



Cole Hart

SIGNATURE NOVELS

LII MAMA

A Ryder

A CHICAGO LOVE STORY

KEVINA HOPKINS

LIL' MAMA A RYDER 2

A Chicago Love Story

KEVINA HOPKINS

Cole Hart
SIGNATURE NOVELS

Lil Mama A Ryder 2

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Once again, we truly appreciate all the support over the years.

Much Love,
CHS

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PREVIOUSLY ON LIL' MAMA A RYDER...

Maddox pulled in front of Audrey's family's house, and they climbed out to meet Rome on the porch.

"Hey, baby girl. I'm glad you decided to come out. The kids have been asking if you were coming all day," said Rome.

"Yeah, I was in a better mood today, so I figured I might as well get out of the house. Plus, Maddox would have bugged me to death if I stayed in the house." smirked Chyna.

Maddox stood there and shrugged his shoulder as they entered the house. They stayed inside and spent time with them for almost two hours, then it was the kids' bedtime.

"Come on, so I can walk with you to the car. I need to talk to you for a minute anyway," said Rome.

Chyna, Rome, and Maddox headed toward his car. He climbed in so that Chyna and Rome could talk in private.

"What is up, big bro? Tell me what is on your mind. I can see the stress line in your forehead."

"I'm just worried about you, Chy. You have completely shut everyone out. For the first time in my entire life, I do not know how to help you. I wasn't able to protect you from this."

"It's not your fault, Rome, and you don't have to worry about me. I am a big girl. You don't have to worry about me saying anything. I would never tell on y'all. I'll get through this like I've done everything else."

"Listen to me, Chyna. It never even crossed my mind that you'd tell on me. Even if you did, I would not give a fuck, because if I could, I would

have taken the fall, so that you never even had to step foot in the precinct. If there is anything that you need, let me know. I already paid for the repairs on the car and told them you'd be the one to pick it up."

"You didn't have to do that, Rome. I have money. I could afford to get it fixed."

"I know, but I wanted to do it for you, and if there's anything else you need, just let me know."

"I will, big brother. I'm good now though. Maddox already said he won't let me fall apart, and he has enough faith for both of us that I'll get through this with no time."

"See? I knew I liked him for a reason and let him know. I do not blame him for you taking the rap. I know why you did it."

"Thank you. At least you know why I did it because he still can't believe it. The crazy part about it is, I would do it all over again if I had to."

"I know, baby girl, and that's why you're so loved," Rome said as he pulled his sister into a hug.

"Aye, Chyna, can we talk for a minute!" Josh yelled as he walked across the street.

"Don't leave, Rome. Stay right here. I don't need no shit jumping off between him and Maddox," whispered Chyna.

"What's going on? I have been trying to call you for the past two weeks. I heard what happened, and I wanted to check on you."

"Thank you. I'm good. I just haven't been in the mood to talk to people. I have been going to school and home. This is my first time out since then."

"Oh, okay, so why have you suddenly just stopped talking to me? It's been almost two months since the last time I saw you," said Josh.

"I know, and it's nothing personal. I have a lot going on in my life and just needed time to think and get myself together," replied Chyna.

"Yeah, that's funny, seeing as you're with him. You are back messing with him again? Are y'all in a relationship?" Josh asked, referring to Maddox.

"Josh, I'm really not in the mood for this right now. I'll call you tomorrow, and we can talk once you're calm," responded Chyna.

Josh looked like he wanted to say something, but then he looked over at Rome and had second thoughts.

"Alright, Chyna, have a good night, but please call me tomorrow. You remember, at one point, we were friends before anything." Josh reminded

her as he started to walk away.

“Okay, baby girl. Let’s get out of here before his crazy ass decides to come back over here. I love you, and I’ll call you tomorrow so we can hang out.”

“Alright. I love you more,” Chyna said as she turned to open her car door.

“Chyna, look out!” Maddox screamed as gunfire erupted.

Chyna tried to duck, but it was too late. She felt hot lead enter her body, then she was being thrown to the ground with Rome laying on top of her.

“No, no, no, Rome! What did you do!” Chyna cried as she shook her brother.

“It’s alright, Chy. I love you, baby girl,” Rome said before he closed his eyes.

At that point, everything else was a blur. The next thing she knew, she was being put into an ambulance, and Maddox was calling her name over and over.

The paramedics pulled Chyna’s stretcher out of the ambulance and rushed her through the emergency room with Rome right behind her. She had no idea who was out to get her, but somebody was. It was no coincidence that the first day she came outside, she got shot at. The person did not even start shooting until they were close to where she was, and now, her brother was hurt because of her. If it was the last thing, she did, she was going to find out who was responsible for trying to ruin her life. She just prayed that Rome was alright.

“Miss, we need you to calm down. We need to see where your injuries are. There’s a lot of blood on you,” the doctor said as he cut Chyna’s shirt open and examined her body.

“I’m fine. I need to check on my brother.”

“You’re an incredibly lucky, young lady. It looks like the bullet went straight through your upper arm. I see an entrance and exit wound. We will still have to do an X-ray to make sure nothing is broken. After that, we can give you some antibiotics, pain medication, and a tetanus shot. Then we will stitch up, and you should be able to go.”

“Alright,” Chyna replied.

After three hours of being treated and examined, Chyna was discharged. She went straight to the waiting room where her family was, so that she could get an update on her brother.

“Oh my God, Chyna. I’m so glad that you’re alright,” Mrs. Black cried as she pulled Chyna into her.

“Ouch, Ma. I am fine. Did you bring me some clothes?”

“Yeah, I did. I’m sorry. Are you alright?”

“I’ll be fine. I was only hit in the shoulder. It was an in-and-out wound. How is Rome doing?”

“He’s still in surgery, baby. They have not told us much yet. We just know he took two bullets—one was in his chest, and the other one in his side.”

Chyna put on the shirt that her mother gave her. She did not worry about changing her pants yet, because she was starting to feel lightheaded.

“Alright, I need to step outside to get some air,” said Chyna.

“I’ll go with you,” offered Maddox.

Maddox and Chyna stepped outside, and Yakea came running their way.

“Oh my God, Chyna! Are you alright?” asked Yakea.

“I’m good, Kea. Why are you running though?”

“Girl, I just got out of my car, and I was walking this way when I saw the nigga that I was telling you about. The thing is, I did not tell you this, but I am pregnant by him, and he is here with his wife. Do you think I should confront them or not?”

“Just be cool for a minute, Kea. I am just trying to make sure everything is good with my brother. I can’t deal with anymore drama, right now,” said Chyna.

“Okay. Just for you, I’ll be cool, but what should I do? It looks like they’re coming this way.”

Chyna looked in the same direction as Kea to see who she was looking at. There were a few people heading that way to the main entrance, including Nathan and Chloe.

“Which one?” was the last thing Chyna got out before the dizziness had taken over. She felt Maddox catch her before she hit the ground, but after that, everything went black.



“Alright, I think that’s enough for today. I’m tired, and I’m not ready to relive one of the most emotional days of my life yet,” Chyna stated as she

stopped talking about her life and stood from the couch. She needed time to gain her composure.

“What? Are you serious? We were just doing so good. You can’t just stop there. I need to know what happened. Who is Kea’s baby father? Did Rome survive that day? What ended up happening to your court case? Most importantly, how did you choose who you were going to have your happily ever after with?” questioned Dr. Taylor.

Chyna smiled at the therapist’s reactions. That was one of the main reasons she was not ready to open yet, because she knew once she started, she would want to know everything. At that point, Chyna could have said she was no longer going to pay her, and she still would have continued to listen to her life story.

“I’m sorry. I’ll tell you what. How about we pick up where we left off at in a few weeks, and I promise to answer all your questions. I will not leave anything unanswered. Do we have a deal?” Chyna asked.

“Yeah, I understand. Just make sure you hold up your end of the deal when I come back, Chyna. We do not need you to take any steps back. You did so well open up to me today. I’m proud of you for the big step you’ve taken.”

“Don’t worry, I will,” Chyna assured her.

INTRODUCTION PART 2

Chyna paced back and forth on her patio as she took a few pulls of her blunt. She was stressed and nervous about her counseling session. She had been postponing it for the past month. The last session had taken a lot out of her. She needed time to get her mind right, but today was the anniversary of the worse day of her life. She needed to talk to someone more than anything to keep from breaking down. She had her family to back her up, but she was not comfortable with talking to them about it, because they were a main part of her story. They were the main part of heartache for the most part. They each played a part in their own way. It took a tragedy to happen for them to give Chyna the support she had always yearned for. For that reason alone, she did not know how to feel about that. It always nagged in the back of her head that if things would have played out different, she wouldn't be as close as she was now with them.

Chyna did not want to go on with the rest of her life wondering about the what-ifs. She needed to have a clean slate, and in order to do so, she needed to have everything off her chest. Maybe someday she would ask them all to do a counseling session with her so that they could know what really happened.

“Ms. Black, Dr. Taylor is here to see you now,” said Chyna’s housekeeper.

“Thank you, Jill. Let her know I’ll be right there,” replied Chyna.

Chyna took a few more puffs, then put out the blunt. She walked into her bathroom and freshened up before heading down to the living room.

“Hey, Chyna. How are you doing today?” asked Dr. Taylor.

“Hey. Sorry I kept you waiting. I am doing good. How about you?”

“I’m good. I’m glad you were ready to speak with me again. I’ve been looking forward to it since our last session.”

“I just needed time to think everything over and wrap my mind over what was left to tell you.”

“That is fine. I understand. Just take your time, and if you get uncomfortable, we can take a break,” Dr. Taylor assured Chyna.

Chyna took a deep breath, then laid across her couch. She looked up at the ceiling and closed her eyes as she thought about where she had left off at last time.

“Okay, so I think I left off at when I was at the hospital and passed out outside with Maddox.

I

“Chyna, can you hear me, baby,” Maddox said as he shook her lightly.

“What is wrong with her?” Kea asked.

“I don’t know,” Maddox replied as he stood with her in his arms and walked back into the hospital.

“What happened?” questioned Mr. Black.

“I don’t know. She was talking and then passed out,” Maddox replied.

One of the ladies at admitting saw what was going on, and some of the staff members came running over with a stretcher. They immediately wheeled her to the back and started checking her vitals.

After about twenty minutes, Chyna woke up groggy with Maddox and her mother sitting and looking at her.

“What happened?” Chyna asked as she lifted her arm and saw an IV coming out of it.

“We were standing outside talking, and you were feeling lightheaded. Next thing I knew, I was catching you in my arms.”

“Okay. I feel fine. I need to see how Rome is doing.”

“Chyna, you’ve already been shot, and you’ve passed out. You are not going anywhere. You need to let them run whatever tests they need,” stated Mrs. Black.

Chyna was ready to protest but Maddox cut in.

“We’ll go see if there’s any update on Rome. Please do not give these people a hard time. Let them do their jobs, then you should be able to go in no time,” Maddox assured her.

“Alright,” Chyna replied as she leaned back on the bed.

Chyna laid there while they collected blood work and ran labs. About an hour later, one of the doctors came to speak with her.

“Hello, Ms. Black, I’m Dr. Barros. We’ve run your labs, and it looks like you’re dehydrated, and your blood count is kind of low, but that’s typical during pregnancy, so that’s not much to worry about.”

“Wait, I’m sorry. What was that?” Chyna asked, sitting up, making sure she heard him right.

“I said that low blood is common during pregnancy. You just have to make sure to take your iron pills.”

“Are you sure I’m pregnant?”

“Yes. We found HCG in your blood. That would explain you being lightheaded because you had a lot going on. It’s especially important that you don’t stress.”

“Okay, so can I go home now?”

“Yeah. I can write you a prescription for some prenatal and iron pills. I would suggest setting up an appointment with an ob-gyn as soon as possible.”

“Alright. Thank you,” Chyna said as she stood from the bed.

Chyna walked back out to the waiting area and saw that a doctor was talking to her family.

“We’ve completed the surgery, and it was successful. We were able to remove both bullets. He did have a collapsed lung, but we were able drain it, so we will have to monitor that. There is a tube down his throat to assist him with his breathing. We’re looking to wean him off the oxygen that he’s on little by little. We just don’t want to overdo it or overwork his body.”

“Alright. Can we go see him?”

“I’m sorry. Since he’s going to be in the ICU and it’s after hours, only two people are allowed for a quick visit tonight. Tomorrow, he is welcomed to have regular visits. We just want him to be able to rest.”

“Okay. Thank you so much, Doctor,” exclaimed Mrs. Black.

“Since he can only have two visitors, I’m going to go to the bathroom, then go to Maddox’s house. I will come back to visit tomorrow. The doctor told me I needed to go get rest or they’d admit me.”

“Alright, Chloe. Are you staying up here, or you’re coming back?” asked Mrs. Black.

“I’m going to stay until y’all finish visiting, then we can all head out together. Nathan is standing outside, making calls to his job anyway since he left work early,” said Chloe.

Chyna went into the bathroom and released her bladder, then threw some water on her face and washed her hands.

“You ready to go?” Chyna asked Maddox.

“Yeah. It’s been a long night,” replied Maddox.

Maddox and Chyna exited the hospital and headed toward the parking lot. When they turned the corner, they saw Maddox and Yakea arguing.

“I thought you said she left,” stated Chyna.

“That’s what she told me. After you fainted, I told her it was not much that could be done here and I will have you call her when you were up,” added Maddox.

“What the hell are you doing here?” demanded Nathan.

“I came to make sure my friends were alright. What are you doing here?” Yakea countered.

“I’m sorry. How do you two know each other?” Chyna inquired.

“We don’t. She used to be one of my employers, and we were just catching up,” lied Nathan.

“That’s funny since I didn’t know strippers worked for plant operations,” Chyna replied sarcastically.

“How do you know Jade?” questioned Nathan.

“First of all, her name is Yakea. How I know her is not important. The question is how do you know her, and please don’t lie again?”

“Since he’s a habitual liar, I’ll let you know. You remember how I was telling you that I had been dealing with a married man and how I’m pregnant?”

“Oh, God, please don’t say what I think you’re about to say,” begged Chyna.

“Yeah. This is my baby daddy.” Yakea marveled as she looked in Nathan’s face.

“Why is this my life? This is all kinds of fucked up,” Chyna yelled.

“What’s wrong? Don’t tell me you fuck with him too,” stated Yakea.

“No. He’s married to my sister,” spat Chyna.

“I swear I didn’t know, or I never would have slept with him,” Yakea stammered.

“Yeah, I know that you didn’t know, but that still doesn’t make this shit right. I know my sister and way this is going to fall back on me,” explained Chyna.

“I’m so sorry, Chyna. You know I would never do anything to cause you any problems,” said Yakea.

Over the past year, Chyna and Yakea had gotten close. She was the only one out of the girls that Chyna had an outside relationship with. Yakea knew about problems with Chyna’s family, and she had even met Chloe a few times, but each time, Nathan was never there, so the pieces were not put together.

“I know, Kea. I have to go,” Chyna mumbled as she turned to walk away.

“Chyna, wait,” Nathan called out as he grabbed her by the arm.

“What?” demanded Chyna.

“Please don’t tell Chloe about this. I am trying to make it right. If we can get her to get rid of the baby, then Chloe never needs to know.”

“I’m not going to tell Chloe, because you are. You got me fucked up if you think I am going to help you force that girl to get rid of her baby. This is your shit to clean up. I have enough on my own,” Chyna fumed as she walked toward Maddox’s car with him right behind her.

The drive to Maddox’s house was quiet. He knew that Chyna had all kind of things going through her head so he wanted to give her a little space.

Maddox parked in front of his house, and they headed in. All the lights were out, so that meant Matteo was still in bed. It was almost five in the morning, so that was understandable.

Chyna and Maddox walked into his bedroom, and Chyna headed straight to the bathroom. She turned the shower on and stripped out of her clothes. She stood under the water, and the tears instantly fell from her eyes. She sat in the tub with her knees to her chest and cried. She did not know how long she was there, but she felt Maddox pulling her into his chest.

“It’s alright, baby. Everything will be alright. Rome is good, and so are you. Let me help you finish washing up so that you can get out of here. You shouldn’t be wetting this bandage,” Maddox said as he lifted her from the tub.

Maddox washed Chyna up and then they went to his bedroom. He rubbed lotion all over her body and gave her one of his T-shirts to sleep in.

“I’m about to take a quick shower, then I’ll be back,” Maddox informed Chyna before leaving out of the room.

Chyna reached inside of her bag and took her charger out so that she could plug her phone in. She did not bother unlocking the phone, because she was not in the mood to talk to anyone.

Chyna lay back in bed just as Maddox entered the bedroom with a towel around him. He rubbed baby oil on himself, then looked in his drawer for some boxers.

“Don’t put none on. Come make love to me,” ordered Chyna.

Maddox looked at Chyna for a minute, contemplating what she said before joining her under the covers.

“Are you sure? It has been a long day. You know I can just hold you until you fall asleep,” Maddox said, looking into Chyna’s eyes.

“Yes, I’m sure,” Chyna said as she lifted and straddled Maddox. She kissed his lips softly and slowly as Maddox slid his hand under her shirt and played with her nipples. She sat up so that he could pull her shirt over her head, then his hands roamed all over her body. Chyna closed her eyes when Maddox’s hand traveled down to her love spot. She moaned as he played with her clit until she was dripping wet.

Chyna stroked Maddox’s nine-inch curved dick, then slid down on it slowly. She held onto his chest and moved her hips in a slow and circular motion. After a while, the only sounds they could hear throughout the room were their moans of ecstasy.

“Oh my God, baby. I’m about to cum, baby,” Chyna screamed out as her juices slid down his dick.

Maddox immediately flipped Chyna onto her back and lifted one of her legs into the crook of her arm and stroked her slowly. With every stroke, it felt like she was giving him a piece of her soul. She loved Maddox so much, and she hated that she was going to have to hurt him. The decision she was about to make would be the hardest one she ever made in her life.

Just the thought of it made tears escape from Chyna’s eyes. Maddox noticed it and immediately stopped stroking her.

“Do you want me to stop? Am I hurting you?” Maddox inquired.

“No. Don’t stop. I just love you so much,” Chyna confessed.

“I love you too, baby,” Maddox retorted as he leaned in and kissed her tears away before making his way to her lips.

Maddox made Chyna cum again, then he moved between her legs and dove in headfirst. He devoured her honey pot until she was ready to cum again. Right when her body started shaking, he stopped eating her out and plunged his dick inside of her, causing her to scream out.

“Fuck, you feel so good, baby. I be missing this,” groaned Maddox.

Chyna and Maddox continued to make love for almost an hour before he was cumming.

Maddox lay on his back and pulled Chyna into his arms. They lay in comfortable silence for about ten minutes before Chyna broke the silence.

“I just want to say thank you for everything you’ve been doing for me. I really appreciate it, Maddox. You’ve helped me get through a lot.”

“Why does it feel like you’re saying goodbye, Chyna?”

“With everything that’s been going on in my life lately, I think it’s best for me to let the people I love know how much I appreciate them,” Chyna replied as she rolled over on her side and cried silently.

Maddox wrapped his arm over Chyna and held her tightly until she fell asleep.

Chyna woke up around nine and climbed out of bed. Maddox was still knocked out sleep. She slipped on a pair of pants and grabbed her things. She tried to move quietly so she would not wake him up. She crept into the dining room and called an Uber so that she could go pick up her car.

“Hey, Chy. You’re about to go?” Matteo asked.

“Yeah, I’m about to go pick up my car and then go see my brother,” replied Chyna.

“Oh, okay. Where’s Maddox then?”

“He’s still sleeping. Please don’t wake him up. We have had an exceptionally long night. I just want him to be able to rest.”

“Alright, well, keep me posted on the status of Rome, and I’m glad that you’re doing okay.”

“Thank you, Matteo,” Chyna replied as she leaned in and hugged him before walking out of the front door.

While Chyna waited out front, she called Planned Parenthood to see if they could squeeze her in that day. They told her they would have an appointment at noon available, so that was perfect for her.

Chyna looked up as she ended her call to see her Uber pulling up. She climbed in and headed to the shop. After the twenty-five-minute drive, she was pulling up to the shop. She thanked the driver and got out.

Chyna walked inside and gave her name and showed her ID, then they gave her the keys to her car. She climbed inside and drove home first. She went into her bedroom and threw on a pair of jogging pants and a T-shirt

with some Air Max. She then grabbed her suitcase and packed some clothes into it along with her toiletries. She was not sure how long she was going to be gone. She had already dropped her class for the semester while she fought her case, so she did not have to worry about missing school.

Chyna walked outside and stuck her suitcase in her trunk, then hopped in the driver's seat and headed to the hospital.

"Hello. I'm here to visit Roman Black."

"Alright. He's in room 4457. Just take elevator C up to the fourth floor."

"Okay, thank you," Chyna replied, then walked to the elevator. She took deep breaths in and out as she rode the elevator up. She prayed that everything was good with her brother and that he would have a full recovery. She would never forgive herself if he did not pull through, because he was there because of her.

Chyna walked into the room, and tears instantly fell from her eyes when she saw the machines her brother was hooked up to. She sat on his bed and put his hand into hers.

"I am so sorry this happened to you, Rome. I do not know why you jumped in front of those bullets. It should be me lying here, not you. You must get better. This is all my fault. I love you so much," cried Chyna.

"Stop crying, Chy. He's going to be alright, so stop blaming yourself. Do you know how your brother would feel if he was not able to protect you? This would eat him up more than it is you," Mr. Black said, startling Chyna. She had not even realized he walked into the room.

Chyna threw her arms around her father and cried even harder.

"I'm so sorry, Daddy. I should have listened to you. You warned me about this, and I did not listen. What do I do now?" Sobbed Chyna.

"First, you're going to take a deep breath and then you're going to relax. Now is not the time for me to chastise you or make you feel bad. You are doing that enough on your own. We will get through this as a family. Please promise me that you will not do anything crazy, Chy. Once your brother is better, we will all have a talk and figure it out. I know it's hard to just sick back and do nothing, but I can't have you lying in a hospital room as well or, better yet, stuck behind bars."

"Alright, Daddy. I won't do anything," Chyna replied before walking into the bathroom. She washed her face, then walked back into her brother's room. She kissed her brother on the forehead, then sat in silence for about twenty minutes until her mother and sister showed up.

“Hey, baby. How are you doing?” Chyna’s mother asked as she pulled her into a hug.

“I’m okay, Mom, just a little sore. I am about to go to Walgreens now to pick up my prescriptions, then schedule my follow-up appointment. After that, I am going to get some rest.

“Alright, baby. I love you, and I’ll see you at home,” Chyna’s mother replied.

“I’m glad that you’re alright, Chyna. You’re my little sister, and I might not let it show, but I love you,” said Chloe.

“I love you too, Chloe,” Chyna replied before hugging her sister, then doing the same with her father.

Chyna walked outside to her car and drove to Walgreens to get her prescription, then she headed to Planned Parenthood. She parked in the parking lot and walked inside. She waited about thirty minutes for them to call her name.

Chyna walked to the back and into the room. They took her vitals and gave her a cup to take a urine specimen. Once she was done peeing in the cup, she sat on the table so that she could be examined.

“You said they told you that you were pregnant last night through your blood? When was your last period?”

“I guess it’s been almost two months. I have been so busy and stressed that I did not think anything of it. Plus, my period is irregular,” replied Chyna.

“Okay. I’ll step out of the room while you undress from the waist down so that I can examine you,” said the doctor.

Chyna stripped out of her clothes and placed the paper gown over the lower part of her body, then lifted her legs into the stirrups. She waited a couple of minutes, then the doctor returned to the room.

“Okay, so first, I’m going to do something called a vaginal ultrasound to see if we can hear the baby’s heartbeat,” exclaimed the doctor.

“Alright,” Chyna replied and closed her eyes while the examination was being done. She heard the baby’s heartbeat, and a tear fell from her eyes.

Once the doctor finished the ultrasound, she examined Chyna’s pelvis.

“You can get dressed now and then we can discuss your examination,” said the doctor.

“Okay,” Chyna replied as she used a wipe to clean between her legs, then put her pants back on.

The doctor was right back in the room within two minutes. She picked up a wheel chart and looked at it before speaking to Chyna.

“Calculating the results from your examination, you look to be about nine weeks pregnant. So that means you are one week past two months and still in your first trimester. Do you plan on keeping your baby?”

“I don’t know. How long do I have to make a decision?”

“Well, as you already know, your baby has a heartbeat already. You have up until twenty-four weeks to get an abortion. Also, if you do not want to have one, adoption is always an option as well. I would suggest you give it some thought before you make your decision.”

“Okay. I’m going to think about it and talk to the father. If I decide on an abortion, I will call you all to schedule it in a week.”

“Alright. Until then, make sure not to stress and take your medication just in case.”

“I will. Thank you,” Chyna said as she exited out of the examination room and headed to her car.

Chyna sat in her car and pulled out her phone and dialed Josh’s number.

“Hey. Are you okay? I was so worried about you,” Josh ranted.

“I’m ready to talk. Are you at home?”

“Not right now. Can it wait until later?”

“Forget it, Josh,” Chyna replied as she hung up the phone and threw it over in the passenger’s seat.

Chyna sat in the car, trying to figure out what her next move should be. She did not want to go home, because she needed time to herself and to get peace of mind. Chyna was just about to drive to a hotel when her phone dinged. She looked down at it and saw that it was a text from Josh, saying he would be home in twenty minutes.



JOSH PULLED ON HIS PANTS, T-SHIRT, AND SHOES, THEN GRABBED HIS wallet from the nightstand and walked toward the kitchen, where Iesha was cooking.

“Where are you going?” Iesha asked, looking at a fully dressed Josh.

“I have to go check on something. I’ll be back in a couple hours. You can put my food in the microwave,” said Josh.

“It can’t wait until after you eat? It’ll only take me about thirty minutes.”

“Nah, baby. I’m sorry. I have to be there in twenty minutes. I’ll call you when I come back.”

“Go check on something my ass. That bitch must have called you and now you are going running. You are so fucking stupid sometimes, Josh. You just had your head buried between my legs less than two hours ago, but now you running to her?”

“Shut the fuck up sometimes. You don’t even know what’s going on. I’m not leaving to go fuck that girl,” Josh fumed as he ran out of the house.

He jumped in his car and headed to his house. He and Chyna were pulling up at the same time. He parked in the driveway, and Chyna pulled in right next to him.

Josh climbed out of the car and headed in his house with Chyna right behind him.

“Hey,” Chyna said as she sat on the couch.

“Hey. How are you doing? How’s your brother?”

“The doctors are looking for him to pull through. He just needs rest to strengthen his body back. He’s strong, so he’ll be good.”

“That’s good. You left out how you were doing though.”

“I’m physically and mentally exhausted, Josh. I have so much shit going on right now, and I do not know what to do. I am more mentally exhausted than physically though. I got shot in the arm, but it didn’t hit any major arteries or anything like that.”

“Okay, that’s good. How’s your court case going?”

“I have to go to court in a month for my sentencing, and I have another meeting with my lawyer next week. We know that they’re not going to throw the case out, but we’re hoping for probation.”

“I think that you should be able to get it. This is your first offense, and you’ve never been in any trouble before, plus your school background should help with that as well.”

“Yeah. That’s what my lawyer is hoping for. My father pays him a lot of money, and he’s good at what he does, so we’re hoping for the best.”

“I’m really glad you came to see me. I’ve missed you so much, Chyna,” Josh said as he stroked the side of her face.

Chyna turned her head slightly because she did not want to give him the wrong impression.

“Look, I’m not here for that, Josh. I’m here because we need to talk.”

“Okay. I’m sorry. What’s going on?”

“I’m nine weeks pregnant, Josh, and it’s yours,” Chyna blurted out as she pulled the clinic papers from her purse and handed it to him.

“How do you know it’s mine and not that nigga you been spending time with for the past month when you ghosted me?”

“I’ve never had sex with you and Maddox within two weeks of the same time. Maddox asked me to be his girlfriend a month after I called things off with you. I told him no, and he stopped fucking with me like that. We only took care of business with each other up until a month ago. I did not have sex with Maddox at all around the time I got pregnant. The last couple of times, I told your ass not to nut in me, and all you kept saying was ‘oops’ and the pussy was too good for you to pull out in time.” Chyna replied sarcastically.

“So you been fucking somebody else while you’re carrying my baby?”

“I just found out when I was at the hospital yesterday, Josh. If I had been known I was pregnant, I would have told you. You are the only person that knows because I thought I owed you that much. But I don’t even know if I’m going to keep this baby.”

“What? Don’t kill my baby, Chyna.”

“Oh, now it’s don’t kill your baby? Just a couple minutes ago, you were asking was I sure it was yours.”

“I asked because I wanted to know how you knew. If you say you did not mess with him around that time, then I believe you. I have known you long enough to know that you are not a liar and have no reason to lie to me about this. I know I nudded in your multiple times and that there would always be a possibility of you getting pregnant. So I am begging you, I will do whatever you need me to do,” pleaded Josh.

“Josh, the timing is so off right now. I’m fighting a gun case, someone is at my head right now, I’m still living with my parents, and we’re not even together.”

“You said it yourself. You should be getting probation, and if you do end up with time, we have seven months to figure out care for our child. I can keep my ears to the streets to see who is trying to set you up, and you can move in here with me if you need somewhere to go. We can even give us another try if you want to.”

“I have to think about this, Josh, and I don’t want us to be together because of a baby. We would grow to only resent each other. If I do keep it, we can be co-parents, and I do not need to live with you. My condo should be ready in two weeks. There were just some minor things I needed them to change. I do need you to do me a favor though. Book a hotel room for two weeks. I need to disappear without any of my family or friends knowing until I’m ready to talk.”

“Why do you need a hotel room? You can sleep in my guest room if you’re more comfortable with that,” Josh suggested.

“Okay, I’ll think about that too. I really need to lay down though because I’m tired,” Chyna said.

“Alright. Have you eaten anything today?”

“No, not yet. I’ve been so busy that I didn’t realize it.”

“Okay. Go lay down and get some rest. I need to go to the store, and I will grab some food. Do you need anything?”

“Can you get me some ginger ale and crackers?”

“Sure. I should be back in about an hour.”

Chyna walked into Josh’s room and stripped out of her clothes. She reached in his drawer and grabbed a T-shirt to wear. She hated getting in bed with her outside clothes on.

Chyna looked in Josh’s closet and grabbed a clean sheet set and put on his bed. She knew that he still dealt with Iesha, and there was no telling who else he was sleeping with. She did not want to lay in anybody’s sex juice. Once she was done, she climbed in the bed and picked up her phone and made a group text to her mother, father, brother, and sister.

Chyna: *Hey, everyone, I just want you to know how much I love you all. Lately, there has been so much going on that I just needed a break. I am okay, but I need some time to myself. There are some things that I need to talk to you about, but I am just not ready yet. I have some decisions to make first, then I promise I will be back home to talk. Hopefully, I will not need no more than two weeks. Please do not worry about me. I will send one text daily to let you know that I am alright. (2:00 p.m.)*

As soon as Chyna hit send, her phone started ringing. She looked at it and saw that it was Maddox calling her.

“Hello,” Chyna said into the phone.

“Hey, I’ve been calling you for about two hours. Why did you leave without saying anything?”

“I just wanted you to get some rest, and if I saw your face, it would have been hard for me to leave.”

“What do you mean leave? What’s going on, Chyna?”

“I’m sorry, Maddox. I love you so much. I just need some time to think on my own. I promise to send you a text daily to let you know I am okay. I’ll tell you everything in about a week or two.”

The phone line was silent for a minute. Chyna took it off her ear to look and make sure Maddox had not hung up.

“Okay, Chyna. I don’t like this, but you have to check in with me every day, or I’m going to find where you at. I trust and love you, so I’m going to give you this time to yourself only because you have had a lot going on.”

“Alright, I will. I am about to go to sleep now though. I’ll text you tomorrow to check in.”

“Okay, Chy,” Maddox said before hanging up.

Now that Chyna got that out of the way, she put her phone on silent and curled up under the blanket and fell asleep a couple minutes later.

Chyna woke up and went into the adjourned bathroom. She brushed her teeth and washed her face, then walked back into the bedroom. She looked over at the clock and saw that it was already 8:13 p.m. She could not believe that she had taken a six-hour nap.

Chyna walked into the living room and did not see Josh, so she headed down to the basement, where she found him smoking a blunt and playing the game.

“Hey. You finally woke up,” said Josh.

“Yeah. Why didn’t you wake me?” Chyna asked.

“I went in and checked on you a couple times, and you were sleeping peacefully. I heard that pregnant women need their rest, and after the night you had last night, I’m sure you didn’t get much sleep.”

“No, I didn’t. I was actually exhausted.”

“Oh shit, my bad. I shouldn’t be smoking this in front of you,” Josh stated as he put his blunt out.

“This is your man cave, Josh. I’m not going to tell you what not to do in your own house.”

“You don’t have to tell me, it’s for my baby’s health,” Josh said as he stood from the couch and headed for the stairs.

Chyna followed behind him and into the kitchen.

“Did you get some food?” Chyna asked.

“Yeah, I grabbed some wings and fish from Sharks. I also grabbed your water and some snacks for you. I already ate, so you can get whatever you want. I just finished working out, so I’m going to take a quick shower.”

“Okay,” Chyna replied as she got a plate and put a couple of wings with some fries and fish on it, then put it in the microwave for a couple of minutes. She looked in the refrigerator and grabbed a ginger ale, then went to sit on the couch to eat. She flipped through Netflix for about ten minutes trying to find something to watch. She had decided on a movie called *The Guest*.

Chyna was just about to press play when Josh came into the living room in nothing but a pair of basketball shorts.

“Damn, you just gon’ start the movie without me, girl?”

“I didn’t know if you were staying in or not.”

“Yeah, I’m not going anywhere tonight. I went and took care of my business while you were sleep, and Tim is going to handle what I needed done tonight. I think you needed me more tonight,” explained Josh.

Chyna smiled slightly at Josh’s response.

“Okay, I have two questions. I need for you to answer to help me make a decision.”

“What’s your question?”

“The first question is why do you want me to keep this baby so bad? The second question is what are you going to do about Iesha? Meaning are you going to fake like my baby isn’t yours?” questioned Chyna.

“I already told you the story about how if I ever got another woman pregnant, I wouldn’t want her to get an abortion. I can afford to have this child. I can’t see myself killing another one of my seeds, and you are upset right now, but that is a lot to deal with mentally afterward. You and me both are in a position where we can give this baby an amazing life. I would love for us to have a two-parent home, but I get it. As far as Iesha goes, I am going to tell her the truth. I would never fight for you to keep a baby that I would deny. I don’t know my father, Chy, and I would never do that to my seed,” Josh replied as he leaned over and kissed her forehead.

Chyna pressed play on the movie and continued to eat her food. Once she was done, she took the plate into the kitchen and washed it out before heading back to the living room. She laid her head on Josh’s lap, and they enjoyed the movie together. It had been so long since they just chilled with each other. The movie was coming to an end just as there was banging on Josh’s front door.

Chyna sat up so that Josh could get up from the couch. He walked to the door and looked through the peephole before opening the door.

“What are you doing here banging on my door, Iesha?” Josh demanded.

“I’ve been calling your phone for the past few hours, and you not answering. I find it funny that you’re supposed to be handling business when clearly, Tim is the one that showed up at my house a couple hours ago to pick up some work.”

“I took care of my business earlier, but I needed Tim to finish it, which is why he showed up at your house. I didn’t answer my phone, because I was working out and then I put it on the charger while I was watching a movie.”

“Whatever. Who do you have here with you? I see a car in the driveway,” Iesha sneered, trying to step around him.

“Chyna is here, Iesha. I needed to take care of something important with her.”

“Something important with her? We have spent almost every night together for the past month and half, but now you are here with her like I do not mean shit to you. Why can’t you just leave that bitch alone?” snapped Iesha.

“It’s not liked that, Iesha. You know that I care about you. She needed me, and I could not just tell her no. I did not have sex with her, but you must go. I can’t deal with this shit right now,” Josh shouted.

“See, Joshua? Therefore, I suggested I go to a hotel. I did not want this to happen. I need peace of mind not this shit. I am about to go get dressed and then go to a hotel like I originally said. I know you mean well, but I can’t do this,” Chyna stated, interrupting Josh and Iesha’s conversation.

Josh turned around and walked toward Chyna.

“Please do not leave, Chy. Just give me a few minutes, and I’ll be done. You can look for another movie for us to watch if you’re not ready to go back to sleep,” suggested Josh.

“Okay, but if you can’t get her to go, then I’m going,” Chyna replied before walking away.

“Wait, what the hell is going on? She is staying here with you now? Is it because you asked her to? So it is just fuck me, huh?” Iesha stated on the brink of tears.

“It’s not fuck you, Iesha, but I can’t have her living in a hotel. She has some things going on, and she needed to get away from her family.”

“So fucking what. How is that your problem? You haven’t been talking to her all this time and then she all of sudden calls you for help, and you go

running?”

Josh ran his hand across his face because he knew his words were going to break Iesha’s heart, but he had no choice. He had told Chyna that he would not deny his baby, and it was better that he told Iesha than for her to hear it on the streets.

“She’s pregnant, Iesha, and I can’t let her go through this alone.”

“Again, how is this your problem? Why can’t she get help from the nigga she’s fucking with?”

“He doesn’t know about it yet,” replied Josh.

“Oh, so he doesn’t want a kid with her, so she’s coming to you to jump to the rescue? That is some weird shit. She is just going to have to find out a way to tell him. You shouldn’t have to be the one to help her.”

“You don’t get it, Iesha. She came to me and not him because it is my baby. She wanted me to know before she decided on whether to get an abortion or not.”

“That’s some bullshit. I hope you told her to get rid of that thing,” Iesha hissed.

“Watch your fucking mouth, Iesha. She was leaning toward an abortion, but I am trying to convince her to keep it, which is why I need her here with me. I have to show her that I can be here for her throughout the pregnancy.”

“What? Are you being serious right now? We are supposed to be getting ready to work on us having a baby. Not you are raising one with that bitch. What about us?”

“I’m sorry, but I can’t think about having a baby with you right now. That would just be irresponsible since she is already pregnant by me. I need to be able to give her my attention and be there for when my baby gets here.”

“So you’re saying you’re going to be a family with her?” cried Iesha.

“Yes. She’s going to be my family because she’s carrying my child, but we’re not going to be in a relationship. Our focus will be our child. If you can’t deal with that, I understand. I would never ask you to stay by my side while I raise a child with another woman. I know how bad you want a baby of your own, but it just can’t happen any time soon. I never meant to hurt you, but I have to be a man and take care of my responsibilities.”

“I swear I hate your guts, Josh. You’re a piece of shit,” Iesha barked as she slapped the shit out him before walking out of the house.

Josh stood and watched to make sure she got in her and pulled off without touching his or Chyna's car before closing the door and joining Chyna on the couch.

"You could've let her in, and I would have left because I'm not having sex with you tonight, Josh," informed Chyna.

"I know, Chy. I made my decision, and I'm ready to live with it. Now come on and let us watch this movie," said Josh.

Chyna turned on *Poltergeist*, and they watched it until they both started getting tired.

"Come on. You ready to go to bed?" Chyna asked.

"Yeah. I can sleep in my bed with you, or do I have to sleep in the guest bedroom?"

"You can sleep in there with me. Just remember to keep your hands to yourself." Chyna smirked.

Chyna and Josh walked into his bedroom, and they both lay down, then talked for a little while until sleep found them.



"IESHA, WILL YOU JUST HIT THE BLUNT AND CALM YOUR ASS DOWN? You're starting to get on my nerves with all that damn pacing," Pam snapped.

Iesha left Josh's house, then went to the liquor store. She drank a little, then went to her homegirl Pam's house so that she could tell her about what happened with Josh.

"A blunt isn't going to help. I don't know what to do," whined Iesha.

"Look, baby, I know you don't want to hear this, but there's nothing you can do. The girl is pregnant, and he clearly wants her to keep the baby. I do not even know why you were still expecting a relationship with him. Everyone, including you, knew that he was fucking around with that girl. You're sitting here crying to me while he's probably knee-deep in her pussy right now."

"I don't believe that. Josh has never lied to me. He told me that he is not fucking with her like that. He will just be there for her and the baby. He never said we had to stop dealing with each other."

“Girl, you’re crazy as hell if you think he not about to still be fucking that girl. They are having a baby together, and everybody knows niggas love their baby mamas.”

Iesha looked at Pam and rolled her eyes, then pulled out her phone and dialed Josh’s number. She called three times before he finally answered.

“This better be an emergency,” Josh answered groggily.

“No, it’s not. I just wanted to talk to you about what we discussed earlier,” Iesha said.

“It’s damn near two in the morning, Iesha. There is nothing else to talk to about. I’m trying to get me some rest,” Josh replied.

“Really, Josh? I was upset earlier, but I’m not anymore. I want to talk now,” Iesha demanded.

“What the fuck did I just say? Are you drunk or something? I don’t want to talk right now,” Josh yelled, waking Chyna up.

“Why are you doing all that yelling? I have a headache. Can you finish that call in another room?” Iesha heard Chyna say, causing her blood to boil.

“I’m sorry. I’ll go get you some Tylenol and a bottle of water,” Josh replied to Chyna.

“You fucking liar. You said you weren’t fucking her,” Iesha fumed, getting Josh’s attention.

Josh did not say anything, but she could hear him moving around, so she figured he must have got up and left the room.

“Look, I’m only going to say this once, so listen close, Iesha. Me and you are not together, so I have no reason to lie to you. If I were still fucking that girl, I would have said yeah when you asked me. I did not have sex with her. We watched movies and went to bed. She sleeps in the bed with me without us having sex. If you are going to keep this shit up and calling my phone this time of morning every night to see if I am doing something, I am going to stop answering you. I’m not about to have you checking on me all day every day.”

“Okay, I’m sorry, Josh. This baby thing just got me fucked up and then you’re acting like you don’t care.”

“It’s not that I don’t care. It is just I can’t change shit, because I am not going to make her kill my baby. Once you calm down, we can have a rational conversation, and we will figure out everything then. Now I am

going back to bed, so I will call you tomorrow,” Josh said before hanging up on her.

Iesha placed her phone on the table and lay back on the couch. Her mind was all over the place, and she did not know what to do. Josh was the love of her life. He was the only man that she had ever loved. He was there when she had nothing and helped her build the lifestyle that she lived. She was not willing to lose him to another bitch and a baby. She would just have to figure out what she could do to make Josh see things her way before it was too late.

“Let me guess, he just promised to see you later and now you’re calm,” Pam stated sarcastically.

“Shut up. I love him, and he knows that will never change,” Iesha replied.

“Girl, that’s your problem now. You letting love make you do stupid shit. I say forget about Josh’s ass and find another nigga to fuck with until he gets his shit together.”

“No. That’s what broke us up the last time. Me fucking around on him.”

“Baby girl, you’re in a one-sided relationship. You’re not cheating if y’all not in a relationship, because if that’s the case, his ass was cheating too.”

No matter how much Pam spoke the truth to Iesha, she was not trying to hear it. She was stuck in her ways when it came to Josh, and no one could change that. The girls sat up and talked for about another hour before Iesha left and headed home.

Two weeks had passed, and Chyna was finally ready to go talk to her family. She had not been doing anything but relaxing and getting her mind right. She had stayed in the entire time, except for the meeting she had with her lawyer. Josh had been a great host. He made sure she had food to eat and anything else that she needed. They had slept in the with each other every night, but they had not even kissed during that time. As much as he hated it, he respected her boundaries. He knew the reason why she did not sleep with him, and he respected that. There was no need to make things more complicated than they were.

“Thank you, Josh. I appreciate everything that you’ve been doing for me. Thank you for letting me stay with you. I have decided to keep our baby, Josh. I am going to go talk to Maddox and then my family today. My condo is ready, so I am going to pick up the keys for that as well. I will be moving in there over the next couple of days, so I will not be coming back here. I’ll send you my address once I’m moved in.”

“Alright. Do you need help with anything? I can buy your furniture or something,” Josh offered.

“No. I’m good. You’ve done more than enough so far. I am going to schedule a doctor’s appointment with my doctor, and I will give you the date. You can come if you want to,” said Chyna.

“Okay. Just let me know that date, and I’ll be there,” Josh replied as he stood from the couch and pulled her into his arms.

Chyna inhaled his scent, then kissed the side of his cheek.

Josh grabbed Chyna's suitcase and carried it out to her car for her. She got in the driver's seat and drove to Maddox's house. She parked the car, then got out and walked up the stairs. She took a deep breath before ringing the doorbell.

Chyna stood there for about a minute until Maddox came and answered the door.

"Hey, Chyna. I missed you so much. One text a day saying 'I'm okay' was not enough," Maddox said as he stepped to the side.

Chyna walked into the house and sat on the couch.

"Is Matteo here?"

"No. He's still at school right now."

"Okay. I missed you too Maddox, but I have something to talk to you about, and I don't even know how to tell you this."

"What's wrong, Chy? Just talk to me, and we can get through it. I'm sure it can't be that bad."

"That night when you came to my house before I was shot, I was going to tell you that we could try to have a relationship. But then I got shot and found out something at the hospital that changed all of that. I found out I was nine weeks pregnant by Josh, which was why I disappeared. I needed time to myself to think about what I was going to do regarding the baby. I love you, and I want to be with you so bad, but I can't kill my baby, Maddox. I know that it would fuck with me in the end. I know that I will lose you, but that is the price I will have to pay. I'm so sorry if you feel like I strung you along, and I can understand if you hate me," Chyna stated as tears fell from her eyes.

"Look at me, Chy. I could never hate you, and I wouldn't expect you to have an abortion because of me. So are you and Josh getting back together? I know you had to have told him about the baby already."

"Yeah, I told him about the baby. I have been staying with him for the past two weeks, but we did not do anything. I did not even kiss him. I just needed peace of mind and time to think to myself, and I knew that I could do that at his house. I would have come to you, but I had to figure out how I was even going to tell you because I did not want to lose you. He suggested we get together, but I told him I would rather just co-parent. I can't be with someone just because I am having a baby by them. Especially when my heart belongs to someone else," Chyna replied sincerely.

“Baby, you are being pregnant doesn’t change anything for me. I still love you and want to work on having a real relationship.”

“I understand that, Maddox, but I’m going to give you time to really think about this. You do not have any kids right now, so you must see if you are prepared to play stepdaddy to someone else’s baby. It would no longer be just about you and me. It would be a full package deal. We can revisit this conversation in a couple of weeks.”

“Alright, so is there anything that I can do for you?”

“There is. I have to go pick up the keys to my condo and talk to my parents. I could really use some help packing and making sure my family doesn’t kill me.”

“Okay. We can tell them the baby is mine if you think that would help.”

“No. I can’t let you do that, Maddox. It is time I put my big girl panties on and stop running from my problems. Rome already cursed me out all week because I have not been up to the hospital to see him and then he has been home for three days and still has not seen me. He is staying with my parents for a little while until he is all the way back to himself. I just wasn’t ready to face him yet.”

“Did you tell them you were going home today?”

“No. I haven’t told them anything. I’ve just been checking in daily like I have with you.”

“Alright, well, are you ready to go? I can follow you in my car.”

“Yeah. I’m going to meet my realtor at the condo and get my keys first.”

“Okay. Let’s go,” Maddox said as he stood from the couch and followed Chyna out the door.

They took the five-minute drive to her condo, which was in Hyde Park, as well. She had bought a condo in that area since it was close to her school, and she liked the area. Even if she did not go back to her same school, she would still be staying in the condo until she was ready to buy a house.

Chyna and Maddox walked into Chyna’s condo and looked around. She had two big bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus a small room that she could use for an office. The appliances were stainless steel with granite countertops. She had already ordered the living room, dining room, and bedroom sets, and they would be delivered tomorrow. She had originally ordered a bedroom set for the guest room, but since she was pregnant, she canceled the furniture since it would now be a nursery.

“They really listened to everything that you said and fixed it. This is nice, Chyna.

“Thank you. With as much money as I’m paying for this place, they better had done what I asked them to do,” Chyna replied.

Chyna sat her suitcase that was with her in the room and locked up on their way out. She drove to her parents’ house and parked in the driveway. She saw that her sister’s car was in the driveway, and she was already regretting her decision to come back.

“It’s going to be alright,” Maddox informed her as he wrapped his arms around her.

Chyna leaned into his arms and took a deep breath before walking toward the house. She used her key to enter the house.

Chyna walked into the house and found her parents, Rome, Nathan, and Chloe sitting in the living room talking.

“Hey, everybody,” Chyna spoke.

“Oh my God, you’re home. Are you okay?” Mrs. Black cried as she pulled Chyna into her arms.

“Yes, Mom. I’m fine,” Chyna replied as she hugged her mother back.

Chyna hugged everyone else, then Rome pulled her into him and would not let her go.

“What the fuck is going on with you, Chy? How do you just disappear like that without letting anyone know if you were alright? What if something would have happened to you?” Rome ranted.

“I told y’all I needed time to myself. Nothing would have happened to me because this is the first time I have been out since I locked myself away two weeks ago. If y’all just calm down, I can let you know what is going on,” Chyna said.

Rome released his sister and allowed her to stand up so that she could talk to them.

“Alright, I won’t beat around the bush. I’m eleven weeks pregnant, and my condo is ready, so I’ll be packing today and moving out,” Chyna blurted in one breath.

“You’re what? You got my daughter pregnant, Maddox?” Mr. Black asked.

“We didn’t do it on purpose. It just happened,” replied Maddox.

Chyna looked up and shook her head at Maddox.

“It’s not his baby, Dad. He’s just trying to cover for me. It’s Josh’s baby,” Chyna confessed.

“How could you be so stupid? You’re going to ruin your life,” Chloe said, catching Chyna off guard.

“I’m sorry... what? I do not know what I did affected you, and I can guarantee you my life is not ruined with a baby in it. It is not like I am asking any of you for help. Believe me, I can figure it all out on my own like I do everything else in my life. I make more than enough money to take care of my child, and so does the father. I can still finish school online, so as far as I’m concerned, my life isn’t ruined.”

“Yeah. Did you forget that your dumb ass is already fighting a gun charge behind one nigga and you pregnant by another one? Yet you are not with either one of them. You’re just allowing them to have fun with you and ruin your life like I said.”

“Bitch, you got me fucked up. I advise you to mind your business before I hurt your feelings.”

“Aye, that’s enough, you two,” Rome yelled.

“Chy, chill. You already know your doctor said you can’t be stressing,” Maddox whispered in her ear.

“Well, when you end up behind bars, I’ll make sure to let you know I told you so. Maybe I’ll get custody of your baby so that I can raise it the right way, and that’s in a two-parent home.”

“Chloe, that’s uncalled for. Leave her alone. This isn’t affecting you,” Nathan stated through gritted teeth.

“Yeah, Nate. You better control your wife before I knock her off that high horse,” Chyna threatened.

“What’s that supposed to mean? There is not shit that you could say to make me feel bad. My life is great, and had you listened to Mom and Dad, your life would be going in the right direction instead of spiraling,” Chloe snapped.

“That is it. I was trying to be nice, but you asked for it. Let us make one motherfucking thing straight. If I did have to do time you would not be the one to get my baby. However, I am not stupid, I have already decided to assure that I do not have to a day in jail. Do not try to get my baby because you can’t have one of your own. Maybe if you could, your husband would not be out here getting other bitches pregnant. My baby might not have a two-parent household through marriage, but I can guarantee it will have two

parents who love them, and I can guarantee you I am not dumb. I'm not the one being cheated on."

"You're fucking lying. You're just making up shit because I hit a nerve," Chloe screamed.

"What do you mean you've made arrangements? So you don't have to do time?" Mr. Black asked curiously.

"During the time that I was by myself, I was still in touch with my lawyer. Originally, I was going to go to trial and fight the case. It was going to end up being a coin toss between probation or one year in prison. Since I am pregnant, I'm no longer willing to take that risk. So him and the prosecutors are working on a deal. If I plead guilty, I might have to do a program, or I might have to do probation and pay a fine. That part I am not sure of yet. I will find out when I go to court in two weeks. It ultimately depends on which one the judge approves," Chyna said.

"Okay. That would be great then. I didn't want you to have to do any time, and doing while pregnant would have been even harder," replied Mr. Black.

Chyna finished her conversation, then headed up to her room, ignoring her sister's death stare.

Chyna walked into her bedroom and closed the door. A couple of minutes later, there was a knock at the door.

"Who is it?" Chyna called out.

"It's me, Chy. Can I come in?" asked Maddox.

"Yeah," Chyna replied.

"Do you want to talk about it?"

"No. I just want to start packing my shit so that I can get out of here. Can I stay at your house tonight until my bed arrives at my house tomorrow? If not, I understand. I'll just stay at a hotel tonight."

"Don't be silly. Of course you can stay with me tonight," Maddox responded as he pulled her into a hug.

Chyna and Maddox sat and packed her things for a few hours until she got hungry, so they called it a night. They would come back tomorrow and pack some more and have Matteo help with moving the things since she couldn't pick up any boxes.

Chyna walked down the stairs and was about to walk out of the door when Rome called her name.

“Chyna, I know your ass not about to leave here without saying nothing,” Rome bellowed.

“Look, if you want to yell or call me stupid too, then yes, I’m going to leave. I don’t have the energy in me.”

“Come on, Chy. We better than that,” said Rome.

Chyna walked over to her brother and kneeled next to him. He instantly pulled her into his arms and remained silent. The tears instantly started falling from her eyes.

“I’m so sorry, Rome, I know I fucked up, but I’m not willing to give my child to Chloe or anybody else for that matter.”

“Aye, look at me. Don’t listen to Chloe. You did not ruin your life. I would have preferred for you to wait a few more years, but you are nineteen years old and out on your own. All your decisions are ultimately yours now. I was in the same situation as you. The first time I got Audrey pregnant, we were barely together and we both were young. Hell, I did not even have as much money as you. No matter what happens, I am there for you, and I will help with the baby in whatever way you need. Have you spoken with Josh?”

“Yes. He’s the one that convinced me to think about how I would feel in the end if I got an abortion. We both agreed to co-parent. I think it would be the best solution for our baby. I love Maddox, and I could never be with Josh just because of the baby.”

“Alright. I know Mom and Dad didn’t say much, but they were just shocked. Just give them some time to let it all sink in, and then they’ll come around.”

“I know. I’m not tripping. I am about to go home with Maddox. I love you, big brother.”

“I love you too, baby girl. Take care of yourself and call me tonight.”

“Okay, I will,” Chyna said as she stood from the floor and walked out of the house with Maddox.

Chyna and Maddox headed to his house. He ordered food from the Chinese restaurant while she went to take a shower. Once Chyna finished showering, she changed into one of his T-shirts and sat on his bed while he showered. He came out of the bathroom with a towel wrapped around him. Chyna could not help but stare at his rock-hard abs. She squeezed her thighs tight as her kitty jumped.

“You like what you see?” Maddox smirked.

“Shut up,” replied Chyna.

Maddox was about to respond until there was a knock at the door. He knew that was probably the delivery driver with their food.

“I’ll be right back,” Maddox said as he stepped out of the room.

“I’ll answer it, Mad. I don’t think whoever’s at the door would want to see you in a towel,” Matteo said, catching his brother’s attention.

“Thanks. It’s already paid for, and I put the tip. I didn’t know you were here,” replied Maddox.

Maddox walked into his room and put on a pair of boxers and a T-shirt.

“That was fast,” said Chyna.

“Yeah, Matt is here, so he answered. Can you put on some shorts before going out there, or either I can bring you the food?”

“It’s fine. I’ll put on some shorts. I’m not going to let your brother see me half naked.” Chyna laughed.

Chyna grabbed a pair of Maddox’s boxers and put them on before going in the dining room with Maddox, where Matteo was already at the table.

“Hey, Matteo,” Chyna spoke as she hugged him.

“Hey, Chy. I’ve missed you around here.”

“I missed you too, but I just needed some time to myself. I live five minutes away now though, so you can come visit me.”

“I definitely will,” replied Matteo.

“Aye, don’t be getting too comfortable going over her house without me,” warned Maddox.

“Chill, big bro. I’m not trying to steal your girl. Chyna is like a sister to me. You know, like what she was supposed to be to you.” Matteo chuckled.

Chyna, Matteo, and Maddox ate their dinner, then sat around and talked for about an hour until Matteo went to his room while Maddox and Chyna went to his.

Chyna climbed in the bed while Maddox took his shirt off and climbed in with her. They flipped through the channels until they found something that both could agree on watching. After that, he pulled her into his arms, and they watched *Lethal Weapon* until she fell asleep.

Chloe remained calm the entire drive to her house after the argument with Chyna, and she had Nathan kind of nervous. As soon as they walked into the house, she broke the silence.

“What the hell was that at my parents’ house? Why did you just stand there and let her lie like that? I’m always the one speaking up and calling her out on her shit,” Chyna yelled.

“Chloe, just calm down. You were wrong how you came at her, and you know it. Accidents happen. She must learn from them. She is young but smart and has money. She is going to be alright. You can’t be so judgmental all the time,” said Nathan.

“You know I’m starting to think that you want to sleep with her too,” Chloe snapped.

“I’m not having this damn conversation with you again, Chloe. You sound like a fucking broken record now,” Nathan spat, trying to walk away.

Chloe pulled Nathan by the arm to keep him from walking away.

“Why are you getting so defensive suddenly? Is there some truth in what she said?” Chloe asked.

“I’m going to bed, Chloe. We’ll talk tomorrow when you’re not paranoid,” Nathan mumbled as he walked away and went to the bathroom. He stripped out of his clothes and climbed into the shower. He closed his eyes and tried to think about what he could do. Chyna had put him on blast, but luckily, Chloe did not believe him, so his secret was still safe. He thought about what his father said about paying Jade or Kea, whatever her real name was, off. Did he really want to just give up responsibility of a

child to save his marriage? Did his unborn child really deserve that? It was not the baby's fault that it would be brought into this world. He just needed a little more time to figure what it was that he wanted to do.

Once Nathan finished showering, he walked into the bedroom and put on a pair of boxers and climbed in bed while Chloe went to take a shower. About twenty minutes later, she came and climbed in bed with him.

"So you're just going to go to sleep and act like nothing even happened?" Chloe asked.

"Can you please just go to bed, Chloe? I have to get up in the morning for work," Nathan replied as he turned his back on her and went to sleep.

Chloe was pissed at how nonchalant Nathan was acting toward her. He had never behaved that way toward her. She did not know what had gotten into him, but she was going to her parents' house the next day to talk to them about everything that was going on. She stayed up for another hour before she was able to fall asleep.

The following day, Chloe woke up to an empty bed. She looked over at the clock and saw that it was already eleven. She stretched her arms, then climbed out of bed and went into the bathroom to take care of her personal hygiene. After that, she went into the kitchen and made herself a bowl of oatmeal and two boiled eggs.

Chloe cleaned did some cleaning around the house, then grabbed her car keys and headed to her parents' house. She parked in front of the house, then made her way to the front door. She rang the doorbell and waited a couple of minutes for someone to answer.

"Hey, Ma," Chloe greeted her mother.

"Hey, baby. I didn't know you were coming over."

"Yeah. I wanted to check on Rome and then I felt like we needed to have a discussion about yesterday," Chloe said as she walked into the living room, where Rome was lying across the couch.

"Hey, sis," Rome spoke.

"Hey, brother. How are you feeling?" Chloe asked.

"I'm doing alright. I should be back to myself in about a week, so I'll be going home."

Chloe and Rome made small talk until her father joined them in the living room.

"Hey, so what do you want to talk about?" Mr. Black asked as he sat on the couch.

“What do y’all plan on doing about Chyna and her baby?” Chloe asked.

“I’m not following. What do you mean what are they going to do?” inquired Rome.

“I think that they should try to convince her to let me get custody of the baby. Chyna isn’t capable of taking care of a kid. Look at all the trouble that she’s already in,” explained Chloe.

“I understand what you’re saying, Chloe, but you know we’re not going to be able to convince your sister to give up her child,” replied Mrs. Black.

“Your mother’s right, Chloe. It’s not going to happen. If we even attempt to try to get her baby taken from her, she will cut all of us off from her life, and I am not willing to lose my youngest child,” Mr. Black added.

Chloe could not believe what she was hearing. She just knew that her parents would have been on her side.

“Let me guess, you don’t agree with it either, Rome?”

“No. I don’t even know why the hell we’re discussing this to begin with. Chyna made it clear yesterday what she had planned. She has her own apartment, and she has money so she can provide for her child. Then, contrary to belief and even though I might not like it either, she has both Maddox and Josh to help with the baby. I also told her if she needs anything, me and Audrey will be there to help her out, so just let the shit go, Chloe. None of this affects you in anyway.”

“It does affect me though. She is nothing but a spoiled brat, and you all allow her to get her way. Then I think she must’ve said or did something with Nathan because he’s always taking up for her.”

“See, now I’m going to stop you right there. If anything ever happened between her and Nathan, I will beat the shit out your husband because she just became of age, but she definitely would have told me if he came on to her,” Rome snapped.

“Whatever. I don’t expect you to be on my side. I don’t even know why I’m talking to you anyway,” Chloe said as she rolled her eyes.

“We appreciate your concern, Chloe, but Rome’s right. Please just let it go,” begged Mrs. Black.

Chloe was about to respond when they heard the front door open and close. In walked Chyna, Maddox, and Matteo.

“Aye, don’t stop your family meeting on my accord. I just came to start getting some of my things. Don’t worry. I’ll be out your hair soon,” Chyna said sarcastically before heading for the stairs.

Maddox and Matteo spoke to Chyna's family, then headed up to her room.

"Chyna, get your ass over here now," Rome roared, stopping Chyna in her steps.

"What's up, Rome?" Asked Chyna.

"Okay, I'm going to blame this damn attitude of yours on pregnancy hormones. No one was having a damn family meeting. Chloe came to check on me and then we were just talking. If it were a family meeting, you know we would have called you."

"Alright, everyone," Chyna spoke before hugging her parents and brother.

"Do you need help with anything regarding your house?" Mr. Black asked.

"No. I have everything covered. Bri is there now waiting for my furniture to be delivered so I will be able to sleep in it tonight. Once everything is finished, I will let you all know. I'm going to do something small there because only so many people know where my condo is."

"That's smart, and I didn't forget what we discussed at the hospital. I think it would be best to start looking into that after your court date," Mr. Black advised Chyna.

"Yeah, I agree, plus I have doctor's appointments and stuff to deal with as well."

"Alright. If you need me to go to an appointment with you so that you're not alone, just let me know," said Mrs. Black.

"Thanks, Ma, but I'm not going to be alone. Josh will be going to my upcoming doctor's appointment with me, but you're welcome to come to the one where we find out the gender of the baby."

"Okay. I would like that." Mrs. Black smiled.

Chyna was about to walk past her sister, but she had to at least attempt to make things right with her.

"Look, Chloe, at the end of the day, no matter how much we fight, I will always love you and wouldn't want to see you being played. I would not be a good sister if I were not honest with you. I know what I said to you yesterday was out of anger, but it was the truth. The night Rome and I got shot, I found out Nathan had a baby on the way when I was leaving the hospital. He begged me not to tell you, and I told him okay, but he needed to tell you himself. Yesterday, you made me so mad, and I realized that he

hadn't told you, and I apologize for the way that I told you because I was wrong."

"I love you too, Chyna, but you have to let the lies stop. Nathan would never do anything like that to me," said Chloe.

"Okay, well, I did my part by telling you. If you do not believe me, then that is on you. I at least got it off my conscience." Chyna shrugged as she started walking toward the steps.

"Wait, how do you know he has a baby on the way?" questioned Mr. Black.

"Well, when Maddox and I were leaving, we saw him standing outside with the girl. I asked her how they knew each other, and she explained everything to me."

"How do you know she's even telling the truth? Who is it anyway?" Rome asked.

"I know that it's the truth because she's been talking about him over a year. She never said his name before. She just told me she was falling in love with a married man and he was paying some of her bills. It's Yakea. He knew her by the name Jade."

"Wow, so your friend was sleeping with my husband all this time, and you wait until she gets pregnant to tell me," screamed Chloe.

"I just told you I didn't know about it. Had I been known, I would have called him out on his shit, and she would have left him alone. Don't get mad at me. Take the shit out on Nathan."

Chloe started ranting, but Chyna was not in the mood to deal with it any longer, so she left and headed up to her room to make sure she packed the main things she needed. She would send Maddox back to get some more of her things later.

"Don't tell me y'all believe her?" asked Chloe.

"I'm sorry, Chloe, but she doesn't have a reason to lie about this. I would suggest talking to Nathan and finding out what's really going on," suggested Mr. Black.

"What am I supposed to do if it's true? Do I just throw away my marriage, or do I just act like it never happened? Why would he do this to me?" Chloe cried as she flopped down on the couch.

"I don't know, sweetheart, but only you can decide on what you want to do. If you two love each other the way you say you do, then I am sure you

can work this out. If not, you will still be alright regardless,” Mrs. Black assured her.

Chloe thought about what her mother had said, and she knew that she was right, but the truth was, she could probably get over the cheating. However, it was the fact that he got someone else pregnant. He gave someone else something that he could not give her. They had tried at one point but stopped because they felt the timing was not right yet, and they had not discussed when they wanted to try. Now that he had a baby on the way by someone else, she did not know if it would ever happen between them. She just had to talk to him about it and make him tell her the truth and hoped they could figure it out from there.

The past week had flown by fast. Chyna finally had everything moved into her condo and situated. It felt good to live on her own and not have to worry about anyone's rules. Even though she had been making her own money the past year, she still did not feel that sense of independence that she was looking for, because she was under her parents' roof. She felt, now more than ever, she had something to prove. She needed to prove to her family that she would be able to manage what she was doing as well as be the best mother she could to her child.

Chyna had just gotten out of the shower and moisturized her body. She put on a pair of black fitted jeans and a burgundy off-the-shoulder shirt with a pair of burgundy Prada sneakers. She was looking at herself in the mirror. She combed her wrap down and applied a light coat of lip gloss.

Chyna had a small baby bump forming. She had not told anyone, besides her close family and friends, about her pregnancy yet. She still was not sure who was targeting her, so she did not know who she could trust with those details.

"Do you think I should change my shirt?" Chyna asked Maddox.

"No. You look great. Now come on before you be late for your own grand opening," Maddox suggested.

Chyna took one more look at herself, then took a deep breath before grabbing her Prada purse that matched her sneakers. She could not believe her store was finally about to open. She had worked so hard over the year to make it possible.

Maddox pulled into Chyna's parking spot outside the store. He stood with her while she admired the sign hanging outside that read Black's Paradise. Originally, she only had it painted on temporarily, but now, the neon sign was officially put up that morning.

Chyna and Maddox entered the store, and the only people that were there so far were Eliza and Bri. Eliza was the manager Chyna hired to look over the store.

"Hey, boss lady. How does everything look?" Eliza asked.

"It looks amazing. You two have been doing a great job. I can't thank you enough for all of the hard work you've been putting in order to make this day happen," said Chyna.

"You're welcome, Chyna. I'm only glad you gave me this opportunity," Eliza replied.

Maddox and Chyna walked around the store to make sure the final things were in order. The store had a combination of clothes for women, men, and kids. It also contained shoes and hair by the bundles.

"On a scale from one to ten, how nervous are you?" Maddox whispered in Chyna's ear.

"I would have to say a twelve." Chyna laughed.

"Just relax. You don't have anything to be nervous about. You have been advertising this grand opening for the past two months on the radio, social media, as well as in the hood. Your business page on FB, Instagram, and not to mention the website has already been getting mad love. People already begging you to make the site live, so you're good," Maddox said, boosting her ego.

Chyna looked at Maddox and smiled. Despite her being pregnant by Josh, he was still right there by her side making sure that she was good. No matter what happened between them, she would always cherish the bond and friendship they made.

"Aye, be careful now. If you keep hyping me up like that I might just have to crack and give you some." Chyna half joked before walking away.

Chyna went to her office and went over some paperwork until Bri came running in.

"It's time, Chy." Bri beamed.

"Alright. You can open the door. I'll be right out," replied Chyna.

Chyna stood from her desk and looked in the mirror as she touched up her lip gloss. She exited her office and walked toward the front of the store

where people were already walking in. She made sure to greet everyone and thank them for coming. Since it was the first day opening, anyone that purchased something would receive a fifteen percent discount.

Everything was going good until Byron entered the store and approached Chyna. It had been almost four months since their last run-in, and she would have been good without seeing him again.

“What’s up, lil’ Chy? Let me talk to you in private,” Byron suggested looking Chyna up and down.

Chyna led him to toward the back of the store where no one was at.

“What’s going on, B?” Chyna responded.

“I can’t call it. From the looks of it, you got the best hand. I guess you should be thanking me for that,” said Byron.

“What’s that supposed to mean?” Chyna asked.

“You know, seeing as none of this wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for me.”

“Bullshit. Yeah, you got me the connect, but I made everything else happen with the team I put together. You don’t get to take credit for that.”

“Did you forget I fucking gave you the team as well?” spat Byron.

“I’m not gon’ deny that you helped out and put me in the position with the right people, but what happened after that was all me. It didn’t have shit to do with you, so miss me with that shit.”

“All I’m saying is you should pay homage and let me get in on this store deal. Or you can repay me by letting me hit it again. It’s the least you could do for what I’ve done instead of walking around like you’re big shit and making boss moves.”

“How many times do I have to tell you that I’m not giving you shit? I offered you a cut in the beginning, and you said no. It is not my fault if you doubted I could make shit happen. I paid my dues by giving you some pussy like you asked. We agreed to two hours, and that is what you got. It’s not my fault the pussy was so good you only lasted five minutes.”

“Careful there, lil’ Chy. You are playing with the big boys. Niggas do not care that you are a bitch. I am asking you nicely. The next person might just try to take the shit from you. Big bro not gon’ always protect you,” Byron threatened as he rubbed one of his fingers down the side of her cheek.

“Let us get one motherfucking thing straight, B. You or none of these other niggas do not put fear in my heart. I do not care about playing with

the big boys, because at the end of the day, all your niggas know that I am that bitch. Y'all started hustling way before me, but I could teach you a thing or two about getting paper. If you want, I can put in a good word with Mase for you. Seeing as a little birdy told me he isn't fucking with you like that no more since you been hustling backward." Chyna smirked.

"You know what—" Byron started but stopped when Maddox walked toward them.

"Is everything good back here?" Maddox questioned, looking between the two.

"Everything's great. It was just two old friends catching up. Isn't that right, B?" questioned Chyna.

"Yeah. It was nice catching up with you. Hopefully, I will see you around," Byron replied smugly before walking away.

"What was that about?" Maddox asked.

"Nothing. I'll tell you about it later," Chyna responded before walking away.

Chyna hated that Maddox had walked in on the heated conversation between her and Byron. She had never told anyone that she slept with Byron or that he was the one that set her up with her connect.

Chyna went back to greeting customers like nothing had happened until she spotted Kea and Tess looking through a clothing rack. She took a deep breath to remain calm. She had not seen Tess since the argument they had over Maddox. Rome had been handling everything with her to keep down the confusion. If it were up to Chyna, she would have dismissed Tess the day she did not make the drop-off to the block, causing Chyna to get arrested.

Chyna still felt, deep down, Tess had something to do with it, but Rome convinced Chyna to leave her alone because it would look bad if Chyna got rid of her. He said that it would look like Chyna worked off a feeling, and that was not a good way to run an organization. They wanted her to wait while they conducted their investigation and get down to the bottom of everything.

Chyna still hadn't talked to Kea about the Nathan situation. The truth was, she did not know what to say to her. They both put her in a tough position. She was one of Chyna's best workers. Was she supposed to dismiss her since she was pregnant by her sister's husband, or should she just act like it was none of her concern? They were a case of feelings over

loyalty. Should she be loyal to her sister since she was blood, or should she continued to get money with Kea? She had enough shit going on already, so that was something she would have to come back to later.

“Hey, baby sis. This place looks great.” Rome complimented.

“Thanks, bro. I appreciate you coming, but you didn’t have to. I know you’re just starting to get good on your feet.”

“You know I wouldn’t miss your big day. I hope you know how happy and proud of you I am,” Rome said as he pulled her into a hug.

“Thank you, Rome, and in case you don’t know, I’m here for you. I owe you my entire life for saving me that day. With everything that’s been going on, I don’t even think I got a chance to thank you for that.”

“There’s no thanks needed, because had it been you and not me, I would have wreaked havoc on this entire city,” Rome replied seriously.

Chyna stood and talked to Rome for a few more minutes until she saw Maddox standing over by Tess, grinning in her face. She was smiling about something and placed her hand on his chest. She made a mental note to address him later about the situation. They were not in a relationship, and she told him he could do whatever he wanted, except fuck anybody that worked with them, especially Tess.

Chyna stayed at the store until it was time to close. She was too tired to go over the books, so she would go back tomorrow and go over it. She allowed Bri and Eliza to take care of it while she headed home.

Maddox had tried talking to Chyna during the drive to her house, but she ignored him, so he left it alone. When they pulled up to her house, she jumped out of the car and headed up the stairs with him right behind her. She went straight to her bedroom and stripped out of her clothes, then entered the bathroom to shower. Once she was finished, she wrapped a towel around herself and pulled her hair into a ponytail and brushed her teeth. When she entered her bedroom, she found Maddox sitting on the bed texting somebody, which caused her to break the silence.

“If I find out you are fucking with Tess again, I’m going to knock you upside your shit, Maddox,” Chyna threatened.

“Where the fuck did that even come from?” Maddox asked, confused.

“I saw you in the store with her. I know we had an agreement. Play with me if you want to.”

“So that’s where this fucked-up attitude of yours came from suddenly? You should have come and talked to me before jumping to conclusions. I

am not fucking with Tess. She asked me something about business and then started flirting, but I shut the shit down.”

“Yeah alright,” Chyna responded before picking up the lotion and moisturizing her body.

“You still want me to stay here tonight, or you in your feelings now?”

“Do whatever you want,” Chyna replied.

Maddox looked at Chyna and shook his head before heading in the bathroom. He took his clothes off and took a quick shower. He had been trying to respect Chyna’s boundaries, and he had not had sex since the last time he and Chyna did it when she got shot. Her attitude was getting worse, and her mouth was reckless, so he knew what she needed to help calm her down.

Maddox dried off, then walked into Chyna’s bedroom. It was completely dark, but he knew she had not fallen asleep that quick. Chyna never could go to sleep right away when she was mad, and he knew that had not changed.

Maddox climbed under the covers with Chyna and immediately began to kiss and suck on her neck before hovering over her and placing a kiss on her lips. She returned the kiss without hesitation.

Maddox broke the kiss and made his way to her breasts taking his time showing each one attention. A slight moan escaped Chyna’s lips.

“So this was what the attitude was really about, huh?” asked Maddox

“No. I told you why I had an attitude,” replied Chyna.

“Girl, tell that to somebody that don’t know no better. Now tell me what you want me to do,” Maddox demanded.

“I want you to make me cum,” Chyna purred. That was all Maddox needed to hear before making his way down to Chyna’s navel. He dipped tongue and swirled in it before making his way to her inner thighs. He kissed all over them gently, causing Chyna to squirm because she knew what was to come next.

Maddox licked around Chyna’s pussy lips before sliding his tongue across her clit. He nibbled her clit gently, and she arched her back as she gripped the back of his head.

“Oh my Godddddd. Shit, Maddox. Right there, baby. Please do not stop,” Chyna cried out in ecstasy.

Maddox continued to lick and suck as Chyna’s legs began to shake. She gripped the back of his head tighter, and he held on to her hips tight to make

sure she did not move as he made her squirt in his mouth. She tried to move again, but he held the position as he sped up the pace. He continued to massage her clit with his mouth until she was cumming again.

Chyna began to push Maddox's head, and he sat up and laughed. He leaned in and stuck his tongue in her mouth, causing her to taste her own juices.

Maddox took his time sliding inside of Chyna. Once he was all the way in, a moan escaped both of their mouths. She still felt as good as she did the first time. She allowed him to have sexy with her.

"Damn, baby. You feel so fucking good right now," Maddox groaned as he closed his eyes. He tried his best to focus on anything else except the taste of heaven he was feeling.

"You do too, baby. You about to make me cum again," Chyna moaned as she gripped his back and wrapped her legs around him. Maddox felt Chyna's juices slide down his dick. He waited until she stopped moving, then flipped her over and entered her from the back. He grabbed a handful of her hair and rubbed her clit as he punished her pussy. Her sheet was so wet that it was driving him crazy. He guessed it was true when they said pregnant women had the best pussy because it stayed wet. Chyna was dripping like a faucet. She already was A1, but at that point, it was lethal. He did not want her giving it to anybody else. He could not even imagine anyone else sliding up in her and feeling what he was feeling.

"Cum on this dick for me," Maddox demanded as he slapped her on the ass.

Chyna did as she was told on command.

"Shit, Maddox. Fuck me just like that, baby," Chyna screamed out as she came again.

Maddox flipped Chyna back over and put both of her legs in the crooks of his arms as he plunged inside of her as deep as he could go.

"Be my girl, Chyna," Maddox said out of nowhere.

"What?" Chyna asked, caught off guard.

"I said be my girl. I can't imagine you fucking nobody else the way you do me. That shit alone makes me want to go insane," Maddox replied seriously.

"Alright," Chyna responded with no hesitation.

"Say... The... Words..." Maddox grunted between each thrust.

“Yes, I’ll be your girl,” Chyna cried as she was on the verge of cumming again.

Maddox felt like the happiest man alive at that point. He slowed down the pace and proceeded to make love to Chyna.

“I love you so fucking much,” Maddox whispered in her ear.

“I love you too, baby,” Chyna muttered.

Maddox and Chyna continued to make love until he was cumming deep inside of her. Once they were done, they passed out with their bodies intertwined.

Josh walked in his house and took a quick shower, then put on a pair of black jeans, a white T-shirt, and some white Ones. He had been running around all day, taking care of business and picking up money. He was tired as hell because he had barely gotten any sleep all week. Between working and Iesha calling him all day every day, he could not catch a break. He walked in the kitchen and made him a sandwich and grabbed a bag of chips with a soda to put something in his stomach. He was about to go meet up with Tim and some of the other guys at a get-together on the block. The last thing he needed was to get sick from drinking.

Josh ate his food and drank the last of his soda, then headed to his car. He pulled up on the block just as his phone was ringing. He looked down at it and saw that it was Chyna. A slight smile spread across his lips. He had not heard her voice all week. She would respond to his texts when he texted her, but that was about it.

“Hey,” Josh spoke into the phone.

“Hey. Did I catch you at a bad time?” Chyna asked.

“No. I just made in on the block. I am about to hang out with Tim and the guys for a minute. What’s up?”

“I won’t hold you up. I just wanted to let you know that my doctor’s appointment is next Wednesday at nine a.m. Is that too early for you? If it is, I can just have my mom or somebody else go with me.”

“Nine o’clock is fine, Chyna. I do own an alarm. Text your address, and I can pick you up so that we don’t have to drive two cars.”

The line got silent for a moment, and Josh had to check to make sure the call had not drop.

“Alright. I’ll text you my address the night before,” Chyna replied.

“Cool, so how are you doing today? Did you feed my baby?”

“Yeah. I’m good. I ate breakfast this morning, but I have been having morning sickness, so I have not had anything else yet. I’ve just been in bed relaxing.”

“Okay. If you need anything, just let me know,” Josh offered.

“I should be good, but I’ll talk to you later. My mom and brother are here helping me out with some stuff around the house. I just wanted to let you know about the appointment.”

“Alright. I’ll talk to you later,” Josh stated before hanging up.

Josh climbed out of the car and walked across the street to the porch Tim was sitting on.

“What’s up? I was about to see was you cool,” Tim said, hitting a blunt.

“Yeah. I’m good. I was on the phone with Chyna.”

“Oh okay. I haven’t seen her around much lately. Y’all back together now?”

“No. She was telling me when her doctor’s appointment was.”

“Doctor’s appointment? Is everything alright with her?”

“Yeah. She’s pregnant.”

“Get the fuck out of here. So she’s about to get an abortion?”

“No. I asked her to keep it,” Josh replied before taking the blunt from Tim.

“Damn. Who would have thought you would be having a baby before me? Does Bri know, because she hasn’t mentioned it to me?”

“I don’t know. She hasn’t really told anybody yet, so I’d rather you not say anything to anybody.”

“Okay. I gotcha. I know this the last thing you want Iesha to know.”

“Iesha already knows. I told her the same day that I found out. I owed her and Chyna that much. I am not about to have a baby and then hide it. That would make me look like a deadbeat dad, and that’s one title I won’t take.”

“That’s understandable. I think you and Chyna should try and make things work for the sake of the baby.”

“Nah. We already discussed that and said that co-parenting would be what’s best. What we have going on right now works for us. Neither one of

us trust the other enough to be together.”

Josh and Tim continued to talk a little longer until some of the guys came out and joined them, along with a few females. A girl named Layla that he used to fuck with looked in his direction. He nodded at her, and she immediately walked his way.

“What’s up, baby? It’s been a minute,” Layla spoke.

“Shit. I can’t call it,” Josh responded, looking her up and down.

She was about five feet four, chocolate, and thick in all the right places. She had a red and black lace wig that went all the way to her ass. She was a hood girl, just the way he liked it.

“So you still playing house with that bitch Esha or what?” Layla asked.

“Why? It wouldn’t stop you from trying to get me to hit tonight.” Josh smirked.

“Oh, you know me so well, but don’t act like you don’t want to.” Layla flirted as she licked her plump lips.

Josh rolled a blunt and lit it, then handed it to Layla. They drank and smoked with the group for about two hours until they both were feeling buzzed.

“Why don’t we take this party in the house,” Josh whispered in Layla’s ear.

“I was just thinking the same thing,” Layla replied as she stood from the stairs and followed Josh into the house.

Josh led Layla into the empty bathroom. He wasted no time pulling down his jeans. Layla licked her lips, then sat on the toilet before placing his semi-erect manhood into her mouth. Their eyes locked as she took as much of him down her throat.

Josh held on to the back of her head as he slid in and out of her mouth at a rapid pace.

“Damn, girl,” Josh groaned as she suctioned his dick. He could feel himself about to cum, but he at least wanted to slide up in her first, so he pushed her away gently and stroked his dick before putting a condom on.

Josh lifted Layla’s dress up over her ass and slid her thong to the side. He rubbed her clit until she was dripping wet before sliding inside of her from the back.

A moan instantly escaped her lips from the pleasure.

“Oh my God, Josh. I missed you so much,” Layla screamed out as Josh punished her love box. He went in and deep and rubbed up against her spot

until she was cumming.

“Fuck,” Josh mumbled as he came behind her.

Josh pulled the condom off and stuck it in the wrapper and pulled his pants up while Layla cleaned herself off.

“So are you going to stop being a stranger now? You know I know how to play my part. It is not like I am looking for a relationship with you, Josh. At one point, we were friends before we even started having sex.”

“Yeah, I know, Layla. Things are just complicated in my life right now.”

“I could be a good complication though. We can go back to your house and finish what we just started,” Layla whispered as she walked up to him and slid her hands down the front of his pants.

Josh was about to respond when they heard a commotion going on in the living room. He and Layla ran out of the bathroom and right into Iesha.

“I’ve been calling you for the past couple of hours. Now I see why you could not answer and why they did not want to let me in the house. I thought you were with your other bitch in here, but instead, you are fucking with this thot again,” spat Iesha.

“Yo, chill, you’re causing a scene,” Josh said through gritted teeth.

“Man, fuck them, and fuck you. I swear your ass not gon’ be satisfied until I hate your ass.”

“Let us go outside and talk, Iesha. You are putting all these people in our business for nothing.”

“Nigga, they all know you a hoe. They know you fuck with me and knew you were in here fucking this hoe in the bathroom. Like that is the most trifling shit ever. You couldn’t wait to take the bitch back to your house?”

“Aye, I’m not going to be too many bitches and hoes. We done been down this road before, Iesha, so pipe down,” interjected Layla.

“Yeah, we have, and you see where that got you. He still came back to me like he does every time.”

“Bitch, that’s not shit to brag about. That just goes to show that nigga can do whatever he wants, and you allow it.”

“Whatever. I hope you don’t think because he fucked you that it changes anything. That nigga got a baby on the way by a bitch that he can’t seem to let go,” Iesha blurted out.

Josh looked at everyone watching him, and he was pissed. He did not care so much about Iesha showing her ass. He hated the fact that she told

everybody he had a baby on the way. It was not that he wanted to hide it. It was Chyna that said she wanted to keep it private until they found out who was after her.

Josh grabbed Iesha by the arm and dragged her out of the house and down the stairs. He dragged her until they were in an area alone, then let her go.

“What the fuck is wrong with you? This why I have not been fucking with your dumb ass lately. You be on some goofy shit. Why would you tell all those people that I have a baby on the way?”

“I didn’t know it was supposed to be a secret, being that you wasted no time throwing the shit in my face.” Iesha shrugged.

“You know what? Fuck it. From now on, do not bring up Chyna or my baby. If you do, I am going to ignore your ass,” yelled Josh.

“Fuck you. That bitch and that bastard child,” Iesha spat.

Before Iesha knew what was happening, Josh had his hand wrapped around her throat, pinning her up against the gate.

“Stop fucking playing with me and watch your damn mouth. You’re starting to test my patience now,” Josh said through gritted teeth.

“Stop, Josh. I can’t breathe,” Iesha mumbled.

Josh released Iesha’s throat, and she started coughing and crying immediately. For the first time in his life, he ignored her tears and walked to his car, leaving her alone. He thought about taking Layla up on her offer and taking her home with him, but he was not in the mood to answer questions about Chyna, and he knew she would have some.

Josh climbed inside of his car and drove home. He took a quick shower, then slipped on a pair of boxers and climbed into his bed. He dialed Chyna’s number to give her a heads-up that Iesha told everybody that he had a baby on the way, but she didn’t answer, so he sent her text instead, telling her to call him when she could.



“WHY DOES HE KEEP CALLING YOUR PHONE ALL OF A SUDDEN?” MADDIX asked Chyna as he sat on the couch next to her.

“I don’t know why he’s calling. I called him earlier to let him know about my doctor’s appointment. I told him I’d text him the day before with

my address.”

“Don’t get fucked up, Chyna. I’m not playing with you,” threatened Maddox.

“Fucked up about what? I have not even done shit. I barely talk to the nigga and I have not had sex with him since the day he got my ass pregnant. If you gone complain or question me about Josh the rest of the night you can go home,” Chyna snapped as she lay back on the couch.

“I’m sorry, I don’t want to make you upset. I just wanted to know why he is calling since you hadn’t been talking to him.”

“You don’t have anything to worry about, Maddox. If I still wanted to fuck with Josh, I would not have gotten into a relationship with you. I know how to only be with one person at a time during a relationship. If you want to be with me, you must be able to trust me the same way that I have to trust you. Hell, don’t act like your past is squeaky clean.”

“You’re welcome, baby. I’m sorry. Let me make it up to you with a massage,” Maddox replied before placing Chyna’s legs on top of his lap.

He pulled her socks off and massaged her feet until she got comfortable.

“That feels so good, baby. I’ve been running around and up on my feet for most of the day.”

“I told you that you need to relax and start allowing people to help you. I know you are used to doing everything on your own, but you do not have to. You have me, as well as your family and workers that can help with the load.”

“I know, baby, but I’m trying to do as much as I can right now because once the baby gets here, I’m going to have to slow down with everything, which brings us to another conversation; I want to go to the warehouse tomorrow night.”

“What do you need to go there for, Chyna? I thought you was supposed to be laying low while fighting your case.”

“I am laying low. I am not hitting the streets. I just want to take care of some stuff with the shipment and paperwork. I can’t have people thinking that I am scared because of this case I am fighting. Plus, this is probably the only way that I can find out who was involved in setting us up. I know for a fact it had to be somebody from our group,” said Chyna.

“Just hold off on going there until after you go to court. I’ll see what I can find out and then we’ll take it from there.”

Chyna thought about what Maddox said for a minute before speaking.

“Fine, you have one week to find out whatever it is that you want, but after that, I’m done sitting around the house and working at my store. I worked too damn hard to get where I’m at to just let it all slip away.”

“Okay. That’s all I need.”

Maddox and Chyna continued to talk for a little while longer before heading to bed. The last thing he wanted to do was for Chyna to get into any more trouble, especially with a baby on the way.

The following day, Chyna and Maddox woke up and showered so that they could go about their day. He had some business to take care of, and she needed to go court. Her lawyer had called her the day before and said that the hearing with the judge was moved up a week. She wanted to handle it on her own, so she did not let anybody know what was going on. She was already nervous enough on her own. She would just let them know the outcome afterward.

Once Maddox was out the door, Chyna put on a pair of gray dress pants with a black button-up shirt and a gray blazer. She combed her hair straight down and put on a pair of black flat shoes. She would have preferred heels, but her feet were swollen, so she did not want to deal with the pain.

Chyna gave herself a once-over, then grabbed her purse and keys and headed out to her car. She pulled up to the courthouse and parked at the meter. She prayed that everything went smoothly. She signed the plea deal, but she was not sure what stipulations were entailed with the probation.

Chyna stepped out of her car and headed to the courthouse, where her lawyer was already standing outside waiting on her.

“Hello, Miss Black.”

“Hey, Mr. Arnold. How are you doing today?”

“I’m doing okay. Are you sure you want to do this without your family? You know it’s not too late to call them.”

Chyna looked around to make sure no one was in hearing range before speaking.

“Yeah, I’m sure. Having my family here will probably make things worse, being that I know for a fact they are after my brother and father. If they get caught up here, then I did all of this for nothing.”

“You’re a very smart and brave young woman.” Mr. Arnold smiled.

“Thank you, sir,” Chyna replied before following him into the courthouse.

Chyna and Mr. Arnold waited in the hallway for about an hour until her name was called.

“Everything’s going to be okay. Just stay focused and calm like we discussed. If he asks you any questions, try to keep your answers to a yes and no if possible. The hard part is already out of the way,” Mr. Arnold assured her.

“Alright, I’m ready,” Chyna replied as she stood from the seat.

Chyna and Mr. Arnold walked into the courtroom where the prosecutor was already seated on their side.

Chyna took a deep breath and stood next to her lawyer on the defendant’s side of the table.

“Ms. Black, the prosecutors advised me that you signed a plea deal and would like to plead guilty to the marijuana and gun. Is that correct?”

“Yes, your honor,” replied Chyna.

“Alright. The marijuana charge got thrown out since it wasn’t a substantial amount. However, carrying a concealed weapon is a major offense, and you could have been facing jail time. Do you understand that?”

“Yes, ma’am,” Chyna stated.

“I’ve looked into your records and saw that you’ve never been in trouble before and that you’re a straight-A student. From the looks of things, you have a very bright future ahead of you. You just got caught up with the wrong crowd. You are only nineteen, and you qualify for our First Time Weapon Offender Program. You will be on probation for eighteen months. You will have to do fifty hours of community service. During the time of your probation, you are not to get into any criminal trouble, or you will be sentenced to a year in jail. You will have to attend counseling classes as well as finish school if you can’t show proof of employment. If you complete the program successfully, no entry of conviction will be issued against you, and you will be able to expunge this from your records in a year. If you do not agree to these terms, I can pick a date now for you to turn yourself in to do your prison time now. You look like a very smart

young woman, but I still must ask on the records. Do you agree to the terms?"

Chyna was hoping that she would just have regular probation, but she knew, in the end, the program was a better deal because then it could be expunged off her records.

"Yes. I agree to the terms," Chyna finally said.

"Alright, Ms. Black. I will have the paperwork drawn up for your lawyer, and I hope you use this as a chance to watch who you associate yourself with. I don't want to see you back in here anytime soon."

"Yes, ma'am. I understand."

"Okay. Court is now dismissed," said the judge.

Chyna and Mr. Arnold walked out of the courtroom and stood to the side.

"You see everything worked out in your favor. Once I have the program contract, I'll fax it over to you as well as some places that you can do the community service at."

"Okay. About the community service, I do not have an issue with doing it, but can you find something does not require me having to pick up trash off the side of the road? I'm three months pregnant, and I don't know how long I could do that for."

"Congratulations on the baby, and don't worry about it. I can get you inside of an office or set up to tutor kids at a group home or something like that. You have the entire eighteen months to get it done, so I will see where I can get you in at. I think it would be better to get it done before your baby is born."

"Alright. Thank you so much," Chyna said before heading to her car.

Chyna climbed in her car and drove straight to her house so that she could change her clothes. Instead of having to call everybody individually and letting them know what was going on, she sent a group text inviting them to come over the following evening for a small get-together.

Chyna walked into the house and immediately stripped out of her clothes. That was one of the best things she loved about living alone. She could walk around freely and do as she pleased.

Chyna entered her bedroom and placed her clothes inside of the hamper before entering the bathroom. She turned on the shower water, and once it was hot enough, she climbed in and closed her eyes. She allowed the hot water to massage her body. It was like once the tension started leaving, she

immediately started crying. For the first time in a long time, it was tears of joys. She could not have been happier with the judge's verdict. She did not know how she would have survived prison while pregnant yet alone having to miss out on any of her child's life.

Chyna finished her shower, then went into her bedroom and dropped to her knees in front of her bed to say a prayer. She knew she was still doing wrong in the streets, but that did not mean she did not believe in God. She knew right from wrong, so in her eyes, she was just a work in progress.

Chyna stood from the floor and put on a robe before going into the kitchen to take out something to cook for dinner. Maddox was going to be at the warehouse most of the day, but she knew he would be over before the night was over, so she wanted to have dinner ready for him. She had no intentions on leaving her house that day. All she wanted to do was relax and bask in the glory of having a peaceful day.



LATER THAT EVENING, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, MADDOX AND ROME were hanging out in his office smoking.

“So what we gon’ do about everything that’s been going on with Chyna? She’s getting impatient now, but I’m trying to keep her out of trouble.”

“Well, I know who pulled the trigger that night when I got shot.”

“What the fuck we waiting on then? Let us take care of his ass and then focus on who tried to set me up.”

“It’s not that simple, or I would have had my people handle this already. We must play this the smart way because it was Bri’s brother Byron. I’m not trying to start a war, and I’m definitely not trying to let any of it fall back to Chyna.”

“I’m confused. Why would Byron try to kill his sister’s best friend, and why would it come back on Chyna if something happened to him?”

“Byron is a bitch ass nigga. He wanted my sister dead because he put her on to his connect and gave her a team. She offered him money at the time, but he turned it down in exchange for one night with her. He did not expect her to do better than him, so he thought he was getting one over on her. Eventually, he saw that she was doing better and making more money

than him and got jealous and started hating. He felt like she played him because she never contacted him again after they slept together,” explained Rome.

“Wait, so you knew about this all along?”

“No. Chyna never told me who put her in contact with her connect or who he is. I found out shortly after her store opening because Byron’s ass was in feelings and got drunk. He started pillow talking with one Audrey’s cousins that did not know who she was. She told everything to Audrey, and Audrey told me.

Maddox could not believe everything he was hearing.

“Does Chyna know you know?”

“No, she doesn’t, and I don’t plan on her knowing until he’s dead.”

“Okay, so what’s your plan?” Maddox asked as he took a pull of the blunt.

“I need you to get close to Tess again for this to work. She’s good at scamming niggas, and she used to fuck with him, so it should be easy for her to get close to him again.”

“Man, I don’t trust that bitch. Deep down, I know she had something to do with us getting set up that night. I just don’t have proof yet.”

“I know, and I’m not asking you to trust her. I am telling you that you need to get her to trust you. When it’s all over, that threat will be out of the way.”

Maddox sat back in his seat to ponder what Rome was saying to him. He really did want to take care of everything so that Chyna could just focus on her pregnancy and not end up behind bars.

“How am I supposed to gain her trust? She hates me right now since I completely cut her off.”

“That’s the thing. You are going to have to get back close to her. Start hanging out with her and give her what she wants.”

“What? Are you seriously asking me to cheat on your sister?”

“Look, I know you love my sister, and so do I. Under normal circumstances, I would never condone you cheating on my sister, but I do not see any other way. I need you to do this so that Chyna can raise her child and not give birth in prison. We both know that she will not stop or forget about what happened until they both pay for what they did. Once it is all over, we can sit down with her and explain why you did it. I will take all the blame if it makes you feel better.”

“What are we going to do with Tess after she sets Byron up? I am not comfortable with killing a female. Chyna did only end up with probation. Maybe just have some girls beat her ass or something to teach her a lesson.”

“Okay. If that’s what you want, fine. We’ll keep her alive,” said Rome.

“Fuck, and there’s no way we can tell Chyna ahead of time?”

“No. We have to make it believable. Chyna will not just sit back willingly and not interfere. She puts everyone else before herself always.”

Maddox ran his hand over his face out of frustration. Everything Rome was saying was the truth, and it was not worth the risk.

“Okay. Give me a few days to think about this, and if I can’t come up with another solution, I’ll go along with your plan. If Chyna kills me though, I’m coming back to haunt your ass.”

“Man, chill. You’ll be good. She’ll probably be mad for you cheating, but she’ll work on forgiving you, and once we explain everything, it’ll be all good.”

“You don’t know the other side of your sister like I do, but let’s finish here so I can go home and chill with my woman while I can before I end up in the doghouse.”

Maddox and Rome finished counting the shipment, and it was almost eleven by the time he made it to Chyna’s house. He used the key Chyna gave him to let himself into her house. All the lights were off, so he knew she was probably asleep already. He walked into the kitchen and warmed up the plate of food she left in the microwave for him. She had made steak, loaded potatoes, and broccoli with cheese. He poured a double shot of Hennessy to drink with his food. His heart and head were heavy. He had worked so hard to gain Chyna’s trust and for her to give him a real shot only for him to ruin it all. He knew there was no way that he could creep with Tess without Chyna finding out. Tess was a conniving bitch and did not know what it meant to play her part. She would let it be known that they were fucking around.

Maddox ate his food, then washed out the couple dishes before heading toward Chyna’s bedroom. He entered and found her curled up in bed, so he decided to take a quick shower before climbing in bed.

Maddox wrapped his arms around Chyna and inhaled her scent.

“Hey, baby. Why didn’t you wake me up when you came in?” Chyna asked, breaking the silence.

“I’m sorry. I ate my food and was just lost in thought.”

“What’s wrong?” Chyna questioned as she turned to face Maddox, rubbing his face generally.

“Nothing for you to worry about. It was just a long stressful day.”

“Why don’t you let me help you relieve some of that stress,” Chyna purred before kissing Maddox gently on the lips.

Chyna made a trail from his lips on down to his penis before taking him into her mouth.

“Shit, ma. Suck it just like that, baby,” Maddox called out as he grabbed a handful of her hair to help guide her mouth. Once he felt that he was close to cumming, he pushed her off him gently and laid her on the bed. He devoured her love box until she was cumming in his mouth. Before she could catch her breath, he slid his hard pipe inside of her, causing a moan to escape both of their mouths.

Maddox proceeded to make love to Chyna until they were both sweating and out of breath.

“You feel better now?” Chyna asked as she laid her head on his chest.

“I always feel better when I’m with you. You know I love you, right?”

“Of course, and I love you.”

“Okay. No matter what happens, never stop loving me,” Maddox whispered before closing his eyes.

Chyna did not know what he meant by that, but she was too tired to ask. She knew Maddox well enough that he would tell her when he was ready.

Chyna climbed out the shower and got dressed before combing her hair. All she wanted to do was stay in bed, but she needed to leave out for her doctor's appointment soon. The past few days had gone by fast. The dinner at her house had gone well, and everyone was just as happy as Chyna was for the outcome. She had been going to her store, making sure everything was running smoothly and had even went and set up her community service at the Boys and Girls Club. She was going to be a mentor and tutor for one of the kids. It was part of their big sister/brother program.

"Good morning," Maddox spoke dryly.

"Good morning. Are you going to tell me what's going on with you?"

"Why do you keep asking me this like my answer is going to change? I told you that I am good. I've just been busy in the streets and warehouse."

"If it's that damn busy that you stressed like this, I don't see why it's an issue for me to come back to work with y'all."

"I don't think it's a good idea. Just chill out a little longer, and everything will be back to normal."

"Whatever you say, Maddox. I am about to comb my hair, then leave out for my appointment.

"Cool. I'm about to leave out anyway. Have fun with your baby daddy," Maddox said sarcastically.

"What the fuck is that supposed to mean?"

"Nothing. I'll talk to you later," Maddox replied before walking out of the bedroom.

Had it been any other day, Chyna probably would have followed behind Maddox and cursed him out, but she was not about to let him spoil her day. She loved going to her doctor's appointments so that she could hear her baby's heartbeat. At first, Chyna was skeptical about being a mother, but now, it was the one thing she was looking forward to in her life.

Chyna was just about finished with her hair when the phone started to ring. She looked down at the caller ID and saw that it was Josh.

"Hey. Are you outside?" Chyna answered.

"I'm pulling up right now."

"Okay. I'll be out in two minutes," Chyna replied into the phone.

Chyna grabbed her jacket and purse, then headed out of the house. The drive to the hospital was kind of awkward. Chyna and Josh had not seen each other since she stayed at his house a few months back.

Josh and Chyna went into the clinic and checked in, then waited about fifteen minutes to be called. They weighed her and took her temperature before letting her go to a room in the back. She was instructed to take her shirt off and lay back on the table.

Josh stood next to Chyna while the doctor looked her over and used the Doppler so that they could hear the baby's heartbeat.

Chyna looked up at Josh and smiled as his eyes beamed. It was the same reaction she had when she first heard it.

"When can we find out the sex of the baby?" Josh asked.

"We can schedule an ultrasound for six weeks from now."

"Okay. Thanks," stated Josh.

"We're all done here now. Stop at the front desk when you done to pick up your appointment card for next month," said Dr. Patel.

"Okay. Thank you," replied Chyna.

Chyna and Josh stopped at the front desk and got the appointment card, then headed back to his car.

"What do you have planned for the rest of the day?" Josh asked as he pulled out of the parking space.

"I'm going to check out some stuff with my store, then go to the Boys and Girls Club to do my community service."

"How often do you have to go there?"

"I'm doing one hour a day Monday through Thursday for the next three months."

"Alright. That's cool. Do you need anything?"

“No. I’m good. I am going to grab something in the house. I try to watch what I am eating now that I pregnant. “

“Okay. That’s understandable. I miss our friendship, Chyna. Is it alright if I text you just to check up on you?”

“That’s fine, Josh, but I need you to respect me and my relationship. If you want to text me, do it at a reasonable hour.”

“Alright. That’s fine with me. I can accept that you’re with someone else now.”

“Good. That’s all that I ask of you.”

Chyna and Josh continued to catch up during the duration of the ride. Chyna had to admit she missed the friendship that she and Josh had with each other. Despite everything that went on between them, she could always talk to him when she needed some advice. She could count on him for that as well. They were always friends before anything, and that would not change.

Chyna walked into the house and changed her clothes, then made a ham sandwich and grabbed a bag of chips with a juice for lunch. She checked her email, then sent an email to her advisor so that she could get back in school. Now that she did not have to do time, she was ready to continue with her degree.

Chyna finished her food, then pulled out her phone and called Maddox, but he did not answer. She hung up, not bothering about leaving a voicemail. She was not in the mood to deal with his mood swings anyway.

Chyna left the house and headed to her store to do some inventory and go over the books. When she went inside the store, there were a fair share of people in there. She loved the sight of it. It meant her hard work was being paid off.

“Hey, baby mama. How you are doing?” Bri asked as she greeted her friend.

“I’m doing alright. Just got back from my doctor’s appointment.”

“How was it? Did Josh show up like he was supposed to?”

“Yeah. He came and picked me up on time and then we had a nice conversation afterward. We’ve agreed to be civilized for the sake of our child.”

“I’m glad to hear that. Nothing has changed much here though. Sales have been up, so we have had to double some of the inventory. The books are already done, so all you have to do is go over them.”

“Okay, well, we can actually do that now. I have a couple hours before I have to go to the Y.”

Chyna and Bri entered her office, and they got straight to work.

“You seem kind of quiet like you have a lot on your mind. Is everything okay?” Bri asked with a concerned look on her face.

“I don’t know. Maddox has been tripping a lot lately, and I do not know what to think of it. He comes to my house late at night and leaves before I am even out of bed. We barely talk, and the sex is not the same. I asked him was everything alright, but he just said not to worry. It’s just stress from work.”

“Don’t overthink it, babe. That nigga loves and worships the ground you walk on. You’re pregnant, so it could just be your hormones having you tripping.”

“You might be right. I have been extra emotional during this pregnancy.”

“Don’t worry too much. Everything will be alright, and you know I’m here for you, no matter what.”

“I know, and I love you for that.”

“I love you too.”

Chyna and Bri continued to as they went over the books together. Once she was done, she made plans with her best friend to have lunch with her soon.

Chyna left the shop and headed straight for the Y. Chyna entered the building and was greeted with smiles and hugs from some of the kids. She had not been volunteering there long, but everyone was already growing to love her.

“Hey, everyone,” Chyna spoke before signing in on community service sheet. She grabbed her notebook and pencil before going to sit at the table. She sat there for about ten minutes before Tamika showed up.

“I’m sorry I’m late. My mom was running late to pick me up from school.”

“It’s fine. Just take out your books, and we can get to work.”

Tamika pulled out her book and opened it to her assignment. She was a good kid but a little misguided. She was sixteen and already trying to run the streets. They had assigned her to Chyna in hopes that Chyna could get to her and help change her ways. Chyna would never be a hypocrite and tell

Tamika what she should or should not do. The only thing Chyna could do was tell her the consequences of what would come with her actions.

Chyna and Tamika studied for about thirty minutes and then the rest of the time would be dedicated to them talking.

“Chy, can I ask you a personal question?”

“Sure. What’s up?”

“Do you have a boyfriend?”

“I do. Why?”

“Well, I have a boyfriend too. He is eighteen years old, and he has been talking to me about having sex. He is used to girls doing it with him, but I have never done it before. I’m scared that if I don’t give in, he’ll break up with me or cheat on me with another girl.”

“Listen, remember that you are beautiful, and you are in control of your body. If he can’t wait for you, then he does not deserve to be your first. Your first time should be special, and never let anyone make you feel like you should rush it. There is no cut-off age to lose your virginity.”

“That’s easy for you to say. You’re already doing it, and you’re beautiful.”

“Baby girl, you’re beautiful too, and I wasn’t doing it at your age. I did not lose my virginity until I was eighteen years old. I did it when I felt like I was ready with the right person.”

“How will I know when I’m ready?”

“Well, for starters, when you’re ready, you won’t have to wonder if you’re ready or not. It is just a feeling you will get. Also, whether it is with a boyfriend or not, no means no. Never let anyone do something to you that you’re not comfortable with.”

“Thanks, Chyna. I could never talk about this with my mother.”

“You’re welcome, love. That’s what I’m here for.”

Chyna and Tamika continued to talk until Tamika’s mother showed up to get her. Chyna said her goodbyes and signed out before heading home.

Chyna walked into the house and put her phone on the charger. She looked down at it and did not have so much as a text message from Maddox. He had gone all day without calling her back or checking in. Chyna debated on sending him a text. She could not resist, so she sent a quick text.

Chyna: *Damn, I am supposed to be your woman, and I am not even worth a call back? You must be real fucking busy today or having a lot of*

fun. I am getting tired of your bullshit, Maddox. (6:30 p.m.)

Chyna tossed the phone on her bed, then went to the bathroom to take a nice, long shower. Once she was done, she warmed up some leftover food from the day before, then sat on her couch and watched TV until she passed out.

Chyna jumped up from the couch out of her sleep because it felt like her bladder was going to burst. She ran into the bathroom, barely making it to the toilet, and relieved her bladder. She flushed the toilet and washed her hands before going to climb in bed.

Chyna picked up her phone to see if Maddox replied to her text. Surprisingly, he had texted her back at nine. She unlocked the phone to read the message. She could not believe what she was reading so she had to reread the message again.

My love: *I am sorry, Chy. I can't do this anymore. I thought I could handle you having a baby by Josh, but I can't. I wish you the best, and maybe one day we can be friends again. (9:03 p.m.)*

Chyna reread the message continuously as tears fell from her eyes. She could not believe that Maddox had broken up with her through text. She never pegged him to be a coward. She told him that they should wait until after she had the baby, but he begged her to give him a chance.

Chyna dialed Maddox's number five times, and all it did was ring. She was not even upset with him for wanting to break up with her because of the baby. She could not force him to be there for another man's child. She was mad because of the way he did it. For the past couple of weeks, she asked him face-to-face was everything fine, and all he did was blame it on work, when, all along, it had to do with the baby. He should have been man enough to tell her that in her face.

Chyna put her phone on silent and curled up in a ball, then cried herself to sleep. She would give herself a couple of days to get over it, then it was going to be back to business. Maddox had been the only thing stopping her from going to the warehouse, but now that they were over with, his opinion no longer meant anything to her.



MADDOX LOOKED AT ALL THE MISSED CALLS ON HIS PHONE. IT TOOK everything in him not to answer Chyna's calls. He could not believe he had to break the love of his life's heart. He just hoped he did not do it all for nothing. He prayed more than anything that she would forgive him when it was all over. If she did, he was going to treat her like the queen she was and be the best stepfather that he could be to her baby.

"I know you didn't ask me to meet up with you just so you could ignore me," Tess said, pulling Maddox away from his thoughts.

Maddox took a deep breath and exhaled before putting his game face on.

"You're right, I just wanted to apologize for how I treated you. I am man enough to admit when I am wrong. You didn't deserve what I did to you. I should have been up front with you."

"Let me guess, it didn't work out between you and Miss Perfect, so now you want to hit it again?" Tess smirked.

"Nah, it didn't. We are both just on different paths right now in our lives. I want her to leave the drug game and just focus on her store, but she is not willing to do that, so I had to leave her alone. Since she wanted to be one of the homies now, we'll just have a business partnership."

"Okay, but you didn't say if you wanted to hit it or not. I missed that big dick hitting the back of my throat."

"Why don't you show me how much you missed it then?" Maddox said as he reclined his seat back.

Tess leaned over the seat and pulled his dick out of his jogging pants and went to work on it. He closed his eyes so that he could enjoy the pleasure. Maddox never thought that he would be in that situation with Tess again, but he had to take one for the team. He would be lying though if he said he did not enjoy the way she swallowed his dick. She continued to suck until he was cumming in her mouth.

"Are you going to come back to my place tonight so we can finish what we just started?" Tess asked as she wiped the side of her mouth.

"Yeah. We can go there. I just got to stop at the gas station first."

Maddox did not have any condoms with him, and there was no way in hell he was going in her raw and was not trusting her condoms. He did not trust Tess as far as he could throw her, and he knew the kind of games a thirsty bitch like her would play, and he was not about to get caught slipping.

Chloe was just about finished with dinner when Nathan walked into the house.

“Hey, baby. Smells good in here,” Nathan greeted her.

“Hey, love. Why don’t you go get cleaned up? By time you’re finished, everything will be ready.”

“Alright,” Nathan replied before heading upstairs to take a quick shower.

Chloe took the food out of the oven and set the table. By the time she started making the plates, Nathan was entering the dining room.

“How was work?” Chloe asked as she stuck a fork into her mashed potatoes.

“It was good. We were not too busy, so I was able to catch on some files. How was your day?”

“We were busy for the first half of the day, but then it slowed down, so I went to visit my mom and brother. “

“Oh, okay, cool. Did they say how your sister was doing?”

“No. I didn’t ask. Why are you so concerned? Is her baby yours too?”

“What the fuck? Is your serious right now, Chloe? You just made me lose my appetite,” Nathan yelled as he stood up from the table.

“Yeah, I’m serious. I can’t put shit past you or her ass,” interjected Chloe.

“Damn it. I came home expecting to have a nice, relaxing evening with my wife, have dinner, watch some TV, and then make love before bed, but you just had to ruin it with this bullshit.”

“What do you expect me to do when you cheated on me with some hood rat and possibly have a baby on the way with her?”

“How many times do you want me to apologize? I fucked up, but you steady bringing it up is not going to change shit. I asked do you want to go to counseling. I do not know what the fuck else to say or do. I can’t take what happened back, and I can’t deal with you steady throwing it in my face, so you want to get a divorce, because I’m all out of options and this marriage isn’t healthy right now?”

“Oh, so now you want to divorce me so you can have a happy family with that bitch after everything I’ve done for you?” Chloe gasped.

Nathan looked at his wife and shook his head. Out of everything that he had said, that was the one thing that she took out of context. Nathan turned around and headed for the stairs. He walked into the bedroom and stripped out of his clothes with Chloe stormed behind him.

“I’m about to lay down. I’m not in the mood for this shit, so if you want to fight, just go in another room, or I’m packing a bag and leaving for the night.”

Chloe debated on calling his bluff, but she knew better, so she took a deep breath, then climbed into bed with him.

“I’m sorry. I’m just frustrated and scared I’m going to lose you.”

“I don’t plan on going anywhere. That’s why I suggested we see a counselor.”

“Okay, but what if the baby is yours? Then what are we going to do?”

“We’ll make it work, baby. I do not want that girl, and I would never sleep with her again. You can go with me when I pick up the baby, and I can bring it to our house so I’m not alone with her.”

“Do you love the mother?”

“No. You’re the only woman I love.”

“Okay, well, I’m willing to accept the baby under one condition.”

“What’s that?” Nathan asked skeptically.

“You get full custody of the baby. We’ve worked too damn hard to build the relationship we have and to get where we are in life to let some broke bitches tear it down.”

Nathan leaned back in bed and thought about what Chloe was saying. It was actually a good idea. He would not have to pay her a dime in child support, and she would be out of his life for good. He needed to gain his wife’s trust back, and he was willing to do whatever for it.”

“Okay. If you think you can handle taking care of the baby, then I’ll get the DNA test done, and if it comes back mine, I’ll file for custody through the courts.”

“Really? Thank you, baby. I promise to treat your child as if it were my own.” Chloe smiled as she leaned in and kissed Nathan on the lips.

Nathan deepened the kiss and proceeded to strip Chloe out of her clothes. For the first time since everything happened, he felt like he finally had a breakthrough. That night, he took out all the stress he had been holding in on his wife, causing her to have multiple orgasms. He prayed that now the drama between them was over, but he still wanted to go to counseling.



CHYNA PUT ON A PAIR OF BLACK JEGGINGS WITH A WHITE T-SHIRT AND A black hoodie. She had been sulking around the house all week if she was not at the Y. It was now time for her to get her shit together. She had never had a man make her feel the way Maddox did. He had completely knocked her off her square, and she did not like it. She had never cried over a man outside of her brother and father a day in her life. She wanted to blame it on the hormones, but deep down, she knew it was her stupid heart.

Chyna grabbed her car keys and purse, then left the house. She played her Beyoncé playlist from her Pandora station. She sang the entire drive to the warehouse. She really needed to clear her head, and getting back in the game would do just that.

Chyna parked her car in the garage, then went inside of the warehouse. She greeted everyone, then went to her office and started going through some of the paperwork that she had sitting on her desk. It had been a minute since she’d been there, so she wasn’t sure what still needed to be ordered and what didn’t, so she decided to go to the other part of the warehouse and start weighing the dope.

Chyna entered the room and pulled out the scale and a kilo of dope. She measured it and then put it inside of baggies. She continued to do that for almost an hour until she had a nice amount for her people. She signed on the clipboard how much she weighed and what was ready to be distributed.

She was going to bag up the weed next, but she had to pee bad, so she stopped what she was doing and went to use the bathroom.

Chyna released her bladder and washed her hands before leaving out of the bathroom. As she was walking toward the front to see if her brother was there. She saw Maddox's office light on. She had not spoken to him or even tried to contact him since he broke up with her. She wanted to be mature about the situation since they needed to work together. She loved him and would miss their relationship, but she still needed him as a business partner.

Chyna knocked on the door, but nobody said anything. It could have been due to the loud music playing through the speakers. She twisted the knob, and it was unlocked, so she decided to walk in.

"Hey, Maddox—" Chyna started but then stopped in her tracks. All the anger that she had subdued had resurfaced at the sight in front of her. He had Tess bent over his desk, hitting her from the back.

"Chyna, what are you doing here?" Maddox asked, bringing her out of her state of shock.

"Really, motherfucker? You broke up with me through a text message, and that is the first thing you have to say? To think I came to let you know that there was no hard feelings and I understood, but now seeing this, I know it was all a lie. I never meant shit to you since it was so easy for you to go back and start fucking this bitch. I thought we would be able to start back working together and get back to normal, but fuck that. Fuck you and this bitch. She deserves your ass. I hope your nasty ass dick fall off, bitch," Chyna yelled as she turned to walk away.

Chyna was halfway down the hall when Maddox grabbed her arm.

"Please, just sit down and talk with me," Maddox pleaded.

"Don't fucking touch me. Your ass is worse than Josh. At least that nigga was able to admit to his fuckups and kept it one hundred with me. I am on fucking probation because of you. I sacrificed more than any of y'all asses know. I should have let your bitch ass take your own charge. I hate you. Stay the fuck away from me and don't attempt to contact me," Chyna snapped as she tried to pull her arm away from him, but he held on to her arm like it was a lifeline. He never meant for Chyna to see him fucking Tess. He did not even know Chyna was there. He knew that she could deal with the rumors and be pissed, but seeing it was an entire other thing.

"Calm down, Chyna. You know you're not supposed to be getting stressed like this," Maddox said.

Chyna thought about it for a minute and took a deep breath.

“I’m calm. Let me go. I’m about to go home.”

Maddox reluctantly let Chyna go, and as soon as he did, she hauled off and slapped his ass before walking away.

“Bitch, don’t be putting your hand on my man,” Tess yelled.

Chyna turned around and looked at her, then laughed.

“Bitch, you’re fucking pathetic. I should have left your ass in the gutter where I fucking found you too. Both you bitches just remember that y’all out here living the lifestyle that y’all have because of me. Make no mistakes though, Tess. Keep your distance from me because I won’t to hesitate to put a bullet between your eyes. That’s the only warning I’m giving you.”

Chyna could tell that Tess wanted to say something, but she was not stupid.

Chyna walked to her car, fuming. She was still fighting back the tears she refused to allow them to see her cry. She pulled out of the garage and saw Maddox’s Bentley. She climbed out of her car, then popped her trunk until she found what she was looking for. She grabbed the crowbar and walked over to Maddox’s car and started busting the windows out of his car. The alarm instantly went off, but she did not care. There were cameras in the warehouse, so they were going to see that it was her anyway.

“Yo, Chy, what the fuck. Why you out here fucking up this man’s car?” Rome asked as he tried to stop his sister.

“Fuck him, this car, and you. I know you knew that he was fucking with that bitch Tess again, and you did not even tell me. I talked to you every fucking day this week, and you acted like you had no idea what was going on.”

“Look, I’m sorry, but y’all both grown. I did not want to get involved in y’all shit. It would be bad for business since all y’all work here.”

Chyna took a step back from her brother and chuckled. She had to laugh to keep from crying.

“You know, out of everything he did, even me catching him fucking her, this is what hurts me the worse. I am your sister for God’s sake, and you care about this fucking warehouse and business more than me. The brother I know would have never allowed a nigga to go around and disrespect me like this, but it is cool though. I am glad to see where your priorities are too. You ain’t no better than that bitch ass nigga over there. You and Daddy finally got y’all wish. Y’all can have all this shit. I will start over again on

my own when I am ready, but, in the process, you lost a sister too. Do not fucking call me or come to my house. I am changing my number. Have a nice life, Roman,” Chyna spat as the tears she was trying so hard to hold in came out.

“Yo, are you going to go after her?” Maddox asked Rome.

Rome ignored him and called one of the workers over.

“Go follow my sister. Make sure she gets home safely, but don’t let her see you,” said Rome.

“Okay, boss,” the worker said before running to his car.

Rome walked into the warehouse and went straight to his office. He poured a glass of Hennessy to try and calm his nerves. He had seen his sister mad at him before but never like that. He did not think she would go off on him like that. He kept a brave face when he had the conversation with Maddox, but he knew there was a possibility that she would lose her cool.

“Man, just you gon’ let her leave like that? What if something happens to her?” Maddox asked.

“What the fuck do you want me to do? You heard everything she fucking said to me. She is mad, but she is not crazy. She not gon’ do anything that would cause harm to her or her baby. I don’t see why you are acting like you give a fuck now about my sister.”

“What? All of this happened because of you. This was your idea, Rome, not mine, so don’t try to flip the shit on me.”

“Motherfucker, I said get close to that bitch and make her trust you. I said take her out a few times if you had to and give her some dick. I did not say to break up with my sister and fuck the bitch here in the office. You are playing your role a little too good now. Got me second-guessing your ass.”

“You know what? I don’t have time for this shit. You are upset, so I am going to let you slide with this. Get at me when you got your head on straight,” Maddox said as he turned and walked out of the office.

Maddox knew that he had fucked up big time and made shit even worse than it would have been. He did not even plan on fucking Tess that evening. It was just something that happened. He had been busy all day and went to the warehouse to do some work. While he was in his office, Tess came in and stripped out of her clothes. Once he saw her naked, he could not resist giving her what she wanted. He did not have feelings for her, but he could not deny she was a good lay.

Chyna stretched her arms and looked over at the clock and saw that it was already noon. She could not believe that she had slept for almost twelve hours. She climbed out of bed and went into the bathroom to release her bladder and take a quick shower. Once she was done showering, she entered the bedroom and saw Josh sitting on the edge of the bed, already dressed in a pair of blue jeans and a long-sleeve white shirt that hugged all his muscles.

“Hey. Why didn’t you wake me?” Chyna asked as she reached in her duffel bag and grabbed a pair of underwear and bras to put on.

“I had a few phone calls to make, and you needed the rest.”

“What time do you want to leave?”

“We can leave once you’re finished getting ready,” Josh said as he stood from the bed and walked over to Chyna. He leaned over and kissed her belly and started talking to it.

“Okay. Give me five minutes,” replied Chyna.

Chyna grabbed a pair of black leggings and a white T-shirt, then put on a pair of white Air Force Ones. She combed her hair into a ponytail and was ready.

Chyna was now eight months pregnant and did not put much effort into getting dressed. She was simply happy to still be able to see her feet. She had gained about twenty pounds. Luckily for her, part of it was the baby weight, and the rest went to her ass and hips only.

It had been five months since Chyna walked out of the warehouse. She had not stepped foot in there since then. She kept true to her word and had

not spoken to Rome or Maddox either. They tried to contact her, but she blocked both of their numbers. She stayed in contact with her parents but only visited when she knew neither of her siblings were there. For the first time in her life, she was putting herself and her health first. Her main goal was to have a healthy pregnancy, and she knew that was not possible if she allowed things and people to stress her out.

The first week, Chyna was stressed and shutting everyone out, but Bri was not having it. She came over every day and made sure that Chyna was eating. She had to remind her that it was not only her. She needed to be healthy and strong for her unborn child as well. After that, Chyna worked on rebuilding her friendship with Josh. He was there for her whenever she needed something. He made sure to be there for every doctor's appointment and the birthing classes. She was glad that he stepped up to the plate like he did. She knew he would be an amazing father to their son.

The relationship remained platonic for three months. They would sleep at each other's house sometimes if it got late or they were too tired to drive. Chyna knew that Josh wanted to sleep with her, but he respected her boundaries. One night, Chyna's hormones were out of control because she had not had sex since before she and Maddox broke up. All it took was for her to reach over and grab his manhood. The next thing she knew his head was buried between her thighs. They had been going at it ever since.

In a perfect world, Chyna would have pushed all the doubts she had regarding Josh to the back of her head and gave him a real chance. They would be together and give their son a happy family. Unfortunately, Chyna's world was not perfect, and she was not as forgiving or willing to give all her trust to another man. Maddox and Rome had done a number on her head, and she knew that before she would ever be able to have a real adult relationship with someone, she would have to go to counseling first.

Chyna grabbed her purse, then she and Josh left his house to head to the mall. They wanted to finish getting the last of the things for the baby's room because they did not want to wait last minute. Chyna did not have a baby shower, so they were pretty much buying everything on their own, which was fine with them because it would not put a dent in their pockets.

Josh pulled up to the mall and parked, then helped Chyna out of the car. They went to Old Navy first, and he just stood back while Chyna pulled a bunch of onesies and outfits for the baby.

“What do you think about this one?” Chyna asked, holding up an outfit for him to see.

“Chy, they all look the same to me. Just get whatever you like for him, baby,” said Josh.

Chyna always asked his opinion on outfits, and it was always the same answer. He really did not care what she grabbed. He only went along so that she would not spend all her own money on the stuff, and he didn’t want her out alone so far in the pregnancy.

Chyna rolled her eyes as she stuck some more clothes in the pile. They went to the counter, and Chyna was about to pay, but Josh swiped his card and beat her to it.

“You know you don’t have to pay for all of the clothes, right? You already used your card to order all the furniture for the nursery.”

“I know, but since you won’t let me buy you anything, I’d rather spend it on our child then.”

Chyna shrugged her shoulders and grabbed the receipt while Josh took the bags.

Chyna and Josh’s next stop was Children’s Place. Once they finished in there, they went to Gap Kids.

“Okay. I think we’re done now. He should have all the clothes he needs for the next couple of months.”

“You think,” Josh said sarcastically.

“Shut up,” replied Chyna.

Josh smiled as he and Chyna headed for the lower level of the mall so that they could go grab some food. Once they made it to the bottom of the stairs, Chyna and Josh saw a familiar face.

“So this why my girl out here looking bad now? You done dropped her for your baby mama again?” Iesha’s friend Pam asked.

“Mind your own business, Pam. Iesha and I aren’t together, so I can do what I want. It is not like I am sneaking behind her back. I’ve been up front with her since Chyna got pregnant.”

“Whatever, nigga. We’ll see what it is when I tell her.”

“Bitch, I don’t give a fuck,” yelled Josh.

“Come on, Josh. Let’s just go. It’s not worth it. Y’all about to cause a scene, and I’m hungry,” interjected Chyna.

“Alright. Let’s go,” Josh agreed while Pam stood there yelling at the back of their heads.

Josh and Chyna left the mall and headed to Famous Dave's to eat. Just as they were finishing up, Chyna's phone started to ring. She looked down at it and saw that it was Kea.

"Hello," Chyna spoke into the phone.

"Hey, Chyna. I think I'm going into labor. I am on my way to Rush Hospital. I called Nathan, but he is not answering. I don't think I can do this on my own," cried Kea.

"Okay. I'll be there in about thirty minutes," Chyna said before hanging up.

"What's wrong?" Josh asked concerned.

"Can you take me to pick up my car or take me to Rush? Kea is going into labor, and Nathan's dumb ass not answering his phone. I know they fucked up, but she shouldn't have to go through this alone."

"Okay, I'll drop you off and come back to pick you up," Josh offered.

Josh pulled cash from his pocket and paid the check, then they headed to the hospital.

"Thank you. I'll call you when I'm done," said Chyna.

"Okay. I won't be far. I'm going to go to the trap and check on everything."

"Alright," Chyna replied as she climbed out of the car.

Chyna entered the hospital and stopped at the desk and asked for the room that Yakea was in. She got the pass, then headed upstairs to the maternity ward.

"Hey, Chyna. You actually came."

"Of course. This is a messed-up situation, but I got you. Did Nathan call you back yet?"

"No, and he's not answering his phone."

"Okay. I'll try to call him," Chyna said before pulling out her phone. He did not answer, so she called her mother's phone.

"Hey, baby," answered Mrs. Black.

"Hey, Ma. Can you call Nathan and have him to call me? It's kind of important."

"Okay. Before you hang up, we wanted to know if you were coming to the dinner this weekend."

"I don't know, Ma. I really don't feel like dealing with your kids and Maddox."

“Come on, Chyna. It’s been long enough. It is time for you to forgive him. He feels bad for everything that happened. Just give him a chance to make it up to you. He misses you and hates that you’re shutting him out from your life.”

“Well, he should have thought about that when he chose Maddox over me. He has not even attempted to come and talk to me in person. I have to go. I’ll see you Saturday,” Chyna replied before hanging up the phone. She really did not want to see Maddox or Rome, but she did not want to let her parents down either. She knew that the event was important to them. She would be lying if she said she did not miss Rome. It was just the pain was still too fresh.

Chyna and Kea talked for a bit until her phone started to ring. She looked down at it and saw that it was Nathan.

“Hello,” said Chyna.

“Hey. You called me.”

“Obviously. You saw the three missed calls. I don’t call you, so if I called you, it meant that I needed something.”

“Okay, my bad, Chy. What’s up?”

“I’m up at Rush Hospital with Kea. She’s going into labor.”

“Alright, I’ll be up there in twenty minutes,” he said before hanging up.

Chyna sat playing on her phone and talking to Kea until Nathan showed up at the hospital with Chloe.

“What the fuck is she doing here?” Kea asked.

“I wanted to be here to support my husband and to make sure you not try nothing funny with this DNA test.”

“Look, I don’t want Nathan’s ass. I only called him because I thought he would want to know that his baby was being born. You can support his ass all you want outside of my room,” spat Kea.

“I just knew your two-faced ass would be here,” Chloe yelled at Chyna.

“Don’t let this belly fool you, because I’ll still beat the fuck out of you, Chloe. I already cut off my favorite sibling, so it won’t be shit to do the same with you,” snapped Chyna.

“Yo, Chloe, chill out. I told you before we came up here not to start your bullshit. Either go wait in the waiting room, or go home,” suggested Nathan.

Chloe looked like she wanted to say something but thought against it and left the room.

Chyna shook her head at Nathan and went back to her phone. Even though she was done with her community service, she still stayed in touch with Tamika.

“You really don’t have to stay in here. Chyna is here with me. You can go out there with your wife,” said Kea.

“I’m going to stay in here. I also wanted you to know that if the DNA test comes back and the baby is mine, I’m fighting for full custody.”

“Man, you got me fucked up. At first, you did not want shit to do with my baby and wanted me to get an abortion. Now all sudden, I am just supposed to give you full custody of her. Fuck you and your wife because I know this was her idea. I’ll be damned if I push a baby out of my pussy and hand it over to y’all to be one big happy family.”

“Hey, mom. Is everything alright? I need you to calm down. The stress isn’t good for your baby’s heart rate,” the nurse said as she came over to examine Kea.

“I’m fine. Can you just make him get out of room? He can wait in the waiting room or go home. I really don’t care,” replied Kea.

“I’m sorry, sir. You have to leave. You can wait in the waiting room until the baby is born if you’d like.”

“What? Are you serious?”

“Yes, I’m sorry. I have to do what’s best for my patient to ensure that she has a safe childbirth.”

“Fine, but I’m not leaving, and this conversation isn’t over,” Nathan said before leaving out the room.

Kea did not care what the fuck Nathan was talking about. He had another thing coming if he thought she would just give up her baby.

Josh was sitting on the block, smoking with Tim when Layla and a group of her girls approached them.

“Damn, Josh, you acting funny now? You don’t know how to answer your phone anymore?” Layla asked.

“Nah. You know I don’t act funny. I’ve just been busy, and when I’m not busy I’m making sure everything straight with my son’s mother.”

“So Iesha was telling truth. You forget everybody when it comes to your baby mama, huh?”

“Something like that. I must be a man and take care of my responsibilities. Since the baby isn’t here yet, it’s my job to make sure she’s straight until it is.”

“Damn, I can’t even get mad at that. She is lucky to have you as a baby father. You are a good guy, Josh. I’m happy that you’re finally growing up,” replied Layla.

“Thank you. I appreciate you being understanding and not giving me a hard time about this,” stated Josh.

“Josh, you already know we were friends before anything. I know when to fall back. I am only the way I am with Iesha because she acts so damn stupid. Had she acted like she had sense, I would have been stopped fucking you and let her live her happy life.” Layla smirked.

Josh was just about to reply when he heard his phone ringing. He looked down at it, expecting it to be Chyna, but it was one of his workers calling.

“What’s up, RJ?” asked Josh.

“Hey, boss man. I know you said that you weren’t dealing with the projects and to contact Tim, but Iesha ass said she’s not giving Tim nothing for us, and if we need it, you have to be the one to come get it.”

“Okay. I’ll be there in fifteen minutes,” Josh said into the phone before standing up.

“Everything good?” asked Tim.

“Nah. Come ride with me right quick,” replied Josh.

Josh and Tim said goodbye to everyone, then climbed in Josh’s car.

“What happened that quick?” questioned Tim.

“Iesha dumb ass won’t give RJ no work unless I come and get it myself.”

“Man, she ain’t nothing but problems now. I know you been working with her to look out for her, but sometimes you just got to cut your losses. Hell, your baby mama a beast with this shit. I know she got somewhere you can keep your shit. Especially since she’s not doing anything right now.”

“Yeah, I think you’re right because this is bad for business. If I am not down in fifteen minutes, call my phone,” Josh said as he parked and got out of the car.

“Who is it?” Iesha called out.

“Me. Open the damn door,” yelled Josh.

“Damn, so this what it takes for you to come see me?”

“Cut the bullshit. What do you want, Iesha? You know I’m not fucking with you like that.”

“So what? You and Chyna back together now, and you are being faithful to her? Pam told me she saw y’all at the mall today looking like a happy couple.”

“I don’t give a fuck what Pam told you. I don’t even know why she ran back reporting to you because I haven’t fucked you in damn near three months.”

“Yeah, and that’s where the problem is coming in. I do not even care that you are fucking her anymore. You can play happy family with her and even go home to her at night. I just still want the dick from time to time. I’m horny, and I miss you,” Iesha said as she stripped out of her clothes.

“Yo, what the fuck are you doing? This is what I am talking about now. I came over here to talk to you, and you can’t even focus. Damn, you want some dick that bad? What happened to all the niggas that you were fucking

in between our breaks and during our relationship? I know some of them will still come and break you off.”

“I don’t want them. I want you, and from the looks of it you want me too.” Iesha smirked as she played in her kitty.

Josh’s dick jumped at the sight. It was taking all his self-control not to pull his dick from his pants and shove it down her throat so that she would shut up, but he just could not do it. Even though he and Chyna were not officially in a relationship, he made a promise to her that he would not fuck Iesha or any other girl while they were sleeping together. He could not risk contracting something and passing it on to her, then it passes on to his baby. He would never be able to forgive himself with that. He had kept true to his word too. He had not had any kind of sex with another female in the past two months. He did not even entrain anybody else.

Josh was finally on the right track with Chyna, and as good as Iesha’s sex game was, it was not worth him fucking up with Chyna. He knew for a fact that Iesha would never play the good side chick. She would not hesitate to tell Chyna she fucked him the first chance she got. Besides, Chyna was the one that held his heart. He was willing to be as patient with her that she needed him to be.

“I’m sorry, Iesha. I have to go,” Josh said as he turned and walked out of the house.

He climbed in the car and took a deep breath.

“Yo, you good? Did you get everything handled?”

“Man, no. That bitch is crazy. I’m up there trying to talk to her, and she done stripped and started playing in her pussy, shit, basically begging for the dick.”

“So you fucked her?” Tim asked as he laughed.

“Hell no. I’m done sticking my dick anywhere near her psychotic ass. I am trying my best to do right by Chyna, and I know I can’t do that being this close to Iesha. I only have a little work there, so I am going to let her have that shit and keep that lil’ money. I am just not delivering shit else to her. I am going to talk with Chyna and see what she thinks I should do. I know she got people that was working for her in the projects too, so we can probably combine the shit.”

“Okay. You know I’m cool with whatever you decide. Just let me know.”

“Alright. I got you,” Josh replied before driving back to the block with Tim. He sat outside with him for about another hour until Chyna texted.

Josh pulled up to the hospital and waited a couple of minutes for Chyna to come down.

“Did she have the baby yet?” asked Josh.

“Yeah. She had a beautiful little baby girl. I can’t wait to have our baby. I know he’s going to be perfect.” Chyna beamed.

“With a mother like you and our good looks combined, I’m sure he will be.” Josh smiled.

Josh did not want to keep any secrets from Chyna, so he decided to tell her what happened with Iesha and get it out of the way. He did leave the part out that she got naked. She agreed to let him use one of her spots to keep the stuff at since she did not have anything there right now. They continued to talk until they made it to her house.

Josh grabbed the bags from the trunk while Chyna used her key to enter the house. He walked straight to the baby’s room and put the bags down. He had purchased everything, but nothing was put together yet. He and Tim were going to start working on it within the next week. He wanted to surprise Chyna, so she was not allowed to see anything yet.

“Aye, let me tell you what happened at the hospital though,” Chyna said as she stripped out of her clothes and headed in the bathroom with Josh behind her.

Chyna broke down everything that had happened between her sister, Nathan, and Kea.

“Man, that shit is wild. I can’t believe he brought your crazy ass sister with him.” Josh laughed.

“I know right. Kea was a lot calmer than I would have been because let any of your bitches show up while I’m going into labor, your ass gon’ be in a hospital bed when I’m done with you,” Chyna threatened as she climbed into the shower.

“First of all, I’m not that damn stupid. Secondly, you the only female getting my time and dick, so that makes you my only bitch.”

“Okay, I better be, or these legs are closed for business to you.” Chyna smirked.

“Yeah, I know. Speaking of closed leg,. you gon’ let me open them before I leave out? I got some business to take care of, but I want to make you cum before you go to bed.”

“Oh, so you are doing this for me, huh?” Chyna chuckled.

“Girl, stop playing. You and I both know you be in a coma when I make you cum before you go to bed. I only got about an hour before I must meet back up with Tim. That gives me enough time to eat your pussy and make you cum a few times than make you bust a nut on this dick. You know your shit was already A1, but now that you pregnant, you done turned me into a minute man.” Josh laughed.

“Shut up. You know you last more than a minute.”

Chyna and Josh finished their shower, then headed to her bedroom, where he kept his word and made her cum all over his mouth and dick multiple times. By the time he finished his shower and brushing his teeth, she was curled up in a ball sleep. He leaned over and kissed her on the forehead, then left to take care of his business at the trap houses.

Maddox was sitting in his office with Rome, discussing the final details of their plan when Tess walked into the office.

“Hey, baby,” Tess spoke as she leaned over and kissed Maddox on the lips.

“Hey. You got everything set up for tonight? This is our only chance, and I need it to go perfect.”

“Yes, I’m ready. You forgot that this is what I do for a living? I been fucking back with him for the past month. He picked up a nasty heroin problem, so it will all play out perfect. All I had to do was give him some pussy, and he started lacking. I made a copy of his house key, and I have the passcode to his alarm. We will go on our date like planned, then head back to his house. When you see the bedroom light come on, that is your cue to come through the back door. It will be two cups on the counter with Hennessy in it. Mine will have cranberry juice mixed in it, so you will know which one to put the poison in. Once I see him pass out, y’all can take care of phase two.”

“Okay, cool. Don’t fuck this up, Tess, or it’ll fall back on you too,” Rome warned her.

“I’m not. You just make sure to have my money when it’s done. I’m trying to buy my house.”

“You know I don’t play when it comes to business. I got you,” said Rome.

“Okay, and you better be ready for our mini vacation tomorrow,” Tess said before kissing Maddox on the lips.

“I’m all packed and ready. I will be at your house at four a.m. so that we can leave for the airport.

“Alright, I’ll see you soon, baby. I have to go get dressed so I’m not late,” Tess replied before leaving out of the office.

Rome looked at the surveillance cameras to make sure Tess and no one else was around before speaking.

“Nigga, you better not fuck this shit up. This took entirely too damn long. It should have not taken five fucking months for you to convince that bitch to set this up. I have not seen or spoken to my sister this entire time. I will be damned if that shit is for nothing. You might have given up on Chyna, but I haven’t,” fumed Rome.

“What the hell are you talking about? I have not forgotten about her, but I can’t force her to talk to me. You the one that said to keep my distance so that it would look real.”

“Man, you are acting like you talking to somebody that don’t have no sense. You are spending the night at that bitch house damn near every day and got her kissing you on the lips. I said to make her trust you and give her the dick a few times, not go and fall in love with her. You done went and started a full relationship with her ass and flaunted it in front of the entire world. If this is just acting, your ass need to move to Hollywood so you can get signed a movie deal. I will tell you one thing though; my sister is going to be at the dinner this weekend, and I am going to explain everything to her. Byron will be dead today, and Tess will be getting her ass whooped Friday night.”

The sight of Maddox was pissing him off. Never did he think Maddox would go against the grain like that. He seemed to forget that that was the bitch that would have had him sitting behind bars right now. Chyna was the only reason that he was not. She was the one that stayed solid, and they were the ones that betrayed her, and for that, he would spend the rest of his life doing whatever it took to make her forgive him.

Maddox sat back in his seat and took a shot of Hennessy. He had no idea why Rome was acting the way he was. Yeah, he did not plan for things to last either, but Tess was not letting up on him. After the night Chyna walked out, Rome was going through it for a minute, which made Tess suspicious. The truth was, he was lonely since he no longer had Chyna. His brother was always busy, so he had no one else to hang out with. He did not want to start fucking a different girl every night. He felt that would have

been worse, so he just decided to continue to sleep with Tess. He had one other girl that he saw sometimes, but she had a boyfriend, so she was not clingy like Tess.

He could not lie and say that he did not have feelings for Tess. She was the one person that he spent real time with when he was not in the streets. She was a cool chick to hang with. He would never wife her, but she was a good friend. He had been messing with her off and on for over a year now, but that did not trump the love he had for Chyna. He was still banking on her forgiving him and them getting back together. He just did not know what he could do to make it up to her. He knew the first thing had to do was cut Tess off permanently. He planned on doing that soon. He was going to go on the trip with her like planned, then once they got back, he would help her get better and then cut her off.”

Maddox sat and finished going through the paperwork, then checked on the shipment until Tess texted his phone, giving the heads-up that they were heading to Byron’s. Maddox locked his office and made his way down the hall to Rome’s office. He knocked on the door and could hear moaning come from the other side of the door.

“Yo, it’s time,” Maddox called out.

“Okay, here I come,” replied Rome.

“I bet.” Maddox laughed.

Maddox took a few steps away from the door and stood there for about two minutes until Rome and one of the workers named Ginger came out of his office.

“Let’s go,” Rome said walking toward the exit of the warehouse.

“I hope your ass will calm the fuck down now that you got you some,” Maddox stated as they climbed into the rental that one of their people rented for them. They had already changed the license plate on the car.

“Just shut up and do your part. That’s what will make me be calm.”

Maddox shook his head as they drove in the direction of Byron’s house. They parked a few houses down and turned the lights out. They sat in the car until they saw the bedroom light come on. That was their signal to make their move. They waited ten minutes, then climbed out of the car.

Maddox and Rome put on their gloves, then crept around to the back of the house. Rome used the key that Tess gave them and entered the house while Maddox stood on the porch for lookout. There were two glasses on the counter just like Tess said there would be. He took the Phenol and

mixed it into the drink and left the baggie with the heroin and needle on the counter as well.

Rome heard Tess telling Byron to just wait there. She was going to get their drinks and be right back.

Tess walked into the kitchen and nodded at Rome, then grabbed the drinks and went back into the living room casually. He waited for about ten minutes. He could hear them having sex, then it got quiet suddenly.

“It’s done. It’s on you now,” Tess said as she hurriedly got dressed and crept out the back door to join Maddox on the porch.

Rome looked inside of the drawer where Tess told them Byron kept his needles and Band-Aids. He grabbed the bad heroin that he brought with him and shot Byron up with two doses of it, then swapped the bottles out. He took the empty glasses of Hennessy and stuck them in a bag, then set the alarms back and left out of the house.

“Okay. He’s dead and it looks like an OD. Your car is parked down by the corner, and the key is under the mat. Your money is inside of the trunk. Do not take it out until you get home. We will discuss business more when you get back. You just proved your loyalty to me.”

“Thanks, Rome. I appreciate that,” replied Tess.

“You’re welcome. I’ll drop your boy off at the warehouse and then he’s all yours.” Rome smirked.

Rome and Maddox headed in one direction of their car while Tess headed to hers. Rome climbed in the driver’s side of the car and drove toward the warehouse. The entire car ride was quiet. Rome was lost in his thoughts. He was so glad that he got Byron out of the way. Now he could make things right with his sister.

“Alright, man. I’ll let you know when I make it back in town,” Maddox said as he climbed out of the car.

“Okay, cool. Have fun now because it’s back to business when you get back,” Rome stated before pulling off.



TESS PULLED UP IN FRONT OF HER HOUSE AND CLIMBED OUT OF THE CAR. She walked around and opened her trunk and saw that it was empty.

What the fuck? Tess thought to herself. She immediately pulled out her phone and dialed Rome's phone number.

"Hello," Rome answered.

"I know you didn't try and play me. I am at home, and I looked in my trunk, but there is no money there. I kept my end of the deal, so now I need you to keep yours," said Tess.

"My bad. I thought Lamar put it in your trunk. He should be pulling up right now with it," Rome replied just as Lamar pulled up.

"Oh okay. Thank you. I'll see you later," Tess said before hanging up the phone.

Tess was about to close her trunk when she was knocked over the head and stuck in it. Lamar climbed in the driver's seat while one of the other guys followed him. They drove thirty minutes outside the city to one of their old warehouses.

Lamar parked the car and snatched Tess out of the trunk. He dragged her into the warehouse and tied her up to a chair. He then sent out a text message on his phone. He sat there for almost an hour watching Tess until the person he sent a text walked into the warehouse.

"What the fuck is this?" yelled Tess.

"Well, what do we have here?" Chyna asked with a smirk. She and Josh were in the house chilling when he received a text message. After he got the text, he told her to get dressed and take a ride with him, but he did not say to where.

"Hey, boss lady. Your brother asked me to reach out to you to come here. Look at it as a peace offering. He wants her dead and wanted to give you a chance to choose whether you want to do it on your own or not. He also gave me this envelope to give to you," Lamar said as he handed it over to Chyna.

Chyna pulled the papers out of the envelope and looked them over.

"Bitch, I knew you were a fucking rat. I should have left your ass in the gutter with Byron," Chyna spat as she pulled the gun from her waistband.

"Bitch, don't be mad at me because your nigga chose me over you." Tess laughed.

"That's funny, considering your ass was set up to get killed, and he's not here to save your dumb ass. I'll be sure to tell him you spent your final minutes thinking about him though." Chyna chuckled before letting one bullet off in her chest and another in her head.

“Damn, boss lady. Remind me never to piss you off.” Lamar joked.

“Do you need me to help you with cleaning up?” asked Chyna.

“Nah. You’re pregnant. It’s not good for you to inhale the fumes we’re about to use,” replied Lamar.

“Oh, y’all on some other shit with getting rid of bodies, huh?” Chyna chuckled.

“Well, boss man said to make sure her body isn’t found so that this could never fall back on you. Therefore, we are going to stick her body in caustic soda and allow it to sit for twenty-four hours, then come back and drain it,” explained Lamar.

“Okay. If you need anything, just let me know.”

“You’re finished taking care of everything?” Josh asked when Chyna entered the car.

“Yes. We can go to my house now. I need to shower and get some sleep,” replied Chyna.

“Your wish is my command,” Josh replied as he drove in the direction of Chyna’s house.

Chyna unblocked Rome’s phone number and sent him a simple text that said thank you.

Rome woke up early the following morning and went to check in on his kids. Both were still knocked out sleep. He had promised Audrey he would spend the day with them, and he had every intention of doing so. Now that Tess and Byron were taken care of, he had room to breathe freely. The only thing left was for him to make up with Chyna, then all would be good in his world.

Rome looked at his phone and saw that he had a text message from Chyna. He read it and smiled. He was happy that at least made her want to talk to him. He lay back down in bed and closed his eyes to go back to sleep, but Audrey had other plans for him. She rolled over and began to kiss him gently before releasing his dick from his pants and giving him head.

“Damn, baby. Just like that,” Rome groaned as he grabbed a handful of her hair. Once he was nice and hard, she straddled him and took him on the ride of his life until she was cumming on his dick.

Rome flipped her over and shoved his dick inside of her. She arched her back and threw her ass at him. He went deeper and deeper while rubbing up against her spot.

“Fuck, Rome. Right there, baby. I’m about to cum,” Audrey cried out.

Rome continued to blow her back out for another thirty minutes until he was burying his seeds inside of her.

“Shit. I think we just made baby number three.” Rome joked as he rolled over on his back.

“Nigga, that’s not even funny,” Audrey stated as she climbed out of bed and headed to the shower with Rome right behind her. They finished

showering and got dressed. Audrey went to start breakfast, and Rome went to check on his kids. When he went to his son's room, both he and his daughter were laying down watching cartoons.

"Good morning you two," spoke Rome.

"Daddy!" they both yelled in unison as they ran over to him.

"Let me find out y'all missed me." laughed Rome.

"Can you play the game with me today?" Romero asked.

"No. He's going to play with my toys with me," interjected Riley.

"Calm down. Daddy's going to be in the house all day so I can play with both of you," added Rome.

The kids were excited, and Rome loved the smile on their face.

Rome helped his kids get dressed, then they sat down and had breakfast as a family. As promised, he played with his daughter and son. They were now both taking a nap, and he was laying on the couch, chilling with Audrey, watching some show she turned on.

"I'm glad you're spending time with the kids. They really enjoy when you are here. They be missing you at home," said Audrey.

"Oh, only the kids miss me?" asked Rome.

"You already know I miss you. I thought I showed you how much this morning."

"I may need you to show me again." Rome smirked as he leaned in and kissed Audrey on the lips. The kiss deepened, and he was just about to start undressing her when his doorbell started ringing.

"Are you expecting someone?" questioned Audrey.

"No. You know I don't have people coming here unless it's family, and they would have called first. Rome had been living in that house for seven years, and he could count on one hand outside of his family who knew where he lived."

"Do you want me to answer it?"

"No. Go upstairs and wait for me in the bedroom so we can finish what you started," Rome said as he kissed her softly on the lips.

Once Audrey was all the way up the stairs, Rome looked through the peephole and saw that it was Maddox. Rome unlocked the door and stepped to the side so that he could come in.

"Yo, I think something went wrong last night. I can't find Tess anywhere. I went to her house and her car was not there. What if she got caught?" Maddox rattled on.

“Keep your voice down. My kids are sleep. Let us go to my office,” suggested Rome.

Maddox followed Rome into his office. He watched as Rome poured himself a double shot of D’ussé VSOP. He took a swig of it, then sat behind his desk.

“How the hell are you so calm right now? I just told you the one person that can implement us for murder is missing, and you are having a drink? She was excited about our vacation so she wouldn’t just not show up.”

“I’m not worried about her implementing me in shit.” Rome shrugged.

“Why is that? Am I missing something?” Maddox asked, confused.

“Dead bitches can’t talk,” Rome said seriously.

It took a minute for Maddox to understand what he was saying.

“What the fuck, man? You killed her? Why would you do that? We agreed to just have her beat up. We had an airtight plan set up. She was not going to say anything since she was the actual one to poison him. She would have gone down just as much as us.”

“Nigga, us? You did not do shit. You were just the lookout. When that bitch decided to talk, that murder would have been pinned on me. I am not going to jail for a bitch with loose lips. She was fucking and sucking you, not me.”

“Man, if you felt that way, I would have done it, and you could have looked out. I told you I wasn’t comfortable with killing a female,” Maddox yelled, sounding like he was on the brink of tears.

“I told you I’m not comfortable with killing females,” Rome mimicked Maddox in a girly voice.

“What? So is it a problem that I am not as heartless as you, Rome? It is not that simple for me to kill somebody that I was fucking with. Hell, if I were not fucking with her, I still would not have killed her. When I got in this business, I stuck to the code to not kill women and kids. I’ve stuck by that all these years and plan on continuing to stick it.”

“Motherfucker, don’t talk to me about a code. You did not kill the bitch, and neither did I, but I can guarantee her body will not be found. I do not kill females either, but I know people who do, so I made it happen. I can’t believe you standing here about to cry over that hoe in front of me. If you were not part of our organization and the son of my pops’ best friend, I would have put a bullet in your head,” bellowed Rome.

Rome did not feel the need to let Maddox know that it was Chyna that killed her. It was not important, and he would never trick on his own sister.

“Man, what the fuck is your problem with me, Rome? We used to be cool, but now, suddenly, you been treating me like I am bitch or something. What you mad at me because Chyna not talking to you? You ruined y’all relationship all on your own with this vengeance plan of yours. Be a man and realize your fuckups because the next time you disrespect me, I’m going to forget that we on the same team.”

Rome burst out into laughter, causing Maddox to look at him like he was crazy. Rome could not believe the audacity of Maddox.

“You want to know why I been treating you like a bitch lately? It is because you have been acting like one for the past five months since you broke up with my sister. I have watched you follow behind Tess like a dog in heat with his tail between his legs. It was like what Chyna had did for you no longer meant shit, because Tess was fucking and sucking you. My sister damn near ruined her life for your ass. Even though you broke up with her, you could have fought to regain y’all friendship. She did not move, and her store was still in the same place. She would have forgiven you before she forgave me, and you know it. You want to know why I didn’t tell you that I was going to have Tess killed and made you the lookout?”

Maddox stood silent for a minute, letting what Rome said sink in. Everything that he was saying was the truth, and there was no way he could deny it.

“Why?” Maddox asked curiously.

“I no longer trusted you. I could not guarantee that you would see his death through properly, because you were so far up Tess’s ass that you probably would have barged in from hearing them have sex. I didn’t tell you that I was setting her up that night either, because I’m almost certain that you would have tipped her off because you would have tried to convince me to do it, but even God Himself would not have been able to stop me from making sure she was dead.”

“What do you mean you no longer trusted me? Nigga, I left the love of my life for you. That nigga tried to kill Chyna, so of course I wanted him dead. Yeah, Tess set us up, but Chyna only ended up with probation, and what she did was not so bad to me that it warranted death. That’s why I thought we agreed on just having her jumped to teach her a lesson.”

Rome rubbed his hands over his head out of frustration, then opened his drawer and pulled an envelope out of it. He had been contemplating for the last past month if he was ever going to show the details to Maddox, but his whining and bitching was starting to piss him off.

“Look, I had been trying to look out for you because I know once you open this envelope you gon’ really feel like shit. You just could not leave well enough alone. Once you open it, get the fuck out of my house and go home to cry over your narc bitch. I hope my sister do not ever take your bitch ass back. She harder than your ass. You have been fucking an informant for the past five months. After it was taking your ass so long to go through with the plans, I started looking for an alternative route. I had a private investigator follow her around, and my inside man in the precinct told me they were damn near closing in on us. They were going to have her testify to everything. That is why the fuck I changed up everything we did and no longer allowed her ass to make runs for us. With the information she was trying to collect, all of us would have been doing football numbers, including you. I am only glad Chyna left when she did so her name was nowhere involved in the investigation. That is why I did not put my all into making up with my sister. I had to make sure everything was straight before being seen with her, so don’t ever talk to me about my sister or question my loyalty to her again.”

Maddox opened the envelope and looked inside. It was full of pictures of Tess meeting up in the precinct, parks and restaurants with detectives. There were tape recordings that they had. All the color in Maddox’s face was draining as he examined the contents of the envelope. He looked over a piece of paper and saw that she had become an informant right before they got set up. Apparently, she was working for them and Byron at the same time. She got caught with some bricks and blamed it on their organization, even though it was Byron’s.

Maddox was at a loss for words, so he tossed the envelope on Rome’s desk and walked out. Rome grabbed the envelope and put it back in his drawer. By the time he made it in the living room, Maddox was pulling out of the driveway and his son was coming down the stairs.

Damn, so much for my midday quickie, thought Rome.

That only pissed him off further at Maddox because he was looking forward to that nut.

Chyna was laying across her couch reading when her front door opened. She looked up and saw that it was Josh and smiled. He had left early that morning while she was still asleep to make some runs but was now back so that he could spend a few hours with her before they went to the dinner with her family.

“Hey. Did you eat your food?” Josh asked.

“Yes. I ate the breakfast you cooked and the lunch you had delivered,” replied Chyna.

Josh took his shoes off, then sat on the couch next to Chyna. He laid her legs across his lap and started to massage her swollen feet.

“So what do you want to do before we go? We have about three hours before we must start getting ready. We can watch a movie or discuss baby names,” suggested Josh.

“I have a better idea. I’m horny and need to cum, so why don’t you do me and then we cuddle until it’s time to get ready?” Chyna countered.

Josh chuckled at Chyna before pulling his shirt over his head. He slid his hands up her thighs and felt that she did not have on any panties under her shirt. His hands traveled to her love canal, and she was nice and moist.

“Damn, you waiting for me to come here and give you this dick, huh? Tell me what you want me to do,” Josh demanded.

“I want you to eat my pussy until I’m cumming in your mouth,” Chyna purred as she licked her lips.

Josh’s dick jumped at those words. He positioned himself in between her legs so that he could get a full view of her lady parts. He used two of his

fingers and started massaging her clit. When she started dripping, he replaced his finger with his tongue. He sucked on love button until her back was arching, and she was gripping the back of his head, pushing it further inside of her.

“Oh... my... God, Josh. That shit feel so good, baby. Please do not stop,” Chyna cried out. He continued to devour her pussy until she was coming so hard that her juices were sliding down the side of his mouth.

Josh stood from his position and pulled his jeans and boxers down.

“You want this dick now?” Josh asked as he stroked his hard manhood.

“Yes, daddy,” Chyna moaned as she pulled her shirt from over her head and started playing with her nipples.

“Let me see you play with that pussy until you cum if you want this dick.”

Chyna sat up on the couch, then took her left hand and used it to open her labia before rubbing her clit with her index and middle fingers. It did not take much time for the pleasure to start shooting through her body. She rocked her hips and gave Josh a full view.

“Let me suck your dick,” Chyna said as she reached out with her right hand and placed it his mouth. She sucked him up while she played with herself. Josh could not focus worth shit. He was stuck between watching her play with herself and the feel of his dick sliding between her wet lips.

“Fuck, Chyna. I don’t want to cum in your mouth, baby,” Josh yelled out just as Chyna was coming again.

Josh slid out of Chyna’s mouth and pulled her toward the edge of the couch before sliding his hard dick inside of her. A moan instantly escaped both of their mouths. It only took a couple of minutes before Chyna was screaming his name and leaking like a faucet on his dick. Josh continued to rub up against her G-spot, trying not to go too deep because he did not want to hurt the baby.

“Shit, just like that, Josh. You about to make me cum again, baby,” Chyna groaned as she creamed all over his dick.

“I’m right behind you,” Josh grunted as he dropped his load off inside of her.

“Ugh, now I can’t move.” Chyna laughed.

Josh laughed too as he pulled her up from the couch and led her up to the bedroom. They took a shower and washed each other up. Once they were done, he moisturized Chyna’s body for her, then she climbed up under

the covers and fell asleep instantly. He set the alarm on his phone and joined her.

About two hours later, his alarm was going off, and he was struggling to wake Chyna up. Luckily, they had already showered, so it would not take long.

Chyna climbed out of bed and reached in her drawer and grabbed a pair of black panties with a black strapless bra. She slipped them on, then grabbed the dress that she had purchased for the event. It would be the first time she wore anything other than jogging pants or leggings in two months.

Chyna put on the long off-the-shoulder black dress that went on the way to the floor. It had a split on both sides that went all the way up her thighs. Since she could not wear heels, she was going to put on a pair of silver gladiator sandals. She took the scarf off her head. She had gone to the shop the day before and got a long ponytail put in just for the event as well. She slid the silver clips in and applied a coat of her Kylie lip gloss. She put on a pair of teardrop earrings and a diamond tennis bracelet that matched her necklace. Once she was finished, she stood, admiring herself in the mirror. Even though she was pregnant, she was still confident, and she loved the glow of her skin.

“You look beautiful,” Josh said as he walked up to her and kissed her on the forehead.

“Thank you. This is the first time all my family and their friends are going to see me pregnant. They’re going to want to touch my stomach,” whined Chyna.

“If you don’t want them to touch you, just stop them,” Josh replied as he put on his suit jacket.

Chyna grabbed her purse and phone, then they headed out to Josh’s car. They were halfway to the venue when Chyna’s phone started to ring. She looked down at it and saw that it was Bri.

“Hey, best friend,” answered Chyna.

“Hey. What are you doing?” Bri asked.

“I’m on my way to this event for my dad’s organization. What’s wrong?” Chyna asked, sensing the sadness in Bri’s voice.

“It’s Byron, they just found his body at home. They say it looks like he overdosed,” cried Bri.

“Oh my God, Bri. I am so sorry. I’ll leave from this dinner as quick as I can to come be with you.”

“No. Enjoy your family. We are out in Rockford at my aunt’s house. You can come by tomorrow evening.”

“Alright. I love you,” said Chyna.

“I love you too,” Bri replied before hanging up the phone.

Chyna sat in silence, not knowing how she felt about the news. She did not like Byron, and she actually couldn’t care less about his snake ass, but she did sympathize with her best friend because if it was her in that situation, she didn’t know what she would do. Even though she had been upset with Rome all this time, she would still go to bat for him and when he needed her to. The crazy part about it was if he had come and sincerely apologized to her, she would have forgiven him already.

“Is everything alright?” Josh asked, pulling her from her thoughts.

“Yeah. That was Bri. She was telling me that they found her brother dead. It got me to thinking that maybe I should finally talk to Rome.”

“Good. I already told your stubborn ass that there has to be a logical explanation for him choosing someone else over you.”

“Yeah, you’re right. I was just so upset at the time because it was so much going on at once that I wasn’t thinking straight.”

Josh and Chyna continued to talk until they pulled up the hotel. He handed the valet the key and helped Chyna out of the car. They walked into the hotel together and went straight to the hall. Chyna greeted a few people, then walked over to where her family was standing.

“Hey. You made it. You look beautiful,” Chyna’s mama stated as she engrossed her into a hug.

“Thank you, Ma,” Chyna replied before her father pulled her into a hug and kissed her on the forehead.

“I love you, baby girl,” Mr. Black whispered.

“I love you too, Dad,” Chyna responded as she hugged her father back the best way she could with her stomach.

“There go my pudding. I thought I was going to have to come to your house and come get you when they said you might not be coming,” Raymond said as he hugged his niece.

“You know I couldn’t let you come all the way to Chicago without seeing you, Uncle Ray.”

“So are you the young fella that got my baby girl pregnant?” Raymond asked as he turned his attention to Josh.

“Yes, sir. That’s my baby she’s carrying,” Josh replied.

“Okay. Just know I still have a good shot for an old man,” Raymond said, half joking.

“Uncle Ray, stop,” Chyna warned.

“Is he taking care of his responsibility and treating you good, baby girl?”

“Yes, he is. He’s been there the entire time.”

“Okay. I’ll keep the pistol tucked today then.” Ray winked.

Chyna shook her head at her uncle as she found two empty seats at the long table. She sat down with Josh right next to her.

“Please don’t pay my uncle any mind. He’s just protective of me,” said Chyna.

“I know, and I don’t blame him,” Josh replied as he kissed the side of her cheek. They sat around listening to music and mingling with the other people at the table until Rome and Audrey approached the table.

Audrey walked over and spoke before immediately throwing her arms around Chyna.

“Oh my God! You done grew since I saw you last week. Wait until your niece and nephew see you.”

Even though Chyna was not talking to Rome, she was still in touch with Audrey. She would bring the kids over to visit Chyna on the regular.

“Girl, I know. This little boy ain’t playing no games, but the doctor says he’s growing healthy and at a normal pace.”

“How are you, Josh? My sister not driving you crazy yet?” asked Audrey

“Nah. I can handle it. Even though she wakes me up or calls me over at three in the morning to bring her weird food.” Josh joked.

“Well, it’s a good thing in your profession you’re used to being up late.” Audrey laughed.

“Yeah, I’m not complaining though. I love experiencing it all with her,” Josh said honestly before reaching over and rubbing Chyna’s stomach.

“Awww! Y’all are so freaking cute. I remember those days, but I have no plans on going back.”

“Gone ahead, Audrey. You got one more in you.” Chyna smirked.

“Girl, bye. You’ll be on baby number two before I push another one out of here.”

“What the hell is he doing here?” Chloe asked, interrupting their conversation. Chyna had not even noticed that she, Nathan, Maddox, and

Matteo were near the table.

“Let us get one thing straight, Chloe and anybody else that needs to hear it. I am not for this shit today. I am tired and can barely see my feet, but I got dressed up and came out for the sake of my parents, but let’s not make no mistake. I will walk my ass right back up out of here and go get in my bed before I go back and forth with any of you all today or allow you to disrespect him. He is the one person that has been here for me for the past eight months, no matter what, even when I was a bitch to him. He’s my child’s father, and he’s going to be in my life whether any of you like it or not,” snapped Chyna.

Chloe looked like she wanted to say something, but Raymond stopped her.

“Chloe, find your seat and sit down . Do not come in here starting nothing. This is going to be a peaceful event. That is her child’s father, so he has a right to be her with her. Y’all should be happy that he is stepping up to the plate and taking care of his responsibilities. I live all the way in Memphis, so I don’t know everything that’s going on, but I do know that Chyna is y’all baby sister, so both you and Rome need to get y’all shit together and start acting like it because if something happens to my niece or her baby because y’all grown asses stressing her out, I’m whooping some ass,” Raymond threatened before taking his seat.

“I’ll be back. I’m about to go to the bathroom,” Chyna whispered to Josh.

“Okay. I’m going to go out on the terrace for a minute,” said Josh.

Chyna stood from her seat and went to release her bladder. Once she was finished, she headed outside to see if Josh was still out there. She was shocked to see Josh standing there with Rome. She could hear Rome thanking him for looking out for her and how he hoped everything worked out with them. She was about to turn and walk away when Rome called out to her.

“Chyna, wait. Please don’t run from me. I am ready to talk, beg, and plead. Whatever it takes to get you to forgive me,” said Rome.

“Chy, come talk to your brother, baby. I’ll go get us something to drink,” Josh stated as he walked over and kissed her on the cheek.

Chyna walked the few feet to where her brother was and stood in front of him. He looked like he was stressed and had not been sleeping.

“I don’t need you to beg or plead, Rome. I just need to know why would you hurt me like that? How could you take someone who wasn’t even family’s side over mine? How could you go five months without being in contact with me? I know I blocked you, but you could have at least come to my house or the shop. I would have talked to you. All I wanted was an apology and explanation,” Chyna said on the verge of tears.

“It wasn’t even like that, Chyna. I did it for you. I asked Maddox to come up with a plan to set up Byron. That plan including getting close to Tess. Originally, we were just supposed to kill him and have her jumped to teach her a lesson. However, when I found out that she was an informant, that bitch had to go too. I was going to let one of the guys do it at first, but then I decided to let you do it since you were the one she fucked over. I never thought this shit would take this long. As your big brother, I had to do what was needed to protect you and my nephew. I didn’t want you killing your best friend’s brother to be on your conscience.”

“Rome, you could have told me. I would have understood,” Chyna said as the tears finally fell from her eyes.

“I know, but you wouldn’t have allowed us to handle everything on my own. I am sorry though for how everything turned out and ruining your relationship with Maddox. I never wanted to you hurt you. Things just went too far and got way out of hand. I need you to forgive me and allow me to be in my nephew’s life. I kept track of you this entire time. I spoke to Audrey, Ma, and even Josh about you on a regular. I never abandoned or gave up on you,” Rome informed Chyna as he pulled her into his arms.

“I forgive you, big brother, but please don’t try to force me to forgive Maddox right now. I understand why he did what he did in the beginning, but it’s not that simple.”

“It’s okay, baby girl. I understand.”

Chyna stood and talked to his brother for a couple more minutes until Josh came out and joined them.

“Aye, your mom said they’re about to start the program,” said Josh.

“Okay. We’ll finish this conversation later,” Rome said, walking away.

“So you were in touch with my brother while I wasn’t talking to him?” asked Chyna.

“Yeah. He knew that we were back close through Audrey, so he met up with me one day and explained a few things to me. I felt bad for him

because he was out here looking stressed the fuck out, so I agreed to keep him posted. I am sorry I did not tell you. I hope you're not mad."

"I'm not mad at all. Thank you for doing that because I know he is not the easiest person to do deal with. I love you, Joshua," said Chyna.

"I love you too, baby," he replied before caressing her cheek, then crashing his lips onto hers. They shared one of the most passionate kisses they had shared in a long time. When they released the kiss, they turned to walk in and saw Maddox standing there smoking. He looked worse than Rome, but she could not bring herself to care now, so she and Josh walked past him and headed back in the hall where the rest of the night went smoothly.

Chyna and Josh had just pulled up to her house when her phone started to ring. They had just gotten back from her doctor's appointment. She looked down at it and saw that it was Kea.

"Hey, Kea," spoke Chyna.

"Hey. Can you come and meet me? I'll send you the address."

"Yeah. Josh just pulled up to my house so that I could get my car anyway," replied Chyna.

"Okay. See you soon," Kea stated before hanging up.

"How long are you going to be at Kea's?"

"I'm not sure. I just need to see what she wants, then I am going to my parents' house. They said they have some stuff for the baby, so I'm going to pick it up."

"If it's heavy, just leave it in your trunk, and I'll take it out tonight when I get back."

"Okay, see you later," Chyna said before kissing Josh on the lips and climbing out of the car.

Chyna used her key and got in her car and started it. She tried not to take long because

Josh was not going to pull off until he saw that she did.

Chyna drove to the address on Kea's text, and she had no idea whose house it was that she was pulling up to. She parked and got out, then walked up to the house. She sent a text to Kea, then about a minute later, the door opened.

“Hey. Thank you so much for coming,” Kea said as she stepped to the side.

“No problem, love. What’s up?”

“I need your help. I can understand if you don’t want to, but I figured I might as well try.”

“Okay, so what do you need, and whose house is this?” questioned Chyna.

“So the DNA test results came back, and the baby is Nathan’s. He’s been trying to get the papers served to my house, but they have to give them to me personally, and my roommate told them that I moved out after I had the baby, which isn’t a lie because I’m staying here with my aunt temporarily. I know if we went to court right now, he would win, but I can’t let him have my baby. I have been searching for an apartment for the past month. I finally found a two-bedroom townhouse, but I can’t move in until the first.”

“Okay. So what is it that you need from me?”

“I was hoping that you could talk to Rome and get me a job at one of the legit companies. I have money saved from the club and from when I was working for you, but I need it to show I have a consistent income.”

“Alright. I’m on my way to my parents’ house when I leave here. I will talk to Rome about it. I can also get you check stubs to show that you were working for the past two years. I have an LLC, so it’ll show you were my personal assistant.”

“Oh my God. That would be great.”

“Okay. I’ll let you know when I have everything set up for you. Do you have everything you need for the baby?”

“Yeah. She has a lot of stuff at my house, but I brought the main things that we need for now. Once I move, I’ll take everything.”

“Alright. I’ll help you in whatever way you need and set you up with my lawyer.”

“Thank you so much, Chyna. You don’t know how much I appreciate you.”

“You’re welcome. Just take care of you and that princess of yours,” Chyna said before leaving out of the house.

Chyna climbed in her car and sent Josh a message, letting him know that she was on her way to her parents’ house. She pulled up to the house and parked in the driveway next to Rome’s car.

Chyna rang the doorbell and waited for someone to open the door.

“Hey, baby girl,” Rome greeted his sister.

“Hey, big head,” Chyna replied as she followed him into the house. It had been about a month since they had made up. Rome had been coming to her house with his kids and making sure she had food when Josh was not able to bring it to her. It was like they had never had a disagreement with each other.

“Hey, Chyna. You look tired. Are you alright?” Mrs. Black asked.

“Hey, Ma. I’m fine only tired. I had a doctor’s appointment today, and I’m not sleeping much because this baby is pushing on my bladder literally all day,” Chyna replied as she sat on the couch.

“Well, it looks like your ready pop. Do you think you should be driving around on your own?”

“I’m not by myself often. Josh took me to my appointment, then dropped me off at my car so that I could come over here. He just had to go check on some stuff. When I get home, he’s going to meet me there.”

“So he lives with you now?” asked Chyna’s mother.

“No, Ma. He still has his house. Sometimes he goes to my place or I go to his. He just doesn’t want me to go into labor with him not being there since I live on my own.”

“Okay. That’s understandable. I was telling him at the dinner how grateful we are that he stepped up to the plate. I must admit that I was wrong about him, but I am glad that he proved me wrong. As long as you’re happy, I support any decision you choose.”

“Thank you, Ma. I appreciate that. He has surprised me as well. He can’t wait until the baby is born so that he can be a father.”

“Have y’all picked a name yet?” Questioned Rome.

“No. We’ve been discussing it but haven’t agreed yet.”

Chyna sat and talked with her mother and brother until her father walked into the house with Maddox right behind him.

Mr. Black and Maddox spoke, then found a seat and joined in on the conversation.

“You okay, sweetheart?” Mr. Black asked Chyna.

Chyna looked uncomfortable and was rubbing her stomach.

“Yeah. He’s just really kicking a lot right now, and I’m starting to have Braxton Hicks contractions,” said Chyna.

“Are you sure you’re going to be able to drive yourself home? I can drop you off,” offered Rome.

“It’s fine. When I get ready to go, I’ll have Josh come pick me up. Tim can drive my car home.”

“Okay, so do you have everything for the baby?” asked Mr. Black.

“Yes. Josh bought all the furniture for his nursery and the clothes. The only thing I bought was diapers and toiletries. If I would have let him, he would have bought that too. He has more than enough stuff already.”

“Well, we bought some things too. There is no such thing as too much. Whatever you do not need for your house or his can stay here for when he visits. We already bought a bassinet and put it in your old bedroom, and he has clothes in the drawer.”

Chyna couldn’t help but smile. Her parents gave her a hard time about being pregnant, but now, they could not wait to spoil their grandchild.

“Thank you, Ma. I’m sure all of it will come in handy. I won’t have to buy anything for a while,” stated Chyna.

“I have to go to the warehouse and take care of some things. I’m going to come and stop by your house tonight before I head home though,” said Rome.

“Okay. That’s fine. I’ll be at home unless I go into labor tonight.” Chyna half joked.

“Well, if that be the case, then I’ll see you at the hospital.” Rome smirked.

“Chyna, can I speak to you for a minute before I leave?” asked Maddox.

“Yeah. Just let me go to the bathroom first,” Chyna replied as she got up from the couch. She headed to the bathroom and sent Josh a text, asking him to come pick her up. Chyna released her bladder, then went back to the living room.

“Give me your keys. I can put this stuff in the car for you,” Rome offered.

Chyna handed him the keys and said goodbye to her parents, then followed Rome and Maddox out of the house.

“What do you want to talk about, Maddox?” inquired Chyna.

“Why do you still have me blocked? Rome told me that he explained everything to you,” replied Maddox.

“I’ll take you off block today, Maddox. I didn’t see a reason for us to have to talk.”

“So you can just forgive Rome like that, and it was his idea, but you just completely cut me off? What part of the game is that?” fumed Maddox.

“Rome is my brother. Even though I told him to fuck off, he still did his best to make sure I was good. He did not just forget about me. Everything he was doing was for a reason. Look, it is like this. I hold no ill feelings toward you Maddox. I do not hate you, and I am not mad. I get that you broke up with me so that you would not be cheating on me, and I appreciate that. However, out of five months, you made no attempts to come meet up with me, even if it was on a friendship level. You chose to start an entire relationship with that bitch like she did not have me locked up. We both know if you would have did what you was supposed to without your feelings getting involved, this shit could have been handled three months ago because she would have done anything for you like I did.”

“I know, and I’m sorry, Chyna. I can admit that I fucked up. I will not lie and say that I didn’t take things a little too far with Tess, but I still love you. Please give me a chance to make this up to you. I want you to give us another try.”

Chyna looked into Maddox’s pleading eyes, and it melted her heart. A part of her would always love him, no matter what he had done to her.

“I’m sorry, Maddox. I can’t. We can work on building a platonic friendship, but that is it. Josh has been there for me, and he does not deserve for me to just drop him because you want to be back in the picture again. I’m working on getting myself together so that he can have what he deserves.”

“Are you serious? That nigga cheated on you and had you out here fighting bitches over him,” yelled Maddox.

“That might be true, but he’s never lied to me or broke my heart. Despite whatever he has done, he has never put anything before me. I never have to worry about coming second to a person or his business. When I call, he drops everything, no matter what. Like right now for instance. He was taking care of business. I texted him twenty minutes ago, and he is pulling up in the driveway now. So all I can give you is a friendship. If it feels like you are crossing that line, I will block you,” Chyna warned.

“I don’t like it, but I’ll take what I can get for now.” Maddox was sad, sounding defeated.

“Alright. I have to go,” Chyna replied as she walked over to the car. She handed the keys to Tim, and he got out the passenger’s seat so that she

could get in.

“You alright, ma?” Josh asked.

“Yeah, just tired,” Chyna said as she leaned back in her seat.

Josh waited for Tim to start Chyna’s car and pull off before following behind him.

“How was your visit with your family?”

“It was fine. I sat and talked to my parents and Rome. Then when I was about to go, Maddox wanted to talk. Before you get upset, I told him that I would not be getting back with him and the only thing we could do was be friends. You do not have anything to worry about. I could never turn my back on someone that was there for me. I’m not even built like that.”

“I know and understand. I am not worried. I trust you. It was me who fucked up things for us the first time, and I promise that will not happen again. I haven’t talked to her since I stopped leaving shit at her crib.”

“I know, and I trust you. You have really matured from when we first started dating three years ago. I met you when I was eighteen years old. Before you know it, I’ll be twenty-one. So much has changed and happened within that time.”

“Yeah, but it all led us back to each other.”

“Yes, and we’re even stronger than before.” Chyna smiled.

Josh pulled up to Chyna’s house and parked before helping her into the house. He went back out to get the baby stuff and put it in the room. Chyna went straight to her room so that she could strip and shower. Once she was finished, she pulled on a big T-shirt and walked into the living room to see what Josh was doing. When she did not see him, she walked to the baby’s room, where he was in there with Tim putting away everything. She could not believe how well he had set it up. Bri did help him out a little bit with the organization, but he had done everything else with the help of Tim.

“Aren’t you supposed to be lying down?” Josh asked over his shoulder.

“I am. I just went to get something to drink and see what you were doing.”

“We were just finishing up in here. I wanted to make sure everything was secure since you’re due any day now.”

“Okay, well, I’m about to go lay down. Can you bring food back after you drop Tim off?”

“I can get the food now if you want before I take him.”

“No. It’s fine. I want to sleep right now, but I know I’ll be hungry when I wake up.”

“Alright. Well, I have to go check on one of the spots before dropping him off. I should be back in about two hours.”

“That’s fine. Take your time,” Chyna replied as she leaned in to kiss him on the lips.

Josh leaned in and kissed her back, deepening the kiss as he grabbed on to her ass and realized she was not wearing any underwear.

“You’re lucky I have to take care of this business. You just be ready when I get back.” He winked before kissing her on the forehead.

“See, that’s how y’all got a baby on the way now.” Tim laughed.

“Shut up. Let’s get this shit over with so that I can get back to my woman,” replied Josh.

“See you later, Tim,” Chyna said before walking to her bedroom. She walked in turned on the TV, then climbed under her covers. She did not know why she was looking for something to watch, because it would only be a matter of time before the TV was watching her.

Josh and Tim pulled up on the block and parked the car before going into their trap. They went straight to the back room and got to work.

Tim weighed the dope while Josh pushed the money through the counter. He got some rubber bands and wrapped it around the stack of cash.

“Are you going to be alright going to Rockford? I would go, but I really don’t want to take the chance of leaving Chyna.”

“I’ll be good and don’t worry. I am going to shoot down there early in the morning and come right back. Cat’s going to ride with me and do the drop. Did you let them know that it was me coming instead?”

“Yeah. It really didn’t matter though, because you’re not going to see him anyway. His wife is going to meet Cat at the spot.”

“Okay, so he wants two kilos of dope and three pounds of weed right?”

“Yeah. I already put everything in the bag for you. You just got to make sure you stick to the speed limit and hide that shit in the compartment in your car. Do not carry your gun in the car either. The last thing you want to do is get pulled over,” said Josh.

“Nigga, I’m not stupid. You are acting like this is my first drug run.”

“I know, but it’s been a minute. Just wanted to make sure everything was in order.”

“Okay, well, let’s finish up in here so that you can get home to your woman,” suggested Tim.

Tim and Josh weighed the last of the dope and bagged the weed before putting it all in a duffel bag along with the money. Josh handed Tim the

duffel bag he needed for the run, and Josh was going to take the other bag to his house and put it in his safe.

Josh walked out of the room, and they headed to the front of the house, where some of the guys were playing cards.

“How long you here for, Josh?” one of the guys asked him.

“I’m about to get up out of here now. I just came to take care of some business.”

“Did your girl have her baby yet?”

“Nah. She’s due in a couple of weeks though. That’s why I need to get home to make sure she’s good.”

“That’s what’s up. You know we gon’ hold it down for you.”

“Okay. If you need something tomorrow, just hit my line. Tim will be unavailable until that evening. Y’all should be good though. It’s enough work to last the next couple days,” said Josh.

One of the workers were about to say something when the door burst open, causing the guys to jump and pull out their guns.

“What the hell is wrong with y’all?” slurred Iesha.

“Girl, you just almost caught some hot lead running up in here like that. What the fuck are you even doing here?” fumed Josh.

“I was at Pam’s house, and I saw your car outside, so I decided to come see you.”

“See me for what, Esha? Your ass is drunk as hell. Are you driving home like this?” asked Josh.

“No. I’m going home with you.” Iesha smiled.

Josh took a deep breath and gently pulled her by the arm and headed down the stairs. Instead of stopping at his car, he walked down to Pam’s house. He pushed her door open and found Pam and one of the dope boys fucking in the living room.

“What the hell, Pam? You let your girl leave out like this so that you can get some dick,” yelled Josh.

“Nigga, she left the house because she wanted to see you. She could have stayed here if she wanted to. I don’t turn my back on my people like you clearly do.”

“Shut the fuck up if you don’t know what you are talking about. I must go, so take that shit upstairs unless you want to fuck with your friend in the living room. Either way, it is not my problem.” Josh shrugged as he turned to leave.

“Yeah, do what you do best. Turn your back on her when she needs you the most.”

“Bitch, I was there when she needed me the most. I tried to maintain a business relationship with her, and she didn’t want it.”

“You cut me off from everything, Josh. I am not getting any more money because of you. All I wanted was for you to love me again, Josh. Don’t you miss me?” Iesha cried as she walked up close on him.

“Look, I will always have love for you, and that’s something that will never change, but I can’t give you what you want, Esha. I’m back with Chyna now.”

“It’s always about fucking Chyna. I know she must be big as shit now. I know that she can’t be fucking you the way you like it,” she said as she licked his earlobe.

“I have to go, Iesha. Talk to me when you’re sober. I will help you the best way I can then. That is all I can offer,” Josh stated as he turned and walked out of the house.

Josh stopped at Wendy’s to get something to eat, then drove to Chyna’s house. He entered the house and walked straight to her bedroom. She was sitting up in bed watching *Bad Boys*.

“Hey, baby,” spoke Chyna.

“Hey. Why didn’t you call and tell me you were woke?”

“I just woke up about fifteen minutes ago. I had to use the bathroom, and Rome is supposed to stop by before he goes home. I wanted to make sure I was dressed just in case he came before you made it back. How did everything go though?”

“It went well until Iesha’s crazy ass showed up acting crazy.”

“I think you need to have a talk with her. Maybe find a way to help her without actually having to see her on a regular or do business with her.”

“Yeah, you’re right. I will talk to her once she is sober and calm. Maybe she and Tim can work something out together that has nothing to do with me.”

“Good, because I’m too damn pregnant to have to beat your ex-girlfriend’s ass,” Chyna said seriously.

“You’re not whooping nobody’s ass, Tyson, so chill. I’ll handle it. I won’t let her run you off again,” Josh told Chyna as he leaned in and kissed her on the forehead. He could get used to ending his nights laying in bed with his woman and soon his son as well. Once his baby got there, he

already had plans to slow down in the streets. He grew up not knowing who his father was, and he would never want the same for his son.



CHLOE PACED THE FLOOR BACK AND FORTH. SHE WAS STARTING TO GET impatient. Once they got the DNA test results back and they were positive, she was happy. Nathan kept his word and contacted a lawyer the following business day. Chloe had started buying things for a nursery and all for the baby. The only thing they were not expecting was for Kea to disappear. She could not understand why Kea was being so difficult. She knew for a fact that she would be a better mother than her. Hell, if Chyna would have had to do time, she would have taken her baby and raised it instead. Chloe wanted to be a mother so badly that it did not even matter to her that it was her husband's illegitimate child.

Chloe and Nathan had been trying for a baby for almost two years, and nothing had happened. Being that he got Kea pregnant so easily, it was clear that she was the reason they did not get pregnant yet. Life was unfair to her. It was like everyone that did not want kids or did not deserve them were getting pregnant. There she was, a married woman that could provide for her child financially and provide them with the love they deserved, but she could not even do that. She felt like she let her husband down and could not fulfill her wifely duties since she could not give him a family. That was the main reason she was so forgiving and willing to accept the baby. She felt if they could take care of that one, he would not be concerned with her not giving him one.

Chloe pulled out her phone and tried to dial Chyna's number again, but she did not answer this.

"Man, she's still not answering. Let's go to her house," Chloe said to Nathan, not giving him a chance to respond.

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" Nathan asked skeptically.

"Do you want to know where the bitch is with our baby or not?" Chloe retorted as she climbed into the car.

Nathan took a deep breath, then climbed in the car with Chloe. Truthfully, he did not care if he got full custody or not anymore. All he wanted was to be able to spend some time with his daughter. He felt like

less than a man that he had a one-month-old baby and only saw her once. It was no secret that he was upset when Kea first got pregnant, but once the test came back positive, he warmed up to the idea.

Chloe and Nathan climbed inside of the car and headed to Chyna's house. They had to park almost a block away because all the parking spots were taken.

"Please don't go in here acting like you don't have any sense. It's bad enough we're showing up unannounced," stated Rome.

Chloe ignored Nathan and walked up the stairs to Chyna's condo and rang the doorbell. A couple of minutes went by before the front door opened.

"What are you doing here?" Josh asked.

"I need to speak with my sister. It's important," Chloe replied as she pushed past him, not giving him a chance to invite them in.

Chloe walked into the house and looked around. It was her first time inside of Chyna's spot, and she was envious. She had a nice ass condo. She had proved her family wrong. She was able to become successful on her own.

Chloe walked into the living room and found Chyna laying across the sectional with Rome sitting next to her. She hated how close Rome and Chyna was. Chloe was closer to Rome in age, but their relationship was never like his and Chyna's. He never came over to her place just to sit with her or make sure that everything was okay.

"What's so important that you pop up over here out of nowhere?" Chyna asked curiously.

"Well, I've been calling your phone for almost two weeks and you weren't answering, so I decided to come by."

"Okay, that still doesn't explain what you want," retorted Chyna.

"Where is Kea at with our baby? I know you're in touch with her," snapped Chloe.

"What the hell do you mean by *our*?" Chyna questioned with a puzzled look on her face.

"You heard me. That's going to be my and Nathan's baby once she crawls back out of her hole."

"Yeah, and that right there is the reason why Nathan doesn't know where his child is. You are acting like you are delusional or some shit. I'm convinced our parents missed out on a check for you."

“Chyna, can you please just tell me where she is? That is just as much my baby as it is hers. She can’t just take her and disappear,” interrupted Nathan.

“See, that’s the thing right there, Nathan. Repeat what you just said to yourself. There is no difference in what she is doing than you are trying to do to her. The only difference is she is not trying to keep her away permanently. She is the mother of that child. She carried her for nine months and went through labor. She had no help from you throughout that entire pregnancy, but then you expect her to just willingly hand that baby over to you? I wish Josh would try to pull some shit like that.”

“Girl, bye. Ain’t nobody trying to hear that sappy shit. She should have thought about that before getting pregnant by another person’s husband, but then I guess you do not see any problems with it since you got pregnant by a nigga with a girl. You two ain’t nothing but some certified hoes. Well, that is if he is the baby father anyway. If I were him, I would be trying to get a DNA test before investing so much time.” Chloe smirked.

“Bitch, let’s get one motherfucking thing straight. We both know the only reason I haven’t beat the shit out of you yet is because we have the same parents, but let’s not act like I won’t get off this couch and smack the shit out of you. Just because your dumb ass is insecure does not mean you can come over here talking shit,” Chyna fumed.

“Yo, chill out, Chyna. You’re not smacking nobody, so just stay your ass on this couch,” Rome said, speaking up for the first time.

“Chyna, I didn’t come over here to cause you any problems. I just want to talk to her. Maybe we can come to a common ground,” suggested Nathan.

“What? No? That is not what we discussed,” yelled Chloe.

“Look, none of this has anything to do with me. However, you over here making all this noise for nothing, and it is my job to remove her stress, so you two must go,” Josh stated as calmly as possible. He really wanted to curse Chloe out, but that would be adding fuel to the fire.

“Fine, we’ll find her with or without your help,” Chloe screamed before running out the house, throwing a tantrum.

“Yo, your wife needs to seek medical help. Once you are not with her and you are ready to act like you have sense, get at me, and I will talk to Kea to arrange something for you,” offered Chyna.

“Thanks, Chy. I’m sorry for all of this, but I appreciate your help.” Nathan smiled.

Nathan walked out of the house and entered the car, where Chloe was still fuming.

“What do you mean come to a common ground with her? You said that we could get full custody of the baby,” whined Chloe.

“I know, but look where it’s got us. She is not in our life at all. I would prefer to at least share custody than not to have her at all. At this rate, there’s no telling where Kea is at,” said Nathan.

“I don’t know, Nathan. What if she tries to throw herself at you again or something?”

“It won’t happen. We can come up with arrangement. You can go with me to pick up the baby from her house. Or she can meet us somewhere. We must think logical here and not off emotions. We can at least see how it goes but get a court order for joint custody. We can make it work , and you’d still be the best stepmother to her,” reasoned Nathan.

Chloe was not too happy with the idea, but she had to take what she could get. She loved Nathan, and she was ready to get things back on track with him. They would be starting to counseling the following day, and she was prepared to go in with an open mind and give it her all. She really wanted to know what she had done wrong that would cause him to stray anyway so that she would not make that same mistake twice.

“Okay, Nathan. We can do it your way if you want. I’ll call Chyna tomorrow and let her know.”

“I don’t know about that. Maybe I should call her. No offense, but you’re not one of Chyna’s favorite people right now.”

“I know, and that’s my fault. I won’t cause her any problems. I do not be trying to be a bitch to her. I promise. I be having in my mind that I am going to be civil, but then, next thing I know, my mouth does an entirely different thing. I will make sure to talk to the therapist about that. She’s my only sister, and I don’t want my nephew to grow up thinking his aunt is a bitch,” Chloe said seriously.

Nathan smiled at those words. He really hoped Chloe meant it and was not just going through a phase. He had every plan on doing right by her and sticking by her side. He just needed her to meet him halfway. He had faith that their marriage was strong enough to face his fuckups.

Nathan and Chloe continued to talk during the entire ride home. They were finally able to have a peaceful conversation, and it felt damn good.

Chyna woke up with Josh's erection pressing up against her. She could tell that he was still sleeping from the way he was breathing. She started to rub her ass up against him until he started to stir.

"Girl, let me find out you're trying to rape me," mumbled Josh.

"Well, it won't be rape if you wake up and give it to me," retorted Chyna.

Josh looked over Chyna's shoulder at the clock on the nightstand and shook his head.

"Damn, girl. It's barely seven." Josh chuckled.

"So? What does the time have to do with anything? I am horny, and your dick was hard, poking me in the back. I know you not telling me no." Chyna pouted.

Josh shook his head before leaning over and kissing the back of Chyna's neck. He trailed kisses down her back as he stuck his hand between her legs to feel her love box. He rubbed his fingers around her clit, and she was already wet. He moved his hand and slid into her gently from the side, causing a moan to escape both of their lips.

"Fuck. You were ready for me for real, huh," Josh grunted as he stroked Chyna nice and slow.

Josh grabbed one of Chyna's breasts and went in a little deeper. The only sounds that could be heard throughout the room were their soft moans.

"Right there, baby. I'm about to cum. Fuck me harder," Chyna cried as Josh continued to slow stroke her.

"Baby, are you sure?" Josh asked.

“Yes, baby. Make me cum on that dick,” purred Chyna.

Josh slid out of Chyna and flipped her over gently as she arched her back. He went in deep and held on to her waist to keep her supported.

Chyna threw her ass back on Josh and took all the dick he was giving her. She did not care that she was nine months. She was still going to fuck her man and enjoy it.

Josh and Chyna kept at it for about thirty minutes before they both came together and fell back onto the bed.

“Are you satisfied now, baby? Can I go back to sleep?” questioned Josh.

“Yes, my love, because now I can fall back asleep,” Chyna replied before turning on her side and laying her head on Josh’s chest.

Josh and Chyna slept for about four more hours until the sound of Chyna’s phone woke them up.

“Hello,” answered Chyna.

“Hey. I just wanted to apologize for yesterday. I took things too far. Can we meet up later to talk? I really want to clear the air,” said Chloe.

Chyna was kind of skeptical, but at the same time, she was curious. Chloe had never called her talking so calmly before, let alone apologizing.

“Okay. I’m just getting up now, but you can come by my house around two.”

“Alright. Thank you. See you soon,” Chloe replied before hanging up.

“You will not believe who that was,” said Chyna.

“Who?” asked Josh.

“Chloe. She apologized and asked if she could come over and talk.”

“Wow. I’m surprised, but at the same time, I’m happy for you. I hope you two can come to a common ground.

“Thank you. I hope we can too. I really don’t want to be at odds with any of my siblings.”

“Well, let’s go shower, then I can make us something to eat,” suggested Josh.

Josh and Chyna went into the bathroom and took care of their personal hygiene. Chyna combed her hair into a ponytail before leaving out of the bathroom. She put on a clean pair of pajamas and house shoes since she had no intention of leaving her house. Once she was done, she went down the stairs and lay across the couch while Josh cooked.

Chyna called her parents to check in on them and sent Rome a text message to check in on him and the kids as well.

Thirty minutes later, Josh was entering the dining room with their food. He had made some cheeseburgers and fries.

“You coming to sit at the table, or you want me to bring you your food?”

“Can you bring it and something to drink to me please?”

Josh handed Chyna her plate and a ginger ale, then sat on the couch next to her. They ate their food and watched TV. Once they were done, Josh took the plates into the kitchen and washed them, then went and sat on the couch with Chyna. Her face was scrunched up, and she was rubbing her stomach.

“Are you alright? Maybe we need to go to the hospital,” said Josh.

“No. It’s fine. It’ll stop soon. The doctor said it is normal. They’re not close together, so I’m good,” Chyna reassured him.

Josh was skeptical but decided not to say anything else. He knew when it was too much Chyna would make the decision for herself.

Josh sat and massaged Chyna’s feet until the doorbell went off. He stood from the couch and went to open the door. He looked through the peephole and saw that it was Chloe.

“Hey, Josh, “Chloe spoke, catching Josh by surprise. It was the first time she had ever spoken to him since he had been with Chyna. Any other time, she had a smart remark or an attitude toward him.

“Hey. Come in. She’s in the living room,” Josh said, stepping to the side.

“Hey, Chyna. I brought a pack of Oreos and some ice cream. I heard pregnant women like sweets.”

“Thank you, and I do. I just finished eating about an hour ago though,” replied Chyna.

“You’re welcome,” Chloe said before setting the bag on the table and sitting on the couch.

“I’ll go put these things away, then head up to bedroom. If you need me, call me,” Josh added before grabbing the bag and leaving the sisters alone.

Once Josh was up the stairs, Chloe started to speak.

“First, I want to say I’m sorry for everything I’ve done that could have hurt you. I am not even that kind of person to a stronger, so I should not have been that way with you. I guess the thing is I was jealous of you. You have always been able to live your life the way you wanted. You never worried about being perfect or pleasing mom and dad. While I, on the other hand, felt was obligated to do everything they wanted. You know that is

how me and Nathan ended up together. I mean, eventually, we fell in love, but we did not get along at first. One of the main reasons I was so open-minded with Nathan and the baby situation was because I did not want to disappoint our parents by getting a divorce. I know it's not an excuse, but I'm just being honest," vented Chloe.

"Thank you for apologizing. I also want to apologize because I could have made things easier for you at times, but it was my stubbornness. You are my big sister, and I was just mad that you were the perfect child in our parents' eyes, and I was the screw up. That is why I worked so hard to get out on my own. I wanted to prove that, even though I made mistakes, I could still survive."

"Wow, so we were both acting out because we were jealous of each other when we really could have just talked to each other." Chloe laughed.

"Not that I don't appreciate the change, but I'm curious. Why the sudden change of heart?"

"Well, since I started marriage counseling, the therapist wanted to get to root of everything in my life. Plus, I wanted to work on my relationship with you. I'm about to have a nephew, and I don't want him to grow up not knowing me because I was a bitch to his mom," Chloe said truthfully.

"Okay. I understand. Well, I look forward to rebuilding our relationship. The first thing we must do is communicate first. Think before speak so that we don't say things that will hurt each other," suggested Chyna.

"I agree with you there. Also, when you are ready, can you talk to Kea on our behalf? Let her know that we are dropping the case. He will not go for full custody anymore. He just wants to co-parent. I'll be civilized for the sake of my husband and the baby."

"Alright. I have to call her later anyway so that she can pick up something I have for her. I will let her know that you are sincere and you both are serious. Don't make me regret this though."

"I won't. I promise," said Chloe.

Chyna and Chloe continued to talk for about another hour.

"I'll be back. I have to use the bathroom," Chyna stated as she stood from the couch.

Chyna walked into the bathroom and pulled her clothes down when she felt sharp pains in her stomach with a gush of water following behind it.

"Arrrgghhh, Josh," Chyna screamed, causing Chloe to run to the bathroom.

“Are you alright?” Chloe asked.

“No. My water just broke,” yelled Chyna.

“Okay. Calm down. Josh go grab her some clothes, and I can help her get dressed while you get the car ready,” ordered Chloe.

Josh ran out of the hall and back up the bedroom. He came down a minute later with a pair of leggings and a T-shirt. Chloe helped her get dressed, then walked her out to the car.

“Can you call your parents and brother for me?” asked Josh.

“Yeah. I’ll follow you two to the hospital,” replied Chloe.

Josh broke the speed limit driving to the hospital. The last thing he wanted was for her to give birth in the car.

Josh pulled up the hospital and signed Chyna in, then they went straight upstairs to labor and delivery.

“Oh my God. This shit hurts so bad,” Chyna cried as a contraction hit her. They were coming at least five minutes apart.

The nurse came in and checked Chyna’s vitals and then her cervix. She was already dilated seven centimeters. She hoped that meant she would not be in labor long. About thirty minutes later, her mom came rushing into the delivery room to sit by her side.

“Hey, my baby. Your brother and father are here too, but they’re in the waiting room with Chloe. They said they’ll see you when the baby is here.”

“It’s fine, Ma. I didn’t expect them in here. I’m only allowed two people anyway.” Chyna shrugged.

Five hours later, Chyna gave birth to a seven pound, eight ounce, twenty-two-inch baby boy. He was light with a head full of curly hair. She watched as Josh stood with the baby in his arms, and she fell even more in love with him. The way his eyes lit up looking at the baby was priceless. There was a slight knock at the door.

“Come in,” called out Josh.

Chyna’s family walked in with flowers and balloons from the gift shop. Her father and Rome came and greeted her.

“Hey, baby girl. How do you feel?” asked Mr. Black.

“Like I’m never doing this again?” Chyna laughed seriously.

“Let me see my nephew,” Rome said as he walked on the other side where Josh was sitting.

“Meet Joshua Ahmad Wilson Jr.”

“Wait, you named him after me?” Josh asked surprised.

“Yes. I felt that it was only right that I kept the tradition in my family. All the firstborn guys in my family are named after their fathers because they’re leaders and great men. I know that you will be the same for our son.

“Thank you. I love you so much,” said Josh.

“I love you too,” replied Chyna.

Everyone took turns holding the baby and talking. Chyna tried her best to keep up with the conversations and what was going on, but she was too exhausted, so eventually, she fell asleep on everyone. When she woke back up a couple hours later, it was only Rome and Josh in the room with her.

“Hey. You’re still here,” Chyna said to her brother.

“Yeah, I just wanted to make sure everything was good with you before I left. You did good, sis. I am proud of you, and I know that you will be a great mother. If there is anything that you need or if things feel overwhelming, just let me know, and I am there,” Rome assured her.

“Thank you, Rome. I love you.”

“I love you too,” Rome replied as he stood from the seat and walked over to Chyna.

They continued to talk for a little while longer until he left to go home. Once Rome was gone, Chyna was left with the baby and Josh. She was still tired, but she wanted to enjoy the time with just them alone. So she fed the baby, and Josh changed his diaper, then they found a channel on the TV and watched it until they both fell back to sleep. They were going to take advantage of the baby sleeping.

Josh pulled up on the block and parked his car, then got out. There were a few people scattered out in the area. He walked up on the porch and sat down with Tim and a few of the other guys.

“What’s up, man? I’m surprised you’re hanging out here today. It’s been a minute,” said JR.

“I won’t be out here too long. Chyna took the baby to see her parents. I told her to call me when she gets to the house, then I will meet her there. I have not seen my son since this morning. I had runs to make this morning, and by time I was done, she was gone.”

“So how you like being a father?” Trav asked.

“Man, I love it. Going to bed and waking up to my girl and son is the best feeling in the world. I can’t wait until she’s ready so we can make it official.”

“Look at this nigga, ready to get married and shit.” Tim laughed.

“Yeah. Only Chy could bring this side out of me,” replied Josh.

“Everything’s been good out here though. We haven’t had no problems, and the people are loving that new shit we got,” said JR.

“Okay. That’s what’s up. I’ll make sure to get more of that one.”

Josh sat and talked with the guys for about an hour when Pam and Iesha came walking their way.

“Damn, Josh. Your bitch let you come out and breathe today,” spat Iesha.

“What do you want, Iesha? I don’t have time for this shit from you today.”

“Why haven’t you returned any of my phone calls? I thought we were going to do business with each other.”

“I did not tell you that. I told you when you are ready to get your shit together to hit up Tim, and he would look out for you. I’ll never do business with you again,” Josh said honestly.

“Come on, Josh. Don’t be like that. We’re better than that.” Iesha pouted.

“Yo, I’m out. Tim, I’ll hit your line later,” Josh stated as he stood from his seat, ignoring Iesha.

Josh walked to his car, and Iesha was right behind him.

“Josh, I know you hear me talking to you. I need your help. If you do not want to do business with me, then give me some money,” said Iesha.

“I’m not giving you no money for free. All you are going to do is it drink it up or pop pills. You out here bad right now, Esha. I can help you get some help.”

“It doesn’t have to be for free. We can fuck like old times and you give me some money,” countered Iesha.

“I’m not sticking my dick anywhere near you. You done let yourself fall off. I would not even be able to get my shit hard. I do not see you that way, Esha. I am not saying this to be mean. I’m just being serious, and I’m sorry if it hurts, but it’s the truth,” Josh informed her as he looked her up and down before climbing in his car.

Everything he said to Iesha was the truth. He no longer had romantic feelings for her. He loved Chyna, and that overruled everything. Even if he were not with Chyna, he could no longer see himself fucking with her. She had become the one person who he despised, and that was his mother. He was not attracted to women that drank and got high on the regular. He could deal with the weed, but the pills were a different story. He did not even pop pills himself, and he damn sure did not get drunk every day.

Iesha had started losing weight, and her clothes were too big. She did not bother about combing her hair, and her face was starting to get blotchy. He actually felt bad for her, but there was nothing he could do for her because he knew the only way he could get her to actually listen to him was if he started back spending time with her again.

“Fuck you, Josh. Your ass acting all high and mighty now, but don’t forget we both came from the gutter together,” yelled Iesha.

“Yo, I don’t have time for this shit. Sober the fuck up, then hit up Tim when you ready to start back making money,” Josh replied before starting his car up and pulling off.

Josh drove straight to his house and parked in the driveway. He did not see Chyna’s car in the driveway, so he figured she was still out. Josh entered the house and heard music playing through the loudspeaker. He did not see Chyna in the dining room or living room, so he headed to the kitchen where he found Chyna cooking in a red lingerie set and some pumps.

Josh’s dick instantly jumped at the sight of Chyna’s body. Looking at her, one would have not been able to tell that she just had a baby two months ago. Her stomach was almost back flat, but everything else was back to normal.

“You have gon’ just stand there and stare at me, or are you going to come and kiss me?” Chyna flirted.

“Damn, you look sexy as hell, ma,” Josh said as he walked over to Chyna and pulled her into his arms before kissing her softly on the lips. He caressed her body and kissed her neck gently. He started to pull at the band of her thong, but she stopped him.

“Not so fast, baby. You’ve been outside all day, and I need to finish cooking. We have all night, so we do not have to rush. Why don’t you go take a shower while I finish here?” suggested Chyna.

“I like the sound of that, but where’s our son?”

“When I took him to see my parents, Rome and Audrey were there. They asked if they could keep him tonight to give us some alone time since we haven’t had any since he’s been born.”

“Okay, well, I have to remember to thank them later. I’ll go shower now, but hopefully dinner doesn’t take too long, because I’m ready for dessert.” Josh smirked.

Chyna smiled as she got back to cooking dinner. She was making salmon, asparagus, and loaded baked potatoes. She did not make a dessert because she had every intention on being Josh’s dessert. While the food finished up, Chyna walked into the dining room and set the table, then grabbed a bottle of Moet and placed it in the middle of the table. She was breastfeeding, so she would only drink one glass.

Chyna went back into the kitchen and made their plates and put them on the table just as Josh came down the stairs in nothing but a pair of boxers.

Chyna dimmed the lights and sat at the table with her man. They laughed and enjoyed their dinner together. They even discussed their future.

“I was wondering when you would be ready to get a house together. We are both jumping between houses when we could just be living in one. Buying a new house would be starting fresh and leaving all the bullshit and exes in the past. It would be a place that we could call home to raise a family.”

“A family, huh? So you want more kids?” asked Chyna.

“Of course. Do you see how handsome our son is? I have to put a little girl in you so that you can have somebody to look like you because junior is all me,” Josh boasted proudly.

When their son was first born, it was hard to tell who he was going to look like, but now that his features are coming in more, he was a replica of his father from the eyes to his complexion.

“We can start soon. My lease is up in three months, so we can find something before it’s up and move in.”

“Really? I thought this was going to be harder than that.”

“No, baby. What you’re saying makes sense. I love you, and I want our son to be raised in the home with both of his parents. Your request isn’t difficult.”

Chyna and Josh continued to talk over dinner, then Chyna went to clean the kitchen while Josh went to sit on the couch. Chyna returned to the living room and stripped out of her lingerie, giving Josh a show. He licked his lips before pulling her close to him. He kissed her lips softly, then deepened the kiss as he stuck his tongue down her throat.

Josh broke the kiss and used his tongue to lick the rest of her body until her leg was thrown over his shoulder. He sucked on her clit hungrily, waiting to taste her sweet nectar. He continued to devour her until she was cumming in his mouth.

Josh slid out of his boxers, and Chyna hovered over him as she slowly slid down onto his pole.

“Fuck,” Josh moaned as her wetness slid up and down his rod slowly. He held on to her waist to enjoy the feeling. They had not had sex since the day she went into labor. She had given him head a few times when he was horny, but she refused to have intercourse until she had her checkup and the birth control kicked in.

“This shit feels so damn good, baby,” Chyna cried as she picked up the pace. She counted to ride Josh’s dick like a rodeo. She was no longer pregnant, so she did not have to hold back. She held onto the couch and crashed her lips into his again.

“Shit, Chyna. You gon’ make me come, baby,” Josh groaned as he gripped her waist, trying to make her sit still, but that did not stop her. She picked the pace up even more until they both were cumming together. She jumped off his dick and placed him into her mouth, sucking out the remainder of his cum.

“Let us finish this in the bedroom,” Josh suggested as he grabbed her by the arm and led her into his room, where they went at it for two more rounds until they both tapped out. They were now laying in bed enjoy quality time together.

Josh lay down and pulled Chyna close to him. She had drained all his energy, and all he wanted to do was go to sleep. He was just about close his eyes when someone started beating on his door and ringing the doorbell at the same time.

“Who the hell is that?” Chyna asked, looking over at the clock. It was almost eleven at night.

“I don’t know, baby. Just stay here until I get back,” Josh said before climbing out of the bed. He grabbed a pair of jogging pants and put them on, then headed down the stairs. He looked through the peephole and debated on answering it or not.

“Josh, I know you’re in there. I saw you and your bitch fucking through the windows,” screamed Iesha.

“Iesha, take your ass home. It’s too late for you to be at my door acting crazy.”

“I said let... me... in...” Iesha screamed again.

“Yo, what the fuck is her problem?” Chyna asked as she walked into the living room with a tank top and pair of shorts on.

“I have no idea, but I should probably open it before the neighbors call the police,” Josh said before swinging the door open.

“I hate you, Josh. I hate you so much. You gave that bitch everything that you promised me, then you left me alone and broke. You told me you’d always be there for me,” Iesha cried as she punched him in the chest. Her punches did not hurt, so he stood there and took it.

“Iesha, if you hate me so much, why are you at my house? How the fuck were you even able to drive here? Your fucking eyes are barely open,” said Josh.

“I’m here because she’s the only thing coming between us. Once she is out of the picture, we can be happy again, and things will go back to normal. You got this bitch out here walking around here all mighty and shit like she is better than everyone. I hope she enjoyed that dick from you tonight because that’s going to be the last time she gets it,” ranted Iesha.

“What the fuck is that supposed to mean?” asked Josh.

“It means I’m going to kill that hoe tonight,” Iesha replied with a crazed look in her eyes before pulling a gun from her bag.

“Okay now, Iesha, you’re taking this shit too far. Put the gun away and let’s forget this even happened,” Josh stated, trying to reason with her.

Chyna took a step backward, and Iesha lifted the gun in Chyna’s direction, then put her finger on the trigger.

“I’m sorry it had to be like this,” Iesha mumbled before pulling the trigger twice. Chyna closed her eyes and waited for the steel to enter her body as the loud noise blared from the gun. The only thing was she never felt anything, so she opened her eyes and found Josh laying on the floor in the doorway.

“Shit! What have I done. What have I done? This is all your fault. It was supposed to be you,” Iesha cried as she looked down at Josh’s body. She began to pace back and forth like a crazy person. Chyna was scared that her son might have to grow up with neither of his parents all because of that deranged bitch.

Iesha lifted her gun at Chyna again just as police cars pulled up to the house. For the first time in her life, Chyna was happy that Josh’s nosy neighbors had interfered.

“Put the gun down, ma’am,” one of the officers called out.

Chyna tried to pay attention to what was going on with Iesha and the officer, but at the same time, she needed to check on Josh.

“Oh my God! Josh! Why did you do this?” Chyna cried as she dropped to her knees and pulled him close to her. She tried her best to find where the bullet holes were, but there was too much blood.

“I said put the gun down,” the officer screamed again. Iesha looked like she was debating on what to do, and the next thing she did was sent a shot

in Chyna's direction. Chyna ducked down further just in time. Next thing Chyna knew there were gunshots riddling Iesha's body.

"I'm sorry," Josh whispered.

"No, baby, don't be sorry. Everything is going to be alright. An ambulance is on their way. I need you to hold on. Me and your son need you. You can't do this to me," pleaded Chyna.

"It's too late, Chy. Kiss my son every day for me and let him know that his father loved him very much, You're strong, baby, and I want you to be happy no matter what." Josh coughed.

The tears ran down Chyna's face like a waterfall.

"No. You have to tell me this stuff later. The ambulance is pulling up right now. I love you so much," Chyna said as she tried to catch her breath.

"I love you more," Josh mumbled before closing his eyes.

"Nooooo," Chyna screamed before kissing Josh all over his face.

"Come on, Miss. You have to step back so that we can do our job," the paramedics said as they rushed in and put Josh on a stretcher.

"Do you have someone we can call for you?" the officer asked.

"Yeah. Can you call my brother," Chyna replied before reciting Rome's number to him.

Chyna sat staring into space as the officers repeatedly asked her the same questions over and over. She did not know how long she had been sitting there. Everything was starting to become a blur.

"Chyna, are you okay? Chyna, can you hear me?" Rome called out as he shook her repeatedly.

Chyna opened her mouth to talk, but the words would not come out.

"Yo, are y'all done here? She's clearly in shock, and y'all questioning her still," fumed Maddox.

Maddox was with Rome finishing up at the warehouse when the officer called. Even though he and Chyna barely spoke, he still insisted on being there to make sure she was good.

"Yes, we're done, but we'll be reaching out to her soon if we have any further questions," informed the officer.

"Yeah, that's fine," Maddox replied.

Rome ran upstairs to Josh's bedroom and grabbed a pair of pants and a shirt for Chyna. He helped dress her, then grabbed her phone off the table.

"We have to go to the hospital. He has to be alright," Chyna said just above a whisper.

“Okay, come on. We will sit with you and make sure everything is fine. We won’t leave you alone,” Rome assured his sister.

Once Chyna was dressed and had her phone and purse, they exited the house and headed to the hospital. Rome took Chyna’s phone and looked through it and called Tim. When they made it to the hospital, Chyna let them know who she was there for, then they sat in the waiting room. They set there for almost three hours before the doctor came out to speak with them.

“Hello, I’m Doctor Robinson. I performed the surgery on Mr. Wilson. He had a gunshot wound to the chest that pierced his heart and the other one was in his stomach. He also had a collapsed lung and internal bleeding. We were able to remove the bullets, and we did our best with trying to repair his heart, but there was just too much bleeding. We could not control it. I’m sorry. We did all we could.”

“Don’t say it. Please don’t say it,” cried Chyna once the doctor said the words that would make it true.

“He didn’t make it,” Doctor Robinson solemnly told them.

In that moment, Chyna felt like all the wind had left her body. Never in her life had she experienced such heartache. That night would forever be instilled in her mind because not only had she lost a great love, but she had lost the father of her firstborn. She would have to explain to him when he was older how his father was no longer there, and that thought alone broke Chyna even more. That was the worst night of her life, and she did not know how she would be able to come back from that.

EPILOGUE

PRESENT DAY

When Chyna finished telling Dr. Taylor her story, she sat up and grabbed the Kleenex to wipe her tears away. That was the first time that Chyna had told anyone everything that had happened that year. Especially about what happened the day she lost Josh. She looked in the direction of the doctor and saw that she was dabbing away at her own tears as well. She ended her story with Josh's death because that was what impacted her life the most and helped her become the woman that she was today.

"I'm sorry. I know it's not professional of me to show emotions, but I couldn't help it. You have to be the strongest woman I know to still be standing after enduring all of that heartache," said Dr. Taylor.

"Thank you. I'm learning to embrace it more. It was definitely a rough journey in the beginning," replied Chyna.

"That's understandable. I am simply happy that you were able to finally let it all out. You took a huge step in opening to me. I'll still be here if you feel there is anything else that you need to get off your chest in the future."

"I will be in touch with you to give you an update on how everything is going on with me. I also think it would be good for me and my fiancé to have joint therapy with you before we get married. I'll have to thank him for choosing such a down to earth therapist." Chyna smiled.

"Does that mean you're ready to set a date?" Dr. Taylor asked eagerly.

"Yes, ma'am. I want to tell him first though before I tell anyone else," replied Chyna.

"Well, I can't wait to see what date you picked."

Chyna and Dr. Taylor continued to talk for a few more minutes until Chyna's fiancé entered the living room.

"Hey, baby. I'm sorry to interrupt, but the guests will be here soon, and you still have to get ready."

"Okay, I won't intrude any longer. We were just finishing up anyway. I wish you two the best," Dr. Taylor stated sincerely as she stood from the chair with Chyna following behind her.

Chyna locked the door behind Dr. Taylor, then headed upstairs to her bedroom. She took a quick shower and wrapped a towel around her body before entering her bedroom. She moisturized her body and put on a baby-blue panty and bra set. She grabbed a pair of blue jean shorts from her drawer and a white half shirt. She finished getting dressed and applied a light coat of lip gloss.

"Mommy, everyone is here," Lil' Josh called out as he ran into his mother's arms.

"Okay, baby. Mommy will be down in a couple minutes."

"Alright." Her son beamed as he ran out of the room.

Chyna looked herself over in the mirror, then headed to the backyard, where her family was starting to gather. She greeted everyone with hugs and kisses before going to sit on her patio. She watched as the kids ran around the yard playing while the adults sat around playing cards and talking. Chyna really was not in the mood to do either. She was only glad to be in the presence of her loved ones.

"Hey, beautiful. How are you holding up?" Maddox asked as he leaned in and kissed her gently on the lips.

"I'm doing okay. Thank you for being so patient and understanding with me over the past few years."

"You don't have to thank me. I'm only glad that you were able to forgive me and give me a chance to love you the way I should have in the beginning," Maddox said sincerely.

Maddox had been there for Chyna ever since the day Josh died. He had stepped up to the plate and became a father figure in her son's life. Her son was only four, but he knew who his real father was. They made sure that would never be taken away from him. She did not make it easy for Maddox at all. She tried to push everyone away in the beginning, but they refused to allow her to fall into depression while she had a newborn baby. Her family

and friends took turns staying with her for the first few months until they felt she was stable enough to be on her own with the baby.

Chyna had let Maddox know off top not to wait for her because she was not ready to date anyone yet. He ignored her request and waited for her. He had let her go once, and he could never take that chance again. He knew that there was no one else that could love her the that she did since Josh was gone. It was his job to look out for Chyna and her baby. He felt that he owed her at least that much for what happened with Tess.

It took almost a year after Josh's death before Chyna agreed to go on a date with Maddox. After that, he continued to wine and dine her. He did everything that he should have done the first time when they got into a relationship. The relationship that had started to build was based on love and trust. It was a lot more than just a physical connection. They knew that they were truly in love that time around. A year after that, Maddox proposed to her, and they found out she was pregnant with their daughter shortly after. He thought that everything was great between them being that she agreed to marry him. However, time went on, and Chyna had given birth and never even mentioned the wedding not one time. He did not want to pressure her into picking one either, which was why he hired Dr. Taylor.

Maddox knew that Chyna still loved Josh, and he would never be able to replace him, but he had no intentions on doing so. He was secure enough to believe that there was room in her heart for both. He would never be an asshole and try to compete with a dead man, and neither would he try to compare himself to it. He just wanted to make sure that she agreed to marry him because she really wanted to and not just because she felt that was what he wanted.

"I have something to tell you, but first, I have to make my speech." Chyna smiled.

"Now why would you tell me that? Now you are going to have me anxious." Maddox laughed.

Chyna stood from her seat and turned the music down.

"Hey, can I have everyone's attention please? First, I would like to say thank you all for coming to be here with me today. You have turned one of the saddest days in my life into one of the brightest ones. Every year on this day, you all spend it with me. I feel the love from all of you, and it makes this day more bearable. You all help me get through it and helped me find a reason to smile. When Josh died four years ago, I did not know how I was

going to go on with my life. I had a two-month-old baby and was heartbroken, but with the help and love of all of you, I made it. I thank you all for being patient with me. I absolutely love all of you from the bottom of my heart.”

“We love you too, Chy,” all her family yelled out.

Chyna looked at everyone and smiled broadly. She would not replace her family for anything in the world.

Audrey and Rome were there with their two kids. Her niece and nephew had gotten so big, and they were extremely helpful with the younger kids in the family. Chloe and Nathan were also there with their two kids. Co-parenting with Kea was going great with them. They never had any issues with getting his daughter when he wanted her. Kea and Chloe were even cordial with each other. Chyna and Chloe’s relationship were also the best it had ever been. They had kept true to their word and made sure to continue to communicate with each other. Chloe started seeing a specialist, and after two years she was able to get pregnant with their son. Her parents were also there, and words could not explain how supportive they had been with her. They were there for her in more ways than she could count, even when they did not have to be. Finally, Bri and Tim were not together anymore, but they were the godparents to Lil’ Josh, so they were cordial with each other. Tim had also become a great friend and business partner of Chyna.

When Josh died, he left everything to Chyna and their son according to his lawyer. She put all the money into a bank account. As far as the streets went, Chyna allowed Tim to take over that. She did not want any parts of Josh’s street business. She did not know them, so she would never be able to trust them. She did, however, start up a few businesses to wash the money for that.

“Okay, you made your announcement. Now are you going to tell me what the big news is?” Maddox asked eagerly as he approached her.

Chyna turned and looked at Maddox.

“I know you thought that I was having doubts about us, but that’s not true. I just really needed to get in a good headspace. It was like I loved you, but my head and heart were never on the same path with you. I love the way you love on our kids and the way you treat my son as if he were yours. I love to watch the way you sit and talk to him about his father. That alone made me fall in love with the man you have become. I am ready to start

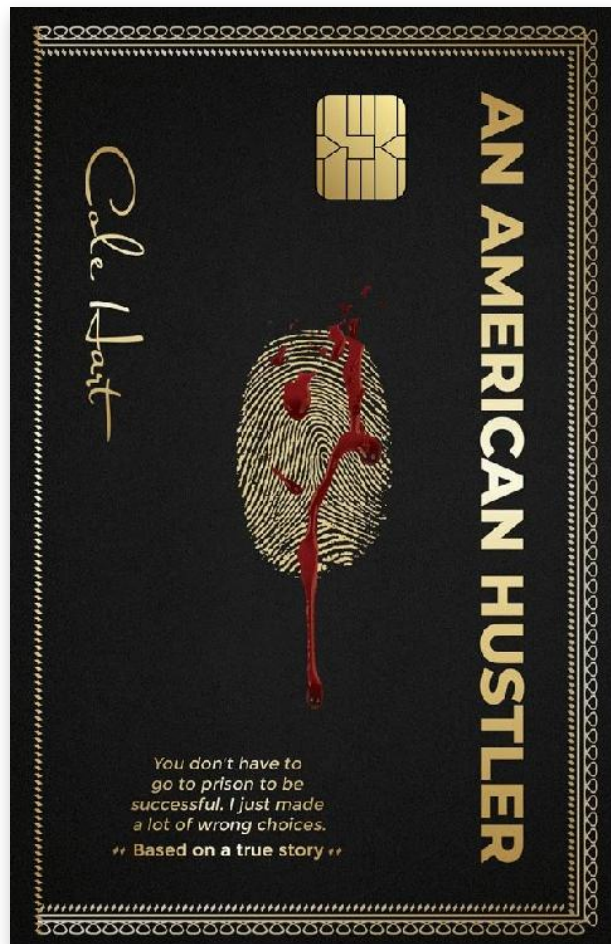
planning our wedding. Let us get married six months from now. It doesn't have to be anything extravagant. Just us and our closest family and friends."

"Shit, are you serious, baby? I'm so happy." Maddox smiled as he pulled Chyna into his arms and kissed her passionately on the lips.

Chyna finally felt complete. She had her friends, family, wealth, and good health. There was not anything else that she could ask for. Never did she think she would ever be happy again, but despite everything, it was possible, and she was the most grateful for that. She looked forward to what was in store for her life. She only expected things to prosper from that day forward.

The End

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