

MARRIED BY CHRISTMAS

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FADE IN:

EXT. STOREFRONT - DAY

Candice Walker, a confident and seasoned news reporter stands in front of a convenience store with police tape cordoning off the area. She faces the camera, ready for her live report.

CANDICE

(into the camera)

Good afternoon, I'm Candice Walker reporting live from the scene of a recent store robbery. Authorities are still investigating, and I'm about to speak with a witness who saw it all unfold.

Candice turns to her interviewee, OFFICER JONES (40s, stern-looking), who stands nearby.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

(to officer Jones)

Officer Jones, can you provide us with any updates on the investigation?

OFFICER JONES

(into the microphone)

We're currently reviewing surveillance footage and gathering witness statements. We appreciate the community's cooperation and encourage anyone with information to come forward.

Candice turns to face a SHOP OWNER (50s, worried) who witnessed the robbery.

CANDICE

(to the shop owner)

I understand you were here when it happened. Can you walk us through what you saw?

SHOP OWNER

(nervously)

Yeah, I was closing up when two masked individuals stormed in. They demanded

(MORE)

SHOP OWNER (CONT'D)  
money from the cash register and  
threatened us with weapons. It all  
happened so fast.

Candice nods empathetically.

CANDICE  
And how are you and your staff coping  
with the aftermath of this traumatic  
event?

SHOP OWNER  
(shaken)  
It's been tough, especially for my  
employees. We're a tight-knit  
community here, and this incident has  
left us all on edge.

Candice turns back to the camera.

CANDICE  
Thank you for sharing that with us. As  
the investigation continues, we'll  
keep you updated on any developments.  
Reporting live, I'm Candice Walker.  
Back to you in the studio.

Candice wraps up the interview, leaving the scene as the  
camera stays focused on the storefront.

INT. TV STUDIO - EVENING

The newsroom is winding down for the day. Candice is at her  
desk, packing up her things. Her boss, JASON HARRIS (50s,  
stern but supportive), approaches her with a smile.

JASON  
(extends his hand)  
Great work out there, Candice. Your  
reporting on the store robbery was  
outstanding.

Candice shakes his hand, appreciative but distracted.

CANDICE  
Thanks, Jason. Just doing my job.

JASON

You did more than that. Your presence  
on the scene added a personal touch.  
Keep it up.

Candice manages a grateful smile as her phone buzzes on her desk. She glances at the screen, and her expression changes.

CANDICE

(excusing herself)  
Sorry, Jason. I need to take this.

JASON

(nods)  
Go ahead, Candice.

Candice steps away, answering her phone with a sense of urgency.

CANDICE

(on the phone)  
Hello?

The voice on the other end delivers grave news. Candice's eyes widen, and her face drains of color.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

(whispering)  
What happened?

As she listens, her grip on the phone tightens. Jason notices her distress and approaches, concerned.

JASON

(softly)  
Candice, is everything okay?

Candice looks at Jason, trying to hold back tears.

CANDICE

My mom... Something's happened. I need  
to go see her.

JASON

Go, Candice. Take the time you need.  
We'll handle things here.

Candice nods, her mind racing.

She quickly grabs her belongings and rushes out of the newsroom, leaving behind the congratulatory atmosphere for a more somber reality.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

The hospital room is dimly lit, with Momma Walker (early 70s, warm and wise) sitting comfortably in a recliner, engrossed in her tablet. Candice rushes in, concern etched on her face.

CANDICE

(urgent)

Mom, you said it was an emergency. Are you okay?

Momma Walker looks up, a warm smile on her face.

MOMMA WALKER

(laughs)

I'm fine, sweetheart. I just wanted to see my beautiful daughter.

Candice sighs in relief but with a touch of annoyance.

CANDICE

Mom, seriously? You scared me half to death.

MOMMA WALKER

(teasing)

Well, at least you got here quickly.

Candice rolls her eyes, but her worry lingers.

CANDICE

(sincere)

Okay, spill it. What's going on?

Momma Walker puts her tablet down, looking more serious.

MOMMA WALKER

(somber)

Nothing...

(now sighs)

You know I'm dying. And I'm bored and I just wanted to talk to somebody.

Candice takes a seat beside her mother, concern deepening.

CANDICE

(softly)

Mom, how much longer do you think you have?

Momma Walker is taken aback.

MOMMA WALKER

What'cha want me gone now? What you got going on that you want my insurance money that bad.

Candice sighs.

CANDICE

Mom, you know I'm --

Momma Walker interrupts her with a chuckle.

MOMMA WALKER

(smiles sadly)

Girl...you know I'm just messing with you.

(pauses)

I don't know, sweetheart. The doctors are doing their best, but sometimes life has its own plans.

Candice nods, holding back tears.

CANDICE

(whispering)

I hate seeing you like this.

MOMMA WALKER

(softly)

I know, baby. But we have to make the most of the time we have.

They share a quiet moment, then Momma Walker changes the subject with a mischievous grin.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

(teasing)

So, when are you going to find Mr. Right and make me a grandmother? It's getting late for me to see a grandchild, let alone attend your wedding.

Candice chuckles, appreciating the attempt to lighten the mood.

CANDICE  
(rolling her eyes)  
Mom, seriously? Now?

MOMMA WALKER  
(laughs)  
I just want to make sure you're taken  
care of. Life's too short to be alone.

Candice smiles through her tears, grateful for the love and wisdom her mother imparts.

Candice wipes away a tear, composing herself as she takes her mother's hand. Momma Walker notice.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)  
I know you are not crying, because  
what I just said. C'mon now...

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Well, Mom, I've been focused on my  
career, you know that.

MOMMA WALKER  
(nodding)  
And you've done amazing, sweetheart.  
But there's more to life than just  
work. Don't forget to live.

Candice nods, her thoughts reflecting on her personal life.

CANDICE  
(softly)  
I know... It's just... finding the  
right person isn't easy.

Momma Walker gives her daughter an encouraging look.

MOMMA WALKER  
(smiling)  
You're a strong, and a beautiful  
woman, Candice. The right person will  
come into your life when you least  
expect it.

Candice sighs, feeling a mix of emotions.

CANDICE  
(whispering)  
I wish you could be there when it happens.

MOMMA WALKER  
Who knows, I just might.  
(pauses)  
But long as you are taking, I doubt it.

CANDICE  
(laughs)  
Really?

MOMMA WALKER  
Just saying...

Momma Walker squeezes Candice's hand affectionately.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
I'll always be with you, in spirit.  
And I have faith that you'll find  
someone who will make you happy.

They share a tender moment, the room filled with a mix of love and bittersweet emotions.

CANDICE  
(teary-eyed)  
I love you, Mom.

MOMMA WALKER  
(smiling)  
I love you too, sweetheart. But  
damn...my ass is not dead yet.

As they continue to talk, the hospital room becomes a haven for shared memories and heartfelt conversations, a space where the bond between mother and daughter grows stronger in the face of life's challenges.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)  
(looking nostalgic)  
You know, Candice, raising you as my  
only child was such a joy. You were  
spoiled rotten, I admit.



Candice laughs, remembering her childhood.

CANDICE

(grinning)

I remember those days. You never said no to me.

MOMMA WALKER

(chuckling)

Well, I wanted you to have everything you needed and more. It wasn't always easy, but it was worth it.

CANDICE

(affectionate)

I appreciate everything you've done for me.

Momma Walker smiles, her eyes reflecting a mix of pride and sentiment.

MOMMA WALKER

Your father would be so proud of the woman you've become.

CANDICE

(sadly)

I wish he could see it.

Momma Walker reaches out and gently strokes Candice's cheek.

MOMMA WALKER

(teary-eyed)

He may not be physically here, but I believe he's watching over you. You've exceeded his expectations, and he'd be bursting with pride, with his stubborn self.

They chuckle, as a mix of emotions washing over her.

CANDICE

(whispering)

I wish he could've seen me achieve my dreams.

MOMMA WALKER

(sincerely)

(MORE)

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

He always believed in you, Candice. He loved you more than words can express.

Candice smiles through her tears.

CANDICE

I miss him.

MOMMA WALKER

(softly)

I do too, sweetheart. But I know he's with us in spirit, celebrating your successes and guiding you through life.

CANDICE

(smiling)

I'm grateful for the foundation he gave me.

MOMMA WALKER

(looking proud)

And look at you now, a successful and compassionate woman. Your father's legacy lives on through you.

Candice nods, finding comfort in her mother's words.

CANDICE

(whispering)

Thank you...

As they continue their conversation, the room echoes with a blend of laughter, memories, and the enduring love between a mother and her daughter.

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP PARKING LOT - DAY

Candice wraps up her interview with a car dealership owner, the bustling scene of the crime behind her. The camera man, REGGIE WILLIAMS, and the producer join her as they start packing up their equipment.

Reggie starts dismantling the camera equipment.

REGGIE

(looking at the footage)

(MORE)

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
Great interview, Candice. This will  
make for a powerful segment.

CANDICE  
(serious)  
Let's hope it leads to some useful  
information for the police.

REGGIE  
Exactly! But Good work, everyone. I'll  
edit this quickly for the evening and  
make sure we have enough B-roll to  
fill in the gaps.

CANDICE  
Awesome!

REGGIE  
We need to head back to the station  
for a debrief. Being that it's almost  
Thanksgiving.

Candice nods, understanding the routine.

CANDICE  
Got it. Let's pack up, Reggie.

Candice and Reggie finish packing up their equipment, the  
daylight casting a warm glow on the scene. They share a  
moment of casual conversation as they prepare to head back to  
the news station van.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
So, Reggie, any exciting plans for  
Thanksgiving?

REGGIE  
(grinning)  
Just the usual family gathering.  
Heading back to my parents' place, you  
know? Big Thanksgiving feast and all  
that.

CANDICE  
(sincerely)  
Sounds nice. Your parents must love  
having everyone together.

REGGIE

(nodding)

Yeah, it's a tradition. My younger brother and older sister will be there. Mom's an amazing cook. Can't beat her stuffing.

Candice laughs, appreciating the familial warmth in Reggie's plans.

CANDICE

That sounds wonderful. Family is everything.

REGGIE

What about you? Any Thanksgiving traditions?

Candice's expression softens as she thinks about her plans.

CANDICE

(smiling)

I'll be spending some of it with my mother. She's in the hospital, so I want to make sure she feels the holiday spirit.

Reggie looks sympathetic, understanding the importance of family, especially during challenging times.

REGGIE

(nodding)

I'm sure she'll appreciate having you there.

CANDICE

Yeah, it's important to cherish these moments, especially when you never know how much time you have left.

Reggie nods, sensing the depth of Candice's sentiments.

REGGIE

Absolutely. And hey, after I stuff myself with turkey, I'll probably be parked in front of the TV watching football all day.

Candice chuckles, appreciating the simplicity of Reggie's plans.

CANDICE

Classic Thanksgiving move. Well, enjoy the family time and football, Reggie.

REGGIE

You too, Candice. And give your mom my best wishes.

Candice nods appreciatively, and they head back to the news station van, ready to share in the holiday spirit in their own unique ways.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - EVENING

The dining table is set with Thanksgiving delights, and the atmosphere is filled with anticipation. Candice, her cousin Michelle, and several family members eagerly await the start of their Thanksgiving dinner. They exchange glances, wondering why Yvette is taking so long.

CANDICE

(looking at Michelle)

Where is Yvette? What's taking her so long?

MICHELLE

(grinning)

Yvette told us not to start until she gets here. She's got something up her sleeve.

Candice raises an eyebrow, intrigued by the mystery.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Knowing Yvette, it better be good.

Just as the anticipation builds, the door swings open, revealing YVETTE, Momma Walker's lawyer, concierge and the person that handles all her affairs for many years enters with none other than Momma Walker, to the astonishment of everyone at the table.

YVETTE

(excited)

Surprise! Look who I brought with me!

MOMMA WALKER  
(grinning)  
Well, well! Happy Thanksgiving,  
everyone!

Candice and the others are stunned into joyful silence as Momma Walker makes her way into the room, supported by Yvette.

CANDICE  
(astonished)  
Momma! We thought you couldn't make  
it!

MOMMA WALKER  
(laughing)  
Surprises are my specialty, darlin'.  
You didn't think I'd miss a  
Thanksgiving dinner with my family,  
did you?

A wave of joy sweeps through the room, and the family members rush to embrace Momma Walker.

CANDICE  
(teary-eyed)  
I can't believe you're here.

MOMMA WALKER  
(smirking)  
Well, I couldn't let y'all have all  
the fun. Now, let's eat!

The room erupts in laughter and cheers as Momma Walker, with the help of Yvette, takes her seat at the table.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)  
(raising her glass)  
To family, surprises, and a  
Thanksgiving dinner worth waiting for!

Everyone raises their glasses, and the room is filled with the warmth of love and gratitude.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - LATER

The family is gathered around the dinner table, enjoying

their Thanksgiving feast. Laughter and the clinking of utensils fill the room. Suddenly, a cacophony of loud voices and commotion from outside disrupts the festive atmosphere.

MOMMA WALKER

(raising an eyebrow)

What in the world is going on out there? Who's yelling so loudly that we can hear it from inside the house?

MICHELLE

(listening)

Sounds like someone's arguing.

The family exchanges concerned glances as the noise continues.

MOMMA WALKER

(concerned)

Arguing? On Thanksgiving? I won't have that. Candice, go check and see what's happening.

Candice nods, setting down her fork, and heads toward the door.

MICHELLE

(nodding)

Let's focus on our own joyous gathering and send positive vibes their way.

The family agrees, trying to drown out the outside commotion and refocus on the warmth and love inside Momma Walker's home.

EXT. MOMMA WALKER'S DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Candice steps out onto the driveway, following the loud commotion, and is taken aback by the sight of her best friend, SOPHIA, in a heated argument with her boyfriend.

SOPHIA

(yelling)

I can't believe you, Tyler! You think I wouldn't find out?

TYLER

(defensive)

Soph, you're blowing this out of proportion. It's not what you think.

Sophia gets right in Tyler's face, hurling accusations and insults.

CANDICE  
(interjecting)  
Whoa, whoa! What's going on here?

Sophia turns toward Candice, her anger evident.

SOPHIA  
(fuming)  
Candice, this fool right here has been cheating on me with his ex-girlfriend!

TYLER  
(pleading)  
Sophia, it's not like that. We were just talking. Can we discuss this inside?

Before Sophia can launch herself at Tyler, Candice steps between them, keeping them apart.

CANDICE  
(holding Sophia back)  
Alright, let's all take a step back. Yelling in the driveway isn't the answer.

SOPHIA  
(angry)  
He's been lying to my face, Candice!

Candice looks at Tyler, prompting him to explain.

TYLER  
(trying to explain)  
Sophia, it's a misunderstanding. I promise.

CANDICE  
(serious)  
Well, let's hear it. Sophia, let him speak.

Sophia reluctantly steps back, seething with anger.



TYLER  
(stammering)  
I ran into my ex by accident, and we  
talked. Nothing more.

Sophia scoffs, unconvinced.

CANDICE  
(sighing)  
Look, this isn't the time or place.  
Sophia, let's get you inside. Tyler,  
it's best if you go.

Tyler nods and heads to his car. Sophia attempts to charge at him again, but Candice holds her back.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
Enough, Sophia. We don't want any  
drama here. Let him go.

Tyler leaves, and Candice turns to Sophia.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
Let's head inside, okay? We'll talk it  
out.

SOPHIA  
I agree, because girl...

CANDICE  
(side-eye)  
Girl what?

SOPHIA  
Punch him in his face!

Candice shakes her head.

CANDICE  
Over here arguing over a man you just  
met a week ago. Get your ratchet self  
in this house.

Sophia, still fuming, nods, and Candice guides her back into Momma Walker's home, leaving the drama behind.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - LATER

The dining table is filled with delicious Thanksgiving dishes as the family gathers around. Momma Walker, seated at the head of the table, takes a moment to bless the food.

MOMMA WALKER

(bowing her head)

Lord, we thank you for this beautiful feast before us. Bless this food and the hands that prepared it. We're grateful for the love that surrounds us today.

The family members bow their heads in reverence as Momma Walker continues her heartfelt prayer.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

And, dear Lord, we ask for your blessings on each person at this table. Yvette, Michelle, and the rest of our family here, bless them with health, happiness, and all the good things life has to offer.

Yvette, Michelle, and the others nod in agreement.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

And, Lord, I want to send a special prayer for Candice. May she find love that's as sweet as this pecan pie we're about to devour.

Candice blushes, and the family shares a collective chuckle.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

And let's not forget Sophia. Lord, please keep her from "accidentally" killing her man during the holiday season. We need him to make it to Christmas!

The room bursts into laughter as they envision Sophia's antics.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

But on a serious note, thank you for bringing us together today, for the love, joy, and laughter that fills this room. In your name, we pray.

The family members echo, "Amen," and Momma Walker raises her head, a twinkle in her eye.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

Now, let's feast!

The room erupts in cheers as the family eagerly digs into the Thanksgiving spread, grateful for the warmth and humor that defines their holiday gathering.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - NIGHT

Momma Walker, now seated comfortably on the couch, gathers her strength. The room is filled with a mixture of concern and love as everyone takes a seat, eager to hear her reflections.

MOMMA WALKER

(smiling)

You know, I've seen a lot in my life. Ups, downs, twists, turns. But having each of you here tonight, it's the greatest joy. Candice, my daughter, you've been my anchor, my pride. Michelle, my niece, a source of endless surprises. Yvette, my loyal attorney, navigating the legal seas with me. And, oh, Sophia, the wild spirit that keeps us all on our toes.

The room resonates with a mixture of emotions - gratitude, laughter, and a touch of sentiment.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

(tearfully)

I'm grateful for every twist and turn because it led me to this moment, surrounded by the most precious people in my life.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

The dining table is scattered with the remnants of a Thanksgiving feast. Momma Walker, surrounded by her loved ones, basks in the warmth of the gathered family.

MOMMA WALKER

(smiling)

I can't express how blessed I feel  
having all of you here.

(now chuckles)

Even you, Sophia, dear.

Laughter fills the room, but suddenly Momma Walker's demeanor changes. A wave of dizziness overcomes her, and she slumps over in her chair. Candice, Sophia, Yvette, and Michelle react swiftly, rushing to her side and gently moving her to the couch.

CANDICE

(panicking)

Someone call 911!

Momma Walker, though visibly weakened, dismisses the urgency.

MOMMA WALKER

(softly)

No need, child. I'm just tired. Having  
my family around me in my own home...  
it's where I want to be.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - STUDY ROOM - (FEW DAYS LATER)

Candice, Sophia, and Michelle sit at the table in the study room, anticipation filling the air. Sophia, with her usual humor, turns to Candice.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

So, no need to dress up for a funeral,  
huh? And finding me a handsome man is  
out the window?

CANDICE

(chuckles)

Correct, Sophia.

Yvette enters, as everyone anxiously awaits of what is about to take place.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
So...what's going on?

YVETTE  
I am here to give you her last will  
and testament.

SOPHIA  
This should be interesting...

YVETTE  
But instead of me reading it, she did  
it through a video message.

Yvette turns on the video, revealing Momma Walker smiling.

MOMMA WALKER  
(ON VIDEO)  
I'm grateful you're all here.  
Michelle, my dear niece, I'm funding  
your business. Sophia, the apartment  
and Mercedes are yours. You're like  
the crazy daughter I never had.

Michelle tears up with gratitude, and Sophia beams with  
excitement.

Momma Walker turns to Yvette.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)  
(ON VIDEO)  
Yvette, my long term attorney, the  
person who have kept my business  
affairs for years. You are great at  
what you do. And while I was alive I  
am so glad I'd made the right decision  
to have you live in my house. You kept  
this house going when I was in-n-out  
of hospitals and treatment centers.  
You are also like another daughter to  
me as well. So not only I am leaving  
you with my business, but I am leaving  
you and Candice 50 percent share of my  
home.

Yvette looks as if she wants to cry.

YVETTE  
(softly)  
Thank you.

MOMMA WALKER

(ON VIDEO)

Now last, but certainly not least. My amazing and beautiful daughter, Candice. Not only you have 50 percent of my amazing home, but I am also leaving you with 10 million dollars.

Everyone in the room gasp.

CANDICE

(looks shocked)

Say what?

SOPHIA

(excited)

Candice girl... You are super rich!

MOMMA WALKER

(ON VIDEO)

But there's a catch.

CANDICE

Okay...

MOMMA WALKER

(ON VIDEO)

To get that 10 million, you must get married by Christmas. This Christmas.

Candice's joy turns to shock.

CANDICE

(astonished)

That's like 30 days from now!

MOMMA WALKER

(ON VIDEO)

Well... this includes my final will and testament. You know I don't do funerals, so of course this is it. I love every single one of you. And please...keep the family legacy going, because you guys are family...

The video ends leaving everyone in the room stunned.

INT. CANDICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Candice paces nervously in her bedroom as Sophia enters.

CANDICE  
(anxiously)  
Sophia, I can't believe Momma dropped  
this bomb on me. How am I supposed to  
get married in 30 days? I'm not even  
seeing anyone!

Sophia sits down, grinning mischievously.

SOPHIA  
(playfully)  
Girl, we're gonna turn this into a  
real-life romance movie. First, let's  
brainstorm. Any old flames you'd  
consider reigniting for that 10  
million dollars?

Candice sighs, reflecting.

CANDICE  
(pondering)  
There's Jake, but it ended badly.

SOPHIA  
Yeah, I almost shot him on your  
behalf.

CANDICE  
Yeah, you shot his car.

Sophia giggles.

SOPHIA  
And there's Mark, but he moved to  
another city.

Sophia leans in, plotting.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
Alright, here's the plan. We'll track  
down these exes, make them fall back  
in love with you, and boom - Christmas  
wedding bells.

Candice raises an eyebrow.

CANDICE  
(skeptical)  
You make it sound easy.

Sophia smirks.

SOPHIA  
(chuckles)  
With my charm and your, well, charm,  
we've got this. Let's make it a  
Christmas to remember!

INT. CANDICE'S OFFICE - DAY

Candice and Sophia strategize in the office, the pressure of the looming deadline evident in Candice's expression.

CANDICE  
(panicking)  
Sophia, how am I supposed to find  
someone to marry in a few weeks? And  
what about love?

Sophia leans back in her chair with a sly grin.

SOPHIA  
(jokingly)  
Love? What's love... got to do with  
this? We're on a mission here.  
Marriage first, love later.

Candice raises an eyebrow as Sophia starts throwing out names.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
What about Derek?

CANDICE  
(shaking head)  
No, we didn't part on good terms.

SOPHIA  
What about Lamont.

Candice nods a no.

CANDICE  
He just got married.



SOPHIA

Yeah, it'll take some time to divorce his current wife and turn around and marry you. We don't have time for that.

CANDICE

(chuckles)

I certainly do not either, Sophia.

SOPHIA

(disappointed)

Too bad, he seemed perfect though... What about Sean?

CANDICE

(raising an eyebrow)

He's in jail, Sophia. Not an option.

SOPHIA

Oh! What about, Vincent.

Candice throws her a look.

CANDICE

C'mon now, you know we go to his church and his wife is the first lady and we are friends with her.

Sophia sighs heavily.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

(chuckles)

You just like drama.

SOPHIA

I just wanna say my bestfriend be happy.

CANDICE

And 10 million dollars richer.

Sophia thinks for a beat.

SOPHIA

(sighs)

Okay, who do we have left?

After a moment of silence, Sophia sparks an idea.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
(grinning)  
What about Marcus?

Candice's eyes widen.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Marcus could work. He's single now,  
ever since I caught him cheating.

Sophia, pleased with the solution, encourages Candice.

SOPHIA  
(smiling)  
Perfect! Get in touch with Marcus, get  
married, and secure that inheritance.  
Easy as pie!

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Candice and Marcus sit across from each other, the air tense  
as they delve into their past.

CANDICE  
(resolute)  
Marcus, I never thought we'd be here  
after what happened.

MARCUS  
(sincere)  
I've apologized for that, Candice. I'm  
truly sorry.

Candice cuts to the chase, her tone direct.

CANDICE  
(bluntly)  
Marcus, I need a favor - a lifetime  
commitment that would benefit us both.  
Will you marry me right before  
Christmas?

Marcus chokes on his food, bewildered.

MARCUS  
(questioning)

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Christmas is just a few weeks away.  
Why me?

Candice, undeterred, explains.

CANDICE  
(resolute)  
Because you're single.

Marcus laughs, then probes further.

MARCUS  
(skeptical)  
Why are you doing this? Is it the news  
or your mom's death getting to you?

Candice chuckles, revealing the true reason.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
It's about the inheritance. If I don't  
get married by Christmas, I lose  
millions.

Marcus spits out his drink in shock.

MARCUS  
(astonished)  
Millions? How much do I get out of  
this?

Candice reveals the deal.

CANDICE  
(matter-of-factly)  
A million dollars, but we have to get  
married first. It's the only way I can  
secure my inheritance.

Marcus thinks on this proposition for a moment.

MARCUS  
Okay, I'm in.

They shake hands.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Thank you...

MARCUS  
(teasingly)  
So, can I sleep with you again? As  
your new married man of course!

Candice shoots him a look.

CANDICE  
(firmly)  
No, Marcus. After what you did, we  
won't even live in the same house.  
This is just a marriage on paper,  
nothing more.

INT. REGGIE'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Reggie and Tony sit in the living room, and Tony regales  
Reggie with the details of his wild date.

TONY  
(laughing)  
Man, you won't believe what happened  
on that blind date my sister set up  
for me. I still don't even know her  
name!

Reggie bursts into laughter, enjoying the hilarious account.  
After the laughter settles, Reggie turns serious.

REGGIE  
(thoughtfully)  
Tony, have you ever had a crush on  
someone at work, but you're hesitant  
because you don't want to mess up the  
work chemistry?

Tony grins knowingly.

TONY  
(smiling)  
Bro, all the time. What's going on?

Reggie opens up about his feelings.

REGGIE  
(conflicted)  
I think she might be the one, but I'm  
afraid of ruining our work  
(MORE)

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
relationship. Teamwork makes the dream  
work, you know?

Tony leans in, offering advice.

TONY  
(encouraging)  
Reggie, what if you never try and end  
up regretting it? Tomorrow's not  
promised. Man up and go for it. You're  
a good dude; she'll see that.

Reggie hesitates, worried about work dynamics.

REGGIE  
(resistant)  
I don't want to mess up what we've  
got.

Tony challenges him.

TONY  
(teasing)  
Come on, man. Don't be soft. You want  
a real connection, not some crazy  
stress later. What have you got to  
lose?

Reggie ponders, and Tony drops a truth bomb.

TONY (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
And who knows, she might feel the same  
way. You could have your happily ever  
after.

EXT. MOMMA WALKER'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Candice and Marcus step out of the car, the night air filled  
with tension. Candice directs Marcus with a serious tone.

CANDICE  
(assertive)  
Marcus, we need to sell this. Act like  
we're a loving couple about to get  
married in a few days.

Candice grabs Marcus's hands, startling him.

MARCUS  
(shocked)  
Oh, we're holding hands?

Candice, maintaining her composure, responds firmly.

CANDICE  
(resolute)  
Yes, Marcus. We have to make it look  
like we're in love.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - NIGHT

Candice and Marcus enter holding hands, catching Yvette off guard as she handles business on her laptop.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Yvette, I have some news. Marcus and I  
used to date, but we've rekindled our  
love, and we're getting married in a  
few days.

Yvette, surprised, responds.

YVETTE  
(raising an eyebrow)  
So soon, huh?

Candice approaches Yvette.

CANDICE  
(whispering to Yvette)  
So how long would it take to have my  
money in my account after I marry him.

Yvette is taken aback and laughs.

YVETTE  
We going to see how all this plays  
out.

Meanwhile, Michelle emerges from the kitchen, witnessing Candice and Marcus holding hands.

MARCUS  
(staring at Michelle)  
Uh-oh.

CANDICE  
(nonchalant)  
Michelle, meet Marcus. We're getting married.

MICHELLE  
(fuming)  
I know who this trifling man is! He's my boyfriend!

Candice and Yvette share a shocked look as Marcus swallows nervously.

CANDICE  
(astonished)  
You're dating my cousin? Why didn't you tell me?

MARCUS  
(defensive)  
You never asked.

MICHELLE  
(with evil intent)  
You cheating bastard!

Michelle, furious, grabs a nearby sword and starts chasing Marcus in circles.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
(seething)  
Come here, Marcus, I wanna talk to you.

MARCUS  
(scared)  
Put that sword down!

MICHELLE  
(seething)  
I just wanna talk to you.

Yvette intervenes, allowing Marcus to escape unharmed.

CANDICE  
(sincere)  
Michelle, I'm sorry. I had no idea.

MICHELLE  
(frustrated)

It's not your fault. My girls warned  
me he was a dog.

As Marcus escapes, he yells from outside.

MARCUS  
(desperate)  
How am I gonna get home?

EXT. MOMMA WALKER'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Candice confronts Marcus in the driveway, disappointment  
evident in her eyes.

MARCUS  
(nervously)  
Are we still getting married?

Candice shoots him an evil look.

CANDICE  
(angry)  
No, you ruined that by being a dog!  
Goodbye, Marcus.

She turns and makes her way back inside, leaving Marcus  
behind.

MARCUS  
(desperate)  
How am I getting home?

CANDICE  
(screaming)  
Catch an Uber!

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S STUDY ROOM - DAY

Yvette diligently works at the desk on her computer as  
Candice enters. Yvette gestures for Candice to sit, and  
Candice immediately begins apologizing for the chaotic events  
with Marcus and Michelle.

CANDICE  
(rapidly)  
I know that was wrong, not how it was  
supposed to go down. I apologized to  
Michelle.



Yvette bursts into laughter, surprising Candice.

YVETTE

(laughing)

You have to hear this - Marcus was running around scared for his life, not realizing Michelle's sword was a fake toy. It was comedy gold!

They both share a moment of laughter, and Candice remarks about Marcus playing family during the holidays.

CANDICE

(chuckling)

That's what he gets.

Yvette, however, shifts the mood, expressing her concern.

YVETTE

(serious)

Candice, I understand the money and the time pressure, but could you be any more obvious? You need to watch this.

Yvette plays another video, revealing Momma Walker giving Candice a message.

MOMMA WALKER

(ON VIDEO)

Hey, my beautiful daughter. If you're watching this, you hit a roadblock. I don't know who the guy was, but you fumbled that ball, baby girl.

Momma Walker advises Candice not to give up, sharing her own love story with Candice's father.

MOMMA WALKER (CONT'D)

(ON VIDEO)

It was love at first sight. We got married a week after we first met and were together for 50 years. The Lord wants to have dinner with us tonight, so I must get ready.

The video ends, and Yvette tells Candice there's still time to fall in love.

YVETTE

(smiling)

The window is still open for love at first sight.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Candice and Sophia sit in a vibrant nightclub, sipping on drinks and sharing the latest drama.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Sophia, you won't believe what happened with Marcus. As soon as he walked in and saw Michelle, all hell broke loose.

Sophia, intrigued, takes a sip of her drink.

SOPHIA

(curious)

What happened?

Candice spills the details, and they both burst into laughter.

CANDICE

(laughing)

I let everyone know I was marrying Marcus, but he was still dating Michelle. Sophia, you should've seen him running from Michelle's fake sword!

Sophia almost spits out her drink.

SOPHIA

(amused)

Are you serious?

Candice continues, sharing Marcus's audacious question.

CANDICE

(chuckling)

He had the nerve to ask if we're still getting married.

Sophia, sipping her drink, throws Candice a look.

SOPHIA  
(teasing)  
Well, are you?

Candice is taken aback.

CANDICE  
(confused)  
What? How would I look marrying a man  
still dating my cousin? That's a mess,  
and you know I'm a public figure.

Sophia, unfazed, counters with her perspective.

SOPHIA  
(smiling)  
I mean, it's 10 million dollars. The  
marriage would be fake anyway. You  
should've told Michelle the plan and  
cut her in on the money too.

Candice chuckles.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
I couldn't do that.

Sophia grins.

SOPHIA  
(smiling)  
That's the difference between me and  
you. I'd be 10 million dollars richer.

Candice laughs.

CANDICE  
(teasing)  
And that's why we're both single now.

Candice leans in, sharing a surprising revelation with  
Sophia.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
Sophia, you won't believe it. My mom  
made a video, kinda like a  
premonition, knowing something like  
this might happen.

Sophia, mid-sip, nearly chokes on her drink.

SOPHIA  
(laughing)  
Wait a minute. Your mom, from beyond  
the grave, made a video predicting  
you'd screw up?

Candice nods.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Yes, and I don't know how to feel  
about it because she was right.

Sophia bursts into laughter.

SOPHIA  
(laughing)  
Damn, they weren't lying when they  
said you have angels looking down on  
you.

Candice, a hint of emotion in her eyes.

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
And my momma is one of them.

Sophia asks the big question.

SOPHIA  
(curious)  
So, what are you gonna do now?  
Christmas is right around the corner.

Tony and Reggie sit at the bar, sipping on their drinks,  
engaging in a man-to-man conversation filled with jokes and  
insights about dating.

TONY  
(smirking)  
So, Reggie, ever dipped your toes into  
the world of dating an older woman?

REGGIE  
(raising an eyebrow)  
Oh, you mean a cougar? Yeah, once or  
twice. It's like dating someone with a  
PhD in life experience.

TONY

(chuckling)

PhD, huh? How's that different from dating a younger woman?

REGGIE

(smiling)

Well, dating an older woman is like sipping on fine wine - mature, complex, and they know what they want. Younger women are more like a wild cocktail - fun, energetic, but sometimes a bit unpredictable.

TONY

(nodding)

I get that. But what about the energy levels?

REGGIE

(laughing)

Oh, dating a younger woman feels like being on a constant sugar rush. It's all exciting, full of life, but sometimes you need a break.

TONY

(smiling)

And older women?

REGGIE

(smiling)

Dating an older woman is like finding a balance. There's a calmness, a depth. You appreciate the quiet moments as much as the excitement.

They share a laugh, continuing their banter about the differences in perspectives and expectations when dating women of different age groups.

TONY

(teasingly)

Do older women give better relationship advice?

REGGIE

(nodding)

(MORE)

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Absolutely. It's like having a personal relationship guru. They've been there, done that, and they've got wisdom to share.

TONY

(raising his glass)

To dating adventures, whether with the seasoned or the spirited.

REGGIE

(clinking glasses)

Cheers, my man. May our dating escapades be both mature and wild.

TONY

(grinning)

But what about cultural references? Do you find yourself explaining old-school movies and music to the younger crowd?

REGGIE

(laughing)

Oh, absolutely. It's like giving them a crash course in nostalgia. Sometimes they get it, other times, they just smile and nod.

TONY

(smiling)

And with older women, do you ever feel like you're in a time machine, revisiting the past?

REGGIE

(nodding)

Definitely. They bring a sense of history into the relationship. Sharing stories from different eras adds an interesting layer.

Their conversation takes a more reflective turn as they discuss the evolving nature of relationships and the beauty in embracing differences.

TONY

(thoughtfully)

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

Do you think age really matters when it comes to relationships?

REGGIE

(sipping his drink)

I think it's more about compatibility and shared values. Age is just a number; it's the connection that matters.

TONY

(nodding)

True. Whether you're dancing to '80s tunes or the latest hits, the rhythm should sync.

REGGIE

(smiling)

Exactly. It's about finding someone whose beat complements yours, regardless of the playlist.

TONY

(laughing)

You know, Reggie, dating an older woman is like fine dining. There's sophistication, a refined taste. She knows what she wants, and you better bring your A-game.

REGGIE

(chuckling)

A-game, got it. What about the younger ones?

TONY

(grinning)

Ah, dating a younger woman is like hitting the fast-food drive-thru. Quick, exciting, and you might regret it later when it messes with your stomach.

They both burst into laughter, enjoying the humor in Tony's playful comparisons.

REGGIE

(teasingly)

So, older women have the wisdom, huh?

TONY  
(nodding)  
Absolutely. It's like having a  
relationship guru. She's been through  
it all and has a library of life  
lessons to share.

REGGIE  
(laughing)  
And the younger ones?

TONY  
(smiling)  
Well, they're like your personal  
cheerleaders. Full of energy, cheering  
you on, but sometimes you're left  
wondering, "Do they even know the game  
we're playing?"

BACK TO CANDICE AND SOPHIA:

Candice turns and sees her cameraman/producer, Reggie over  
there with Tony.

CANDICE  
Sophia, look across from you.

SOPHIA  
(Excited)  
Yeah, I see!

CANDICE  
The one on the left is Reggie.

SOPHIA  
(Seductive)  
But who's the one to the right?

CANDICE  
(smiling)  
Reggie is my cameraman and producer.  
He's good at what he does. The one the  
right must be his friend or something

SOPHIA  
(looking intrigued)  
Handsome and talented? I like that  
combo.

Candice notices Sophia's interest and raises an eyebrow.



CANDICE

(teasing)

Why are you suddenly curious about Reggie?

SOPHIA

(smiling slyly)

Just wondering if he's on the market. You know, for business collaborations.

Candice gives Sophia a skeptical look.

CANDICE

(sarcastically)

Business collaborations, huh? I've heard that one before.

SOPHIA

(laughing)

Come on, Candice. It's not a crime to appreciate eye candy. And if he's single, why not?

CANDICE

(looking hesitant)

I don't know. Mixing business with pleasure didn't go so well for me in the past.

SOPHIA

(leaning in)

Well, maybe it's time for a fresh start. Besides, you're running out of time for that Christmas wedding deadline.

Candice chuckles at Sophia's persistence.

CANDICE

(sarcastically)

Oh, right, because finding a husband in a few weeks is as easy as ordering a drink at the bar.

SOPHIA

(grinning)

You never know until you try. And, by the way, who's Reggie's friend? He's not too bad himself.

Candice looks over to Tony and Reggie's friend, a hint of amusement in her eyes.

CANDICE

(teasingly)

Oh, so now you're into his friend?  
Well, maybe we can work on some  
collaborations after all.

They share a laugh, enjoying the playful banter as the night unfolds in the vibrant atmosphere of the nightclub.

BACK TO REGGIE AND TONY:

Tony and Reggie spot Candice and Sophia from a distance. Tony playfully teases Reggie about Candice, calling her his "work boo." Reggie laughs it off, telling Tony to hush.

TONY

Speaking of women, isn't that your  
coworker, news reporter, Candice  
Walker?

Tony's eyes widen as he focuses on Sophia.

TONY (CONT'D)

And that light-skin chick she's with  
is truly grabbing my attention.

Reggie corrects him.

REGGIE

She look more Puerto Rican than light-  
skin black girl.

Tony dismisses it.

TONY

Whatever...

REGGIE

Okay...

A beat.

TONY

So, we're not going over there for you  
to introduce me to your work boo and  
that fine woman she's hanging with?

Reggie sighs heavily.

REGGIE

Come on, but behave yourself.

Reggie and Tony finally approach Candice and Sophia. Candice  
greeted Reggie with excitement, and they share a hug. Reggie  
introduces Tony to Candice.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Tony, meet Candice.

Tony interrupts, expressing his fandom for Candice's work.

TONY

Oh no introduction needed, we know who  
you are, the great Candice Walker from  
news channel 3.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Thank you.

As they shake hands.

TONY

My man here has nothing but great  
things to say about you.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Likewise.

Reggie nudges Tony.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Well guys this is my bestfriend in the  
entire world, Sophia. Sophia this is  
Reggie, the amazing producer on my  
team.

They all shake hands. Tony turns to Reggie.

TONY

(whispering to Reggie)

Yo, you're right. She does look Puerto Rican.

Reggie nudges him again.

TONY (CONT'D)  
(To everyone)  
Happy holidays! Are you guys ready for Christmas?

Candice and Sophia are silent. Reggie steps in.

REGGIE  
I'm so sorry, your mom just passed away.

Tony expresses his condolences.

TONY  
Oh shoot! My bad.

CANDICE  
You're good. You didn't know. But thank you.

REGGIE  
How are you holding up.

CANDICE  
Taking it day-by-day. But as you can see, I'm out here. It's not where I want --

Sophia interrupts.

SOPHIA  
I pretty much dragged her ass out here tonight.

They all laugh. Sophia, intrigued, starts eyeing Tony.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
So Tony...

TONY  
(smiling)  
Yes!

SOPHIA  
Is Tony short for something?

Tony chuckles.

TONY  
(jokingly)  
Tony is never short for anything.

Sophia and Candice is taken aback.

CANDICE  
Okay...

TONY  
But it's just Tony.

SOPHIA  
Cool...

TONY  
I can be Tony the Tiger if you want me  
to be.

Reggie and Candice react, but Sophia finds it intriguing.

SOPHIA  
That was so...freaking corny. But it  
was cute.

Candice and Reggie reaction is like "What?"

TONY  
Listen, if Sophia don't mind, I would  
love to take her over here to get know  
her more, while you guys be left  
alone.

They walk away, leaving Candice and Reggie alone.

Reggie, with a caring expression, leans in to ask Candice  
about her return to reporting.

REGGIE  
(Concerned)  
Candice, I know it's been tough with  
your mother's passing, especially  
during the holidays. When can we see  
our favorite news reporter back in  
action? We miss having you around.

Candice, blushing, appreciates Reggie's sentiment.

CANDICE

(Smiling)

Reggie, thank you. I've actually decided to come back next week. I need to be out there in my element, reporting the news.

Reggie nods, showing his support for her decision.

REGGIE

(Encouraging)

That's great to hear, Candice. We've missed having you with us. It's not the same without you.

Reggie, now with a relieved smile, expresses his enthusiasm for Candice's return.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

(Grinning)

Next week? That's fantastic news! We've been waiting for your energy and passion to light up the newsroom again.

Candice, touched by Reggie's support, continues to share her reasons for returning.

CANDICE

(Determined)

I appreciate your patience, Reggie. But being out there, reporting the news—it's where I belong. I need to embrace that again.

REGGIE

(Nodding)

Absolutely, Candice. Your presence adds something special to our team. Can't wait to have you back.

CANDICE

(Smiling)

So, Reggie, any special plans for the holidays?

REGGIE

(Chuckling)

(MORE)

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
Just the usual. Single and ready to  
mingle, you know?

Candice laughs, understanding the sentiment.

CANDICE  
(Sympathetic)  
I hear you. Being single during the  
holidays has its own vibe.

REGGIE  
(Nodding)  
True. No mistletoe moments this year,  
just some good music and company.

Candice raises her glass, toasting to their solo holiday  
adventures.

CANDICE  
(Playfully)  
Here's to navigating the holidays  
independently. Who needs a plus one  
anyway?

REGGIE  
(Curious)  
Candice, what are your thoughts on  
marriage? Do you see yourself getting  
married one day?

CANDICE  
(Thoughtful)  
Marriage is a big commitment. I think  
it can be a beautiful partnership  
built on trust and mutual growth. As  
for me, well, I've always been open to  
the idea.

Reggie listens attentively, intrigued by Candice's response.

REGGIE  
(Engaged)  
What aspects of marriage appeal to  
you, and are there any concerns?

CANDICE  
(Smiling)

(MORE)

CANDICE (CONT'D)

The idea of a lifelong partnership, sharing joys and challenges together, is appealing. Of course, it comes with its own set of challenges, but I believe with the right person, it can be incredibly rewarding.

REGGIE

(Curious)

Are there specific qualities or values you envision in a partner for a lifelong commitment?

CANDICE

(Reflective)

Absolutely, Reggie. Trust, respect, shared values, and a sense of humor are crucial. I believe a strong emotional connection and the ability to navigate challenges together are the foundation of a lasting marriage.

Reggie nods, appreciating the significance of these qualities.

REGGIE

Thoughtful

And the idea of starting a family, does that play a role in your vision of marriage?

CANDICE

(Nodding)

Definitely. The idea of building a family and creating a supportive, loving environment is something I've always envisioned as part of the journey.

Candice, intrigued by their conversation, turns the question back to Reggie, wanting to hear his thoughts on marriage.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

(Curious)

What about you, Reggie? How do you see marriage, and is it something you envision for your future?



REGGIE

(Thoughtful)

Marriage, to me, is a partnership built on love, trust, and shared goals. I can see myself getting married one day, but it's all about finding the right person and the right time.

Candice listens attentively, prompting Reggie to share more about his perspective.

CANDICE

(Engaged)

Are there specific aspects of marriage that appeal to you, or any concerns you might have?

REGGIE

(Sincere)

I value the idea of building a life together, supporting each other's dreams, and creating a strong foundation for a family. Of course, it comes with challenges, but the potential for growth and shared experiences is what makes it meaningful.

Candice, eager to explore Reggie's perspective further, delves into the finer details of his views on marriage.

CANDICE

(Thoughtful)

Are there specific qualities or values you believe are essential in a partner for a successful marriage?

REGGIE

(Contemplative)

Trust, communication, and a shared vision for the future are paramount. Having a partner who supports your ambitions and shares similar values is crucial for a lasting marriage.

Candice nods, appreciating Reggie's emphasis on foundational qualities.

CANDICE

(Smiling)

And family—how does that factor into your thoughts on marriage?

REGGIE

(Reflective)

Family is important to me, and I envision creating a loving, supportive environment for our future family. It's about building a legacy together.

BACK TO TONY AND SOPHIA:

Tony and Sophia sit at a cozy corner, engaged in a lengthy conversation about relationships. They discuss various aspects, sharing insights and experiences.

TONY

(smiling)

You know, relationships are like a roller coaster. Ups, downs, and sometimes you just want to get off.

SOPHIA

(nodding)

Totally get that. But it's the twists and turns that make it interesting, don't you think?

TONY

(smiling)

True. It's like a dance. Sometimes you step on each other's toes, but when you find the rhythm, it's magical.

SOPHIA

(teasingly)

Speaking of magic, do you believe in love at first sight?

TONY

(grinning)

I used to think it was a fairy tale, but now, I'm not so sure. What about you?

SOPHIA

(smiling)

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

I believe in connection at first sight. Love takes time, but that initial spark is crucial.

TONY

(nodding)

Agreed. You've got to water the plant for it to grow.

They delve into discussions about communication, compromise, and the importance of individual growth within a relationship.

SOPHIA

(leaning in)

Communication is key, Tony. Without it, you're just two people guessing what the other needs.

TONY

(sincerely)

And compromise. It's not about losing, but finding a middle ground that makes both happy.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

It's all about finding that person who loves your kind of crazy.

TONY

(laughing)

Absolutely. Someone who appreciates your quirks and makes you better.

As their conversation winds down, they reflect on the ever-evolving nature of relationships.

TONY (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Relationships are a journey, Sophia. You learn, you grow, and if you're lucky, you find your forever dance partner.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

Here's to the journey, Tony, and finding that perfect dance partner. Cheers.

Tony and Sophia settle in for a conversation about the changing dynamics of Christmas.

TONY

(looking around)

You ever notice how Christmas isn't what it used to be? I mean, the magic, the excitement—it's different.

SOPHIA

(nodding)

Yeah, it's like the older we get, the more the holidays transform. The innocence of childhood Christmases feels like a distant memory.

TONY

(smiling)

Remember when the biggest stress was picking out the perfect toy from the catalog? Now, it's more about adulting and figuring out who to spend the holidays with.

SOPHIA

(sighing)

Exactly. It's not about waking up early to see what Santa brought. Now, it's about coordinating schedules and managing expectations.

TONY

(reflecting)

I miss the simplicity of it all. The joy in little things, like putting up decorations and singing carols without a care in the world.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

Now, it's about coordinating family visits, dealing with crowded malls, and the stress of finding the perfect gifts for everyone.

TONY

(nodding)

It feels like we're all caught up in this rush to create the perfect

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)  
holiday experience, instead of  
cherishing the genuine moments.

SOPHIA  
(agreed)  
We get so wrapped up in the material  
aspects and the societal expectations.  
Sometimes, I wish we could go back to  
the simplicity of just being together.

TONY  
(rolling his eyes)  
Valentine's Day? I've never been a fan  
of that fake, commercialized holiday.  
It's just a way for businesses to make  
a quick buck.

SOPHIA  
(smiling)  
Oh, come on, Tony! Valentine's Day is  
magical. It's like Christmas for love.  
A day to celebrate romance and show  
appreciation.

TONY  
(skeptical)  
Appreciation? Why do we need a  
designated day for that? Shouldn't we  
be expressing our love every day?

SOPHIA  
(grinning)  
Of course, we should, but Valentine's  
Day is like a reminder, a special day  
to go the extra mile. It's about  
creating moments.

TONY  
(shrugging)  
Moments? More like manufactured  
moments. I'd rather show my love  
spontaneously, not because a calendar  
says so.

SOPHIA  
(leaning in)  
But, Tony, there's something magical  
about receiving flowers or a heartfelt  
card on Valentine's Day. It's like a  
collective celebration of love.

TONY

(sighing)

I still think it's overrated. It puts unnecessary pressure on people to conform to these romantic stereotypes.

SOPHIA

(smiling)

Maybe, but I love the idea of a day dedicated to love. It's a chance to celebrate and cherish the special connection we have with our significant others.

Tony and Sophia return to Candice and Reggie. Candice lets out a yawn in the midst of the lively club scene.

TONY

(Teasing)

Damn Reggie, were you that boring to her?

Candice, smiling, defends Reggie.

CANDICE

(Playful)

No, Reggie kept me entertained and intrigued. We had some grown-up, mature conversation.

Sophia interjects, playfully challenging their conversational skills.

SOPHIA

(Grinning)

What, you're saying Tony and I can't carry a conversation like you guys?

Tony joins in with a smirk.

TONY

(Laughing)

Yeah, Reggie, is that what you think of us?

Candice and Reggie chuckle, shaking their heads.

SOPHIA

(Noticing the time)

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
It's getting late; it's past Candice's  
bedtime.

Candice shoots Sophia a playful look.

CANDICE  
(Nods)  
Nice meeting you, Tony and Reggie.  
I'll see you in the office next week.

SOPHIA  
(To Tony)  
And you, I'll be seeing you real soon.

Tony, biting his lip, responds confidently.

TONY  
(Grinning)  
You best believe it.

As Candice and Sophia walk out, Reggie turns to Tony.

REGGIE  
(Smiling)  
So, you and Sophia?

TONY  
(Confident)  
Oh, yes, Lord! She'll be all mine.

Reggie then shifts the conversation, asking about Reggie's feelings for Candice.

REGGIE  
(Asking)  
Did you finally come clean to Candice  
about your crush, work boo, and let  
her know how you feel?

Reggie slowly shakes his head, causing Tony to express frustration.

TONY  
(Exasperated)  
Why not?

REGGIE  
(Shrugging)

(MORE)

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
I'm more intrigued by our  
conversation, but in due time, my  
dude.

INT. CITY HALL BUILDING - DAY

Candice and Reggie wrap up their reporting, the air buzzing  
with satisfaction.

REGGIE  
(Smiling)  
Candice, that was an awesome reporting  
job! Welcome back.

Candice, glowing with a smile, appreciates Reggie's  
compliment as they discuss their recent interview with a city  
council member.

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
(Nervously)  
Hey, Candice, I was thinking... would  
you want to grab dinner sometime?

Candice, to Reggie's surprise, quickly responds.

CANDICE  
(Excited)  
Yes! Is tonight too short of notice?

Reggie stumbles over his words, caught off guard by Candice's  
swift agreement.

REGGIE  
(Stammering)  
Uh, yes! I mean, no... it's not too  
short notice. I'd love that.

CANDICE  
(Smiling)  
Great! See you tonight.

Candice exits the building, leaving Reggie alone to pack up  
his things. Realizing he's by himself, Reggie can't contain  
his excitement. He starts jumping up and down in triumphant  
and excitement.

REGGIE  
(screaming)  
Yes!



INT. SOPHIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sophia opens the door for Candice, looking disheveled as if she's been in a wrestling match.

CANDICE  
(Concerned)  
Sophia, why do you look like you've  
been in a wrestling match?

SOPHIA  
(Distracted)  
Oh, nothing. What's up?

Candice eagerly shares the news.

CANDICE  
(Excited)  
Reggie finally asked me out, and I  
said yes!

Sophia smiles, giving Candice a high-five and offering some advice.

Suddenly, Tony emerges from the back with no shirt on, overhearing Reggie's name.

TONY  
(Excited)  
I heard my boy Reggie's name!

Tony freezes upon seeing Candice, realizing his lack of attire.

Sophia shoots him an embarrassing look, and Candice, understanding the situation, smiles.

CANDICE  
(Teasing)  
Are you two...?

Sophia and Tony nod with playful giggles.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Asking Sophia)  
What time are you guys going out?

SOPHIA  
(Answering)

(MORE)

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
Tonight. I was surprised Reggie  
finally said something.

Tony interjects with enthusiasm.

TONY  
(Excitedly)  
My boy Reggie finally had the balls to  
ask you out! He's had a crush on you  
for a while. Don't tell him I told you  
this.

Sophia gives Tony a disapproving look.

SOPHIA  
(Shaking her head)  
Tony, you can't hold water.

CANDICE  
(Grateful)  
Thanks, and enjoy your evening.

TONY  
(Playfully)  
You're gonna have a great time.

Sophia gives Candice a signal that she and Tony weren't done.  
Candice catches on.

CANDICE  
(Realizing)  
Oh, I get the hint. Go do what you  
were doing.

Sophia escorts Candice to the door.

SOPHIA  
(Smiling)  
Let me know how it went.

Sophia quickly shuts the door, as Tony reappears.

TONY  
Did she just left.

SOPHIA  
(sighs)  
Finally...

TONY

Let's finish our game of hide-n-seek.  
It's time for you to start hiding  
because I was hiding before we were  
rudely interrupted.

SOPHIA

(excited)

Okay! Close your eyes, because I think  
you cheated the last time.

TONY

I did not such a thing!

SOPHIA

Whatever, close your eyes!

Sophia starts running off to the back to find a hiding spot.

TONY

(counting with eyes closed)

One one thousand, two one thousand,  
three one thousand, four one thousand.

Tony opens his eyes.

TONY (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Alright, here I come!

As he starts searching for Sophia.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Reggie stands up, a smile lighting up his face, as Candice  
enters the restaurant. He gestures towards the chair, pulling  
it out like a true gentleman, and she gracefully takes her  
seat.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Chivalry is not dead, I see.

REGGIE

(grinning)

Not with me.

Candice nods in approval as they settle into the elegant  
ambiance of the restaurant.

CANDICE  
(looking around)  
This place is fantastic. Good choice.

REGGIE  
(smiling)  
I thought you might like it.

They engage in light banter about the menu and the ambiance  
of the restaurant.

CANDICE  
(teasingly)  
You always know how to impress.

REGGIE  
(playfully)  
Well, I aim to please.

As they peruse the menu, their conversation shifts to more  
serious matters.

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
(leaning in)  
So, about our segment at City Hall.  
The whole administration is in hot  
water.

CANDICE  
(nodding)  
Yes, it's a mess. We need to keep  
digging for the truth.

REGGIE  
(smiling)  
Candice, have you ever thought about  
being a news anchor woman one day?  
You've got the presence and charisma  
for it.

CANDICE  
(chuckling)  
Funny you should ask. I've thought  
about it, but I'm not sure I see  
myself in that role.

REGGIE  
(curious)  
Why not? You'd be great at it.

CANDICE  
(leaning in, whispering)  
Reggie, I think I might have ADHD.

REGGIE  
(raising an eyebrow)  
ADHD? Seriously?

Candice bursts into laughter.

CANDICE  
(laughing)  
I'm serious! I can't see myself  
keeping still in one place for a long  
time. I'd probably start doing  
somersaults on live television.

Reggie joins in the laughter, imagining the scenario.

REGGIE  
(laughing)  
Well, that would make for interesting  
news, wouldn't it?

CANDICE  
Exactly! "Breaking News: Anchor Does  
Impromptu Gymnastics Routine."

REGGIE  
You might be onto something there. Who  
needs a news desk when you've got  
somersaults?

Reggie takes a moment, looking thoughtful.

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
(seriously)  
Candice, I've been thinking about my  
future beyond being your producer.

CANDICE  
What are you thinking?

A beat.

REGGIE

I want to be an executive producer,  
become my own showrunner for my own  
show.

CANDICE

(impressed)

That's ambitious, Reggie. Tell me  
more.

As Reggie shares his aspirations, Candice listens intently,  
recognizing the potential in his goals.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

(supportively)

I think that's a fantastic idea. You  
have the talent and the drive. I'm all  
for it.

REGGIE

(leaning forward with enthusiasm)

Candice, I've always had this vision  
of creating content that not only  
entertains but also makes a  
difference. I want to be the driving  
force behind a show that sparks  
conversations, challenges  
perspectives, you know, something that  
leaves a lasting impact.

CANDICE

That's a powerful vision, Reggie. What  
kind of show are you thinking?

REGGIE

(passionate)

I want to delve into real issues,  
stories that often go untold. A show  
that highlights the struggles, the  
triumphs, and the diversity of the  
human experience. I want it to be  
thought-provoking, shedding light on  
topics that need attention.

CANDICE

(impressed)

That's ambitious and much needed in  
the media landscape. What's your  
focus?

REGGIE

(thoughtful)

I want to showcase untold stories from marginalized communities, amplify voices that are often silenced. It's time to break away from the clichés and stereotypes, to bring authentic narratives to the forefront.

Candice nods, captivated by Reggie's vision.

CANDICE

(encouraging)

It sounds like a show with a purpose. How do you plan to achieve it?

REGGIE

(determined)

I'm thinking of creating a platform that not only entertains but educates and inspires. Collaborating with talented writers, directors, and producers to craft compelling stories. And, of course, leveraging the power of media to bring about positive change.

CANDICE

(supportive)

Reggie, that's incredible. Count me in to support you in any way I can.

Reggie smiles, appreciating Candice's encouragement.

REGGIE

(grateful)

Thanks, Candice. Your support means a lot. I believe we can make a difference through storytelling.

EXT. LOCAL PARK - NIGHT

Candice and Reggie take a leisurely stroll through the park, the soft glow of streetlights illuminating their path. The ambiance is romantic, creating a perfect setting for an intimate conversation.

CANDICE

(smiling)

That dinner was amazing, Reggie. Good choice on the restaurant.

REGGIE

(grinning)

I'm glad you liked it. Just trying to keep the evening as perfect as possible.

As they walk, the conversation takes a turn into more personal territory.

CANDICE

(looking thoughtful)

Reggie, do you believe in love at first sight?

REGGIE

(smiling)

Love at first sight? Well, I believe in a strong connection, an instant chemistry that can grow into something deeper. Love, for me, is about understanding and evolving together.

Candice looks intrigued, prompting Reggie to elaborate.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Love at first sight is like recognizing a melody in a crowded room. It catches your attention, and you can't help but be drawn to it. But it's the harmony, the shared experiences, that turn that melody into a beautiful symphony.

CANDICE

I agree.

REGGIE

(nodding)

Yeah, it's like there's an unspoken connection, a recognition of something special. But it's just the beginning, you know? The real magic happens as you get to know each other.

CANDICE

(teasingly)

(MORE)



CANDICE (CONT'D)

So, you're saying love at first sight is just the trailer, and the full movie is yet to unfold?

REGGIE

(chuckling)

Exactly! You catch a glimpse of something intriguing, and you can't help but want to explore it further.

Candice playfully nudges Reggie's arm.

CANDICE

(leaning in)

I have to admit, I never really believed in love at first sight. But tonight, everything feels different.

REGGIE

(smiling)

Maybe the magic is in the unexpected, in surprising even ourselves.

They continue their stroll through the park, the conversation seamlessly weaving between light-hearted banter and deeper reflections on love.

CANDICE

(sincerely)

Reggie, do you think it's possible for love to endure, to stand the test of time?

REGGIE

(optimistically)

Absolutely. Love isn't static; it evolves and grows. It's about finding someone you can grow with and creating a story that stands the test of time.

Candice smiles, appreciating Reggie's perspective. Suddenly, the atmosphere shifts, and a magnetic energy lingers between them. Without a word, Candice and Reggie find themselves drawn closer, and their lips meet in a passionate kiss under the night sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

## START OF MONTAGE

## INT. BRUNCH RESTAURANT - DAY

Candice and Reggie sit at a cozy table, enjoying brunch together. The restaurant buzzes with a lively atmosphere as they share laughs and stories.

Candice sips her coffee, a warm smile on her face, as Reggie recounts a funny anecdote. The sunlight filters through the windows, creating a comfortable ambiance.

## INT. MOVIE THEATER - EVENING

Candice and Reggie find themselves in a dimly lit movie theater, settling into comfortable seats as the previews start to roll. The screen flickers to life, casting a soft glow on their faces.

Candice holds a bucket of popcorn, and Reggie reaches over, playfully grabbing a handful.

REGGIE

(Smiling)

You know sharing is caring, right?

Candice chuckles, and instead of putting the popcorn in her mouth, Reggie decides to have a bit of fun. He lifts a piece toward her lips, and she teasingly takes a small bite.

CANDICE

(Laughing)

Well, that's one way to share.

As the movie progresses, they enjoy the film while occasionally exchanging glances and smiles.

## INT. CHANNEL 3 NEWS VAN - DAY

Candice and Reggie, exhilarated after a strong reporting session, find themselves inside the Channel 3 news van.

Reggie, unable to contain the joy of the moment, turns to Candice with a smile, and they share a passionate kiss.

INT. LOCAL PARK - DAY

Reggie and Candice stroll hand in hand through a serene local park. The sunlight filters through the leaves, creating a gentle play of shadows on the path.

They share intimate glances and smiles, basking in the joy of each other's company.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Candice and Reggie join Yvette and her date in the warm atmosphere of Momma Walker's dining room. The table is set with delicious homemade dishes, and laughter fills the air as they enjoy dinner.

YVETTE

(Smiling)

Who wants seconds?

Reggie and Yvette's date enthusiastically agree, expressing their desire for more of the delectable meal.

REGGIE

(Grinning)

Definitely want seconds.

Yvette gestures for Candice to join her in the kitchen, signaling a private moment to catch up.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Candice follows Yvette into the kitchen, where the sounds of clinking dishes and the aroma of home-cooked food create a comforting ambiance.

CANDICE

(Whispering)

Thanks for inviting us. Reggie's loving the food.

YVETTE

(Grinning)

I'm glad you both are enjoying it. He seems like a keeper.

Candice smiles, grateful for the warmth of Momma Walker's home and the acceptance of Reggie into the family fold.

CANDICE  
(Whispering)  
Yeah, he really is.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Candice and Yvette, amidst the warmth of the kitchen, prepare to serve second servings to Reggie and Yvette's date.

Yvette discreetly points to her watch, a subtle reminder to Candice about the imminent closure of her inheritance window. Candice, understanding the urgency, sighs.

CANDICE  
(Whispering)  
I know, I know. We'll talk about that later.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Candice and Yvette re-enter the dining room with smiles on their faces, seamlessly blending back into the lively atmosphere.

YVETTE  
(With enthusiasm)  
Seconds for everyone! Dig in!

They serve the second helpings to Reggie and Yvette's date, engaging in casual conversation as if the brief kitchen discussion never happened.

END OF MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CANDICE'S OFFICE - DAY

Candice and Yvette sit in Candice's office, discussing the urgency of her inheritance.

YVETTE  
(Serious)

Candice, we need to go over the conditions of your inheritance. Time is of the essence.

Candice listens attentively as Yvette lays out the requirements.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

(Explaining)

To secure this inheritance, you must get married quickly. Reggie is the designated candidate for this purpose.

Candice, understanding the gravity of the situation, responds with determination.

CANDICE

(Resolute)

I know, Yvette. Time is short, and I'm aware of the conditions. Reggie is the one.

Yvette nods, acknowledging Candice's understanding of the urgency surrounding her inheritance.

INT. NEWS STATION HALLWAY - DAY

Reggie waltz down the hallway carrying flowers on his romantic way to surprise Candice.

Reggie is stop to a halt when he hears Candice and Yvette talking about her inheritance with her office door wide open.

YVETTE (O.S.)

All I'm saying is you get him to marry you, find a way to get married at least by Christmas Eve because the courts of course will be closed on Christmas. That way you get your 10 million dollars, you'll be done with - hell, we all...will be done with it.

CANDICE (O.S.)

Yeah...you maybe right!

YVETTE (O.S.)

And you can then worry about fallen in love, having someone make you feel special and appreciated later. He's a good guy, seem like a great catch, but time and your money is not on your side.

CANDICE (O.S.)

That is so true!

Reggie looks dejected. He lowers his head, slumps down knowingly that Candice was only liking him to collect the inheritance. Reggie walks away looking very defeated.

INT. CANDICE'S OFFICE - DAY

Candice is now pacing the room back and forth, as she continues to chat with Yvette.

CANDICE

Here is the thing, Yvette. I am having strong feelings for this man so quickly that I'd thought would never happen.

YVETTE

Do you see yourself fallen in love with Reggie.

A beat.

CANDICE

(Smiling)

I think I have...

YVETTE

But...

CANDICE

But...as you stated, time is of an essence.

Yvette rises from her seat, about to leave.

YVETTE

You have to ask yourself, would you rather be in love with Reggie? Or your 10 million dollars? Talk to you later.

Yvette walks out. Candice flops down at her desk work chair and sighs very loudly.

EXT. LOCAL PARK - THE NEXT DAY

Candice and Reggie meet in the tranquil setting of a local park, the air filled with anticipation.

CANDICE

Hey.

REGGIE

What's up.

They share a kiss.

CANDICE

I brought you out here because in a brief time that we have been together and knowing you outside of being my amazing producer, but you have become an amazing man! You have been what I have desperately prayed for and it's been in my face this entire time.

Reggie just chuckle and shakes his head.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

So with that being said...

Candice gets on one knee, pulls out a ring.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Reggie Williams, will you marry me?

A couple walks by noticing Candice proposing to Reggie. The man looks on smiling with admiration.

MAN WALKING BY

(yelling)

That's what I'm talking about, young man! You must have that amazing you-know-what for her to be proposing to you!

REGGIE

Get up, Candice. I'm not marrying you so you can get your 10 million dollars inheritance.

Candice looks speechless.

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
Yeah... I heard.

Candice is taken all the way back as she gets off of her one knee.

CANDICE  
How much do you know?

REGGIE  
(seething)  
I know enough to know that you were  
playing me this whole time, Candice.

CANDICE  
Babe --

Reggie cuts her off.

REGGIE  
Do not "babe" me. The whole time I  
thought this was real. I pour my heart  
and soul to you. I told you things  
that I've never told anybody.

CANDICE  
But --

Reggie cuts her off again.

REGGIE  
(seething)  
But it was all games to get me to  
marry you so you can collect on your  
money. I won't nothing but a game to  
you. Yeah...marry me now so you can  
collect and fall in love with me  
later, right?

CANDICE  
Reggie, I--

Reggie cuts her off once again.

REGGIE  
(seething)

(MORE)



REGGIE (CONT'D)  
Go find another sucka' who'll do it.  
But you don't have a lot of time, you  
have today and maybe Christmas Eve.  
But in regards to me and you. I'm done  
with you. Merry Christmas!

Reggie walks away. Candice is shedding tears.

CANDICE  
(yelling)  
Reggie! Reggie, please!

Reggie ignores Candice's calls and not looking back.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(softly)  
I'm sorry...

As Candice weeps in sorrow.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - KITCHEN - CHRISTMAS MORNING

Christmas morning casts a melancholic shadow as Candice sits  
at the kitchen table, sipping on her coffee. Yvette enters,  
greeting her with a festive spirit.

YVETTE  
(smiling)  
Merry Christmas, Candice!

Candice, lost in thought, responds.

CANDICE  
(subdued)  
Good morning.

Yvette, sensing Candice's mood, takes a step back.

YVETTE  
(teasingly)  
Oh, no "Merry Christmas" back?

Candice looks up, her eyes reflecting a deep sadness.

CANDICE  
(sighing)  
Merry Christmas.

Yvette, now more understanding, sits beside Candice.

YVETTE

(softly)

I know this isn't the Christmas you were hoping for, especially without the inheritance. But it's still Christmas.

Candice, looking even more somber, speaks with a heavy heart.

CANDICE

(quietly)

I've lost something more valuable than money, Yvette. I lost Reggie.

Yvette, now serious, offers support.

YVETTE

(consoling)

If he means that much to you, fight for him, Candice.

Candice, eyes welling up, admits her true feelings.

CANDICE

(teary-eyed)

I do love him, Yvette. I was so consumed with the inheritance that I didn't see what truly mattered.

Yvette sits closer to Candice, offering a comforting presence.

YVETTE

(earnestly)

Then go after him. Money comes and goes, but true love, that's rare.

Candice looks at Yvette, seeking guidance.

CANDICE

(softly)

But he won't even talk to me, Yvette. He hasn't even showed up for work. I hurt him.

Yvette imparts heartfelt advice, a blend of tough love and genuine concern.

YVETTE

(firmly)

Then find a way to make things right.  
Fight for what you love, Candice.  
Life's too short for regrets.

Candice, determined, looks at Yvette, seeking more advice.

CANDICE  
(resolute)  
How do I do it? How do I get Reggie  
back?

Yvette, with a knowing smile, offers a plan.

YVETTE  
(whispering)  
First, apologize from your heart.  
Then, show him, not with words, but  
with actions, that you're willing to  
make things right.

CANDICE  
(earnestly)  
You're right, Yvette. I need to make  
things right with Reggie.

Yvette nods approvingly.

YVETTE  
That's the spirit, Candice. Genuine  
apologies and actions can mend a lot.

Candice takes a deep breath, gathering her strength.

CANDICE  
But where do I even begin? I don't  
know how to approach him.

YVETTE  
(smiling)  
Start by reaching out to him. Be  
sincere, let him know you're sorry.

Candice pulls out her phone, contemplating the idea.

CANDICE  
I guess it's worth a shot.

YVETTE

And remember, actions speak louder than words. Show him you've changed, that he means more to you than any inheritance.

Candice takes a moment, absorbing Yvette's advice.

CANDICE

What if he doesn't want to hear from me?

Yvette places a comforting hand on Candice's shoulder.

YVETTE

Then give him the space he needs, but make sure he knows you're sincere about making amends.

Candice nods, a mix of determination and vulnerability in her eyes.

CANDICE

Thank you, Yvette. I needed someone to knock some sense into me.

Yvette smiles, offering a reassuring squeeze on Candice's shoulder.

YVETTE

You're stronger than you think. Now, go get your man back.

Candice, fueled by a newfound purpose, stands up, ready to face the challenge ahead.

CANDICE

I will, Yvette. I will.

They embrace.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Love you, Yvette.

YVETTE

(smiling)

Love you, too.

INT. CANDICE'S OFFICE - DAY

Candice, bustling around her office, gathers her notes and prepares for a day of news reporting in the city. Her boss, Jason, enters the room, and she takes a moment to ask about Reggie.

CANDICE

(smiling)

Is Reggie finally coming in today? He hasn't return my calls or anything. I need to discuss some segments with him.

Jason's expression turns somber, and he hesitates before delivering the news.

JASON

(regretfully)

Candice, I thought you knew. Reggie is no longer with our team.

Candice's face contorts in shock and disbelief.

CANDICE

(stammering)

What? Where did he go? Why wasn't I informed?

JASON

(apologetic)

I'm sorry, Candice. It happened suddenly. Reggie is now an executive producer over at News Station 10. He's running a new show for them.

Candice, still processing the information, mutters under her breath.

CANDICE

(whispering)

He got what he wanted. He always wanted to be a showrunner.

JASON

(nodding)

He's a great talent, Candice. We're going to miss him here.

Candice, overwhelmed with sorrow, struggles to hold back tears.

CANDICE  
(softly)  
Me too.

Jason, trying to lighten the mood, mentions the arrival of Candice's new producer.

JASON  
(trying to be upbeat)  
Your new producer should be here  
shortly. Good luck out there today  
with your new partner.

As Jason exits her office, Candice, left alone, grabs a tissue.

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY

Candice stands confidently on the courthouse steps, addressing the camera directly.

CANDICE  
(Professional)  
This is Candice Walker for News  
Channel 3. But before I sign off, I  
want to remind our viewing audience  
what love truly means.

She takes a moment to share her heartfelt thoughts on love and its significance. Her tone shifts as she opens up.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Lovingly)  
Love is not just a word; it's a  
connection that goes beyond words.  
It's about understanding, compassion,  
and being there for each other in both  
good and challenging times. I've  
learned that love is a precious gift  
that should never be taken for  
granted. It's the bond that withstands  
trials, but unfortunately, it can also  
be fragile.

Candice sighs heavily in front of the camera.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Sincere)  
Because of greed, I've lost someone I  
loved.

Candice waves off her new producer, signaling that she's not finished.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Firmly)  
Don't sign me off; I'm not done yet.  
(pauses)  
So please...stop taking love for  
granted. Or you gonna end up like me.

Candice shakes her head to her new producer.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Determined)  
This will be my last reporting for  
now. My main focus is getting my man  
back.

Candice sighs heavily.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(Confident)  
I know this may go viral, but I don't  
give a damn. If you're watching,  
Reggie Williams - that's right, I just  
called your full government name on  
these airwaves. I'm coming to get you  
back in my life, whatever it takes. I  
miss you, and I love you.

Candice throws up a peace sign, drops the microphone, and walks off, leaving behind a powerful message and a cliffhanger for her audience.

INT. REGGIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Reggie is engrossed in editing footage for his new show when Tony knocks on his office door.

REGGIE  
(Calling out)  
Yo!

TONY  
(Entering with Candice)  
Look here, man. I've got somebody who  
wants to see you.

Tony escorts Candice into Reggie's office, taking charge of  
the situation.

TONY (CONT'D)  
(Assertive)  
Before you say anything or give that  
look, y'all need to hash this out.  
Both of y'all are getting on me and  
Sophia's nerves with this.

Candice is taken aback, and Tony continues, chuckling.

CANDICE  
I didn't know Sophia felt that way.

TONY  
(With a smirk)  
And that's only the half of it.

Candice is impressed with Reggie's new office and position.  
She expresses her pride in Reggie for following his dreams.  
Reggie, seemingly uninterested.

REGGIE  
(sighs)  
What do you want, Candice.

CANDICE  
(Sincere)  
I'm so sorry, Reggie. I want you back.

Reggie, showing little emotion.

REGGIE  
(Cautious)  
I can see that. Your last news report  
went viral, and you put out an apology  
billboard confessing your love for me.

CANDICE  
(Regretful)  
I was wrong about the greed of my  
inheritance. I didn't see that true  
love was standing in my face the whole  
(MORE)



CANDICE (CONT'D)  
time. The proposal was fake, and I'll regret that probably forever. No matter if you forgive me or not, I just want you to know my feelings for you, my love for you, is truly real. My life has not been the same without you.

A beat.

REGGIE  
Thank you.

As Candice is about to exit the office, she hears her name.

REGGIE (CONT'D)  
(On one knee)  
Candice Walker, will you marry me?

Candice, shocked, covers her mouth.

CANDICE  
(In disbelief)  
Is this for real?

REGGIE  
(Sincere)  
The only thing is missing is the ring, but yes this is real.

They both laugh as Candice walks over.

CANDICE  
(Screaming)  
Yes! Yes!

Reggie and Candice share a passionate hug and kiss. Reggie calls for Tony.

REGGIE  
(Excited)  
Tony!

TONY  
(Rushing in)  
What?

REGGIE  
(With joy)  
Candice said yes!

TONY  
(Smiling)  
I knew this was going to happen. Truth  
be told, Candice, my boy has been sick  
as a dog over you.

INT. CHANNEL 10 NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Tony, Reggie, and Candice step out in front of the rest of  
the news studio staff, holding hands.

TONY  
(Excited)  
She said yes!

The newsroom erupts in cheers and applause as the staff  
congratulates Reggie and Candice on their engagement.  
Colleagues offer well-wishes and excitedly gather around the  
newly engaged couple. The atmosphere is filled with joy and  
celebration, marking a special moment in the newsroom's  
history.

INT. LOCAL PARK - DAY (VALENTINES DAY)

Candice stands with Reggie at a beautifully adorned altar in  
the local park. Their friends and family, including Yvette,  
Michelle, Sophia, and Tony, gather around, creating a joyous  
atmosphere.

THE PASTOR  
(Smiling)  
We pronounce you as husband and wife.  
You may kiss the bride, Mr. Williams.

Applause erupts as Candice and Reggie share a sweet and  
loving kiss, sealing their commitment to each other.

The park transforms into a backdrop of celebration and  
happiness, with the sun casting a warm glow on the newlyweds.

EVEYONE  
(Cheering)  
Congratulations!

Friends and family stand to their feet, expressing their joy  
for Candice and Reggie's union.

The park echoes with the sounds of celebration as the couple embarks on this new chapter of their lives together.

INT. MOMMA WALKER'S HOME - STUDY ROOM - LATER AFTER THE WEDDING

Yvette gathers Candice, Reggie, Tony, Sophia, and Michelle into the study room with a mischievous smile. The room is filled with post-wedding bliss, and anticipation lingers in the air.

YVETTE

(Excited)

There's another video I want to show you.

Yvette inserts the video, and Momma Walker appears on the screen, radiating joy.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO)

(Cheerfully)

Candice, if you're watching this, that means you're a married woman! I'm so proud of you. I don't know who you married, but he must be a great guy. Welcome to the family, son-in-law, whomever you are.

Laughter fills the room as Momma Walker's playful words resonate.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)

Now, knowing you, Candice, I know it's after Christmas, and you probably didn't make the supposed deadline, because I know how you are. I had another video if you made it by Christmas, but I see you didn't, and you wouldn't have wanted me to play that one.

More laughter ensues as Momma Walker teases her daughter.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)

So, with that being said, I'm releasing your 10 million dollar inheritance anyway. Don't go spending it all in one place because that's all  
(MORE)

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
you're getting. I love you, my  
daughter.

Candice wipes away tears and expresses her love to her mother  
on the screen.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
This video isn't over yet. Yvette, if  
you're still amongst the living, this  
pertains to you.

Yvette is taken aback by the unexpected mention.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
(Lightheartedly)  
I don't know what day, month, or year  
we're in, but I'm sure you haven't  
gotten married yet. Not your fault,  
you're busy running the business and  
babysitting my daughter, Sophia, and  
Michelle.

The room bursts into laughter again.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
(Smiling)  
So, Yvette, I've also left you 10  
million dollars. For you, my daughter  
I never had, to find love, you need to  
be married by Mother's Day.

Shock spreads across everyone's faces.

MOMMA WALKER (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
This concludes the video.

Yvette, still speechless, shuts off the video, leaving the  
room in stunned silence.

SOPHIA  
(excited)  
Let's run this thing back! Part two!  
Let's go!

FADE TO BLACK: