATT

Of course. Are we cool?

CASSIE

We're cool.

MATT

Awesome. Let's get started on some ads for people to find online love.

Matt goes back to his desk. Cassie takes a breath of relief before logging onto her computer.

INT. SWIPE OFFICES - MORNING

2003. A few years have passed and some changes are being made at Swipe. Olivia is standing with Kyle in front of her office holding a notepad ready to give an announcement. Cassie is dressed extra professional as she fidgets noticeably with her fingers, anxious for the announcement. Matt is dressed in a well-tailored matching suit. He holds the inner-sides of his jacket with a sense of confidence.

OLIVIA

Alright everyone, today is an important day. I am officially starting my position as CEO of Swipe!

The office erupts in applause and cheers for Olivia.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Thank you all for your support.
With my leaving, I've had to find a
replacement for myself. In
addition, this is Kyle's last day
at the company as he is retiring
and getting ready to travel the
world. (turns to Kyle) We sure are
going to miss all those silly puns.
(goes back to address the office)
Therefore, I will be announcing two
new promotions today.

MATT

(whispers to Cassie) No matter what
happens, I'm proud of you. You
deserve either position. Good luck.

CASSIE

(whispers back) Good luck to you,
too.

OLIVIA

Our new Office Manager is... Cassie
Greenwood!

The office cheers, Abby and Justin walk over and give Cassie
a big hug. Although Cassie is happy, she hides her slight
disappointment.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Alright, alright. Now for your new
Head of Marketing... Matt
Henderson!

Smaller applause comes from the office as Matt emerges from
the crowd waving out to his subordinates. He walks next to
Olivia and Kyle. He gives her a handshake and grabs Kyle in a
one-armed side hug.

MATT

Thank you so much Olivia for giving
me this position. I am super
excited to be working alongside
Cassie to make this great company
greater.

A few final claps circle around the office.

OLIVIA

There's cake in the break room to
celebrate!

MATT

Well, let them eat cake!

Everyone makes their way to the breakroom. Olivia pulls Cassie to the side before they head in.

OLIVIA

Hey, how are you doing?

CASSIE

I'm good. Really excited for this promotion.

OLIVIA

I'm glad, I've arranged for you to receive an office because I do not believe a cubicle will work anymore.

CASSIE

Oh you didn't have to go through the trouble.

OLIVIA

Ah, but I did. I can't tell you how hard I fought for you to have my position. Sadly, the people on the board, *men*, wanted "a more experienced person" in my old position. Don't worry, with us girls on the inside changes will start happening.

CASSIE

I believe it. Thank you Olivia. We'll have to go out for drinks sometime.

OLIVIA

I'll hold you to it. Now let's get some cake. Made sure to get your favorite.

CASSIE

Chocolate cake with strawberry frosting!?

OLIVIA

Only the best for the best.

The ladies head into the breakroom to join the rest of the office.

INT. CASSIE/BRYANNAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cassie is holding a glass of water while sitting outside on the porch staring out to the city. Luna sits up on a chair next to Cassie also looking out. Bryannah and Abby are cuddled up on the couch. They started dating a few months after the farmers market and became an official couple sometime in 2002.

BRYANNAH

I have not seen her this quiet since Princess Diana died.

ABBY

Really?

BRYANNAH

Yea, one of her quirks is being obsessed with the royal family. I'm afraid when tv shows or movies come out about them, she'll be stuck in front of a tv for months.

ABBY

Oh goodness. Well today was the promotion announcement.

BRYANNAH

Aw man. That means Matt got the bigger promotion. I bet it's because he's a man.

ABBY

Oh 1000%. Since he started interviewing for the position he's become a different person. He's all smug and arrogant.

BRYANNAH

It is the curse of the white man.

ABBY

(laughs) Preach.

Abby looks over again at Cassie who is still stuck in a trance.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Should we say something?

BRYANNAH

Let's try something to see how out of it she is.

(MORE)

BRYANNAH (CONT'D)
(speaks louder) Cass, you want Thai
or Mexican for dinner.

CASSIE
(distant) Yeah.

Bryannah and Abby look at each other unsure of how upset
Cassie is.

BRYANNAH
Abby and I were talking and we
think we should break up.

CASSIE
(still distant) Sounds great.

ABBY
Ah shit, this is a code red.

BRYANNAH
Facts.

ABBY
Seriously though, what should we
get for dinner?

BRYANNAH
Honestly both Thai and Mexican
sound good to me.

ABBY
Ok you order dinner then clean up
the outside table to get ready.
I'll roll up a couple joints and
pour glasses of wine.

BRYANNAH
Perfect.

About 20/30 minutes have passed. Bryannah has placed paper
plates and utensils around the table and starts to take out
the food containers. Abby has set an ash tray with a lighter
and a few joints, she comes out carrying three glasses of red
wine. Once Bryannah opens a food container with pad Thai,
Cassie turns her head to realize what her besties have set up
for her.

CASSIE
Oh you guys didn't have to do that.

BRYANNAH
But we did.

ABBY

Yeah! We gotta celebrate our girl's promotion.

BRYANNAH

You accomplished another win for Black women everywhere.

CASSIE

Aw thank you guys.

BRYANNAH

Plus we know you wanted the promotion Matt got so we went a little extra.

ABBY

Nothing like good food, wine, and some THC to talk shit about the white man.

CASSIE

Amen. (notices the different takeout bags) How did you know I wanted both types of food?

BRYANNAH

Even though you were in a different dimension, you gave a somewhat proper answer to me asking "Thai or Mexican". So we said screw it we'll get both.

CASSIE

Aww I love you guys.

ABBY

We love you too, let's dig in.

Time has passed. Their wine glasses are nearing the end. Two out of the four joints have been used, a third one is currently lit and circling between the ladies. Most of the food containers are closer to empty. They have been gossiping about different people from the office.

CASSIE

(with the joint in one hand and her glass of wine in the other) Listen, I'm still not convinced that those two interns from a few months ago didn't fuck.

BRYANNAH

Girl, you've said that about three times in the past 10 minutes. Hand me the joint.

CASSIE

(laughs and passes the joint) I'm sorry, it's just the way they looked at each other doing simple tasks like a coffee run or helping Old Lady Sammy turn on her computer.

BRYANNAH

How did she even land her job?

ABBY

She was probably around when ads were hand drawn.

All three ladies start laughing wildly.

BRYANNAH

Oh my gosh, babe you're horrible.

ABBY

Speaking of the way people look at each other, I've noticed you and Brian casting glances at each other.

BRYANNAH

I fucking knew it!! She will randomly bring him up when we talk about work.

CASSIE

Hey! He's just a good looking guy what can I say.

BRYANNAH

You can say you fucking like him, bishhhhh.

ABBY

Oh, someone is very cross-faded.

BRYANNAH

Ay, no need to call a girl out. We having fun! Ooooo, now we can trash talk Matt.

ABBY

Lemme get in one more hit before I say my piece. (grabs the joint from Bryannah)

CASSIE

(calmly) Well let me start then. First off, (passionately, almost aggressive) bitch-ass Matt should've never got a promotion to begin with! (the other two are startled by her outburst). If it weren't misogynistic men sitting on the board, I would've had it. Although, let's be real if it was a board of women Matt would've tried to sleep his way to the top. Second, I get that he has been at the company longer than me but my work is literally better. And I'm not saying that because I'm amazing, you can literally see the amount of social media interactions my team's work gets compared to his. Third, people like me more! Like let's be honest, the claps for him compared to me (side eyes Abby), people only clapped because he's their boss now. Fourth, he's a motherfucking creep! Like we knew that from the first outing we had but since then his behavior has gotten worse. And he's smart with it because he does enough to turn off a girl but not enough for HR to actually do anything. (Bryannah raises an eyebrow) Trust me I tried reporting some of his behavior along with other women in the office. Fifth, I'm fucking amazing I should've gotten the job!

Cassie finishes her long rant and collapses into her seat. Bryannah and Abby both look at each other before they burst into laughter.

ABBY

Girl, how long you been holding that one in?

BRYANNAH

That was like putting mentos in a coke bottle, shaking it, and putting the cap back on.

CASSIE

I'm sorry. Just sometimes I hate bringing home stuff from work. Rather just smoke or drink the thoughts away.

BRYANNAH

Girl I am always complaining about work, if you think you can't talk to me about work then we need to work on our communication.

ABBY

And girl we work in the same place, you don't think I have complaints everyday?

CASSIE

You're right, it's probably a childhood trauma thing.

BRYANNAH

If we working our way to talking about childhood traumas we gonna need another blunt and bottle.

CASSIE

Yea no, I'm good for now. Let's make some popcorn and watch some trash tv.

BRYANNAH

Oh yes you read my mind.

The ladies start to gather their things and make their way inside to finish off girl's night.

END OF 30 PAGES