

I LOVE YOU MORE

Written by

Shaquanda Roberts

INT. CARSON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Birds chirp outside the floor to ceiling windows, sunlight peeks around elegant curtains, and mother in law Lillian, 47 enters the messy room with important news.

Carson, 27, dressed in silk pajamas lies in a king sized bed. He shifts for comfort, then settles.

LILLIAN (O.S.)
I didn't know men needed this much
beauty sleep.

Lillian marches towards the curtains to open them. Carson hides his head under a pillow.

CARSON
You've got your days mixed up again
mama. We meet TO-MOR-ROW.

LILLIAN
Well, Jenna is moving TO-DAY.

Carson shoots up, puzzled and gapes at Lillian.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)
A girl can change her mind can't
she?

CARSON
Well, help me change it back. I --

LILLIAN
-- I have a plan honey. Trust me
ok?

Carson nods, rises to get dressed so they can strategize.

INT. JENNA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jenna, 27 ends her phone call. She rises from the dinner table where she and Charlotte, 3, finish lunch.

They reside in a clean humble apartment, with a few of Charlotte's toys scattered about. Unmarked boxes and suitcases litter the living room.

JENNA
Did you make a happy plate?

CHARLOTTE
Yes mommy! Now can I play with my
iPad?

JENNA
Approved. But a nap right after.

CHARLOTTE
Deal!

Charlotte dashes away to her iPad in the bedroom. There is a knock on the door, Jenna answers it and welcomes Lillian.

JENNA
You must have sensed that I was about to call you.

LILLIAN
One of the perks of Motherhood.

Jenna nods in agreement, they walk to the living room to sit.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)
Is Char napping?

JENNA
She's on her iPad right now, so we have a few minutes.

LILLIAN
I would have been here earlier but I had to...make a stop.

JENNA
Well, did you get what you needed?

LILLIAN
I certainly hope so honey.

Jenna looks confused, but smiles.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)
Now, I don't want to upset you, but I invited someone else to help you move.

JENNA
That's okay mom, I planned to use a moving company.

LILLIAN
Well, I think you'll want to hear --

There is a knock on the door.

JENNA
One second mom, That might be them now

Jenna walks to the door and opens it. She slams the door and returns to the living room. She glares at Lillian.

JENNA (CONT'D)
Mom... why is HE here?

LILLIAN
Remember when I said that I didn't want to upset you? Well...

JENNA
This is fantastic. Mom what were you thinking?

LILLIAN
About my granddaughter. She needs her daddy, and so do you.

Jenna strides towards Lillian to stand in front of her.

JENNA
You never listen. You always --

LILLIAN
-- Always do what's best for you? You're right. So when he comes in here, you will listen.

Jenna stomps towards the couch and plops down. Her arms are folded.

LILLIAN (CONT'D)
Don't let pride keep you lonely girl.

Lillian opens the door and Carson enters. He is dressed semi casual, holding a bouquet of red roses. He stands at the edge of the living room. Lillian exits towards Charlotte's room.

CARSON
Hi Jenna. It's good to see you baby.

JENNA
Well don't make me lie to you.

CARSON
Then tell me something good.

JENNA
I have nothing nice to say.

CARSON
So, you don't love me?

Jenna stands to look for her phone, avoiding his gaze.

JENNA
Where on earth are those movers?

CARSON
They won't be coming.

Jenna pauses, turns around to look at him.

JENNA
Excuse me?

CARSON
I got us a U - Haul instead.

JENNA
What US? Have you lost your mind?

CARSON
Jen, just let me explain.

Jenna takes a step towards him and stops. Her arms tightly folded.

CARSON (CONT'D)
I've got you the house you've
always wanted. The U-haul will take
everything there --

JENNA
Carson --

CARSON
-- It's the two story, with a two
car garage and --

JENNA
-- I'm moving to California.

Carson freezes, gapes at Jenna. He shifts over to the sofa and places the roses down on the couch. He sits, sinking into the couch.

CARSON
What are you taking about?

JENNA
I got into the night program at
UCLA. I leave in the fall.

CARSON
What about us? And Charlotte?

JENNA
Mama's got her. It's time I do
something for me.

Carson goes silent for a moment. He hangs his head in defeat.
He takes a breath, and lifts his head again.

CARSON
Baby, love is sacrifice. I've
broken my back for our family. And
I'll gladly do it again.

JENNA
Well I refuse to live another
lonely night in this marriage!

Carson stands now, he walks toward Jenna.

CARSON
What if I promise you that you
don't have to? That I've changed?

JENNA
I don't have an appetite for your
empty promises right now Carson.

CARSON
Try me.

JENNA
This ought to be good.

CARSON
Let's go to Cali. I'll be the stay
at home parent. I'll arrange
company affairs and be ready to go
by fall.

Jenna's arms are uncrossed, her hands on her hips now.

JENNA
You're bluffing. You'd never leave
the company.

Carson reaches for his phone to show her an email.

CARSON
Already in progress. I've sold my
shares, so I'm a free agent. I'm
ready to completely support you
Jen.

She stares at the phone in amazement.

CARSON (CONT'D)
We can fly out this weekend to look
for a house there. All I need is
your yes baby.

Jenna gapes at Carson, Carson's smile beams back at her.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Say yes mommy!

Charlotte and Lillian are peeking in from the hallway. Carson
grabs the rose bouquet and hands it to Jenna. He lowers to
one knee with a ring box carrying an updated wedding band.
Jenna stands frozen.

CARSON
Please. Let me make up for all the
pain I've caused.

JENNA

You know what... I want you to get
U-Haul on the phone right now --

Carson drops his head in disappointed defeat.

JENNA (CONT'D)
-- Because we're going to Cali!

Carson exhales. He smiles and places the ring on her finger.
Lillian and Charlotte enter laughing & smiling. Carson still
on his knees, drops his head again. They all stop to observe
Carson.

JENNA (CONT'D)
What's wrong sweetheart?

CARSON
I... thought I was going to lose
you. Being without you this past
month has been hell, Jen.

JENNA
I haven't slept the best either.
But I love you more than sleep, so
don't make me lose either of you
again!

CARSON
Deal!

Carson stands to embrace and kiss Jenna. Lillian and Charlotte join for a group hug.