

MORGAINE'S LAW

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Episode 101

"Family"

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. HIP SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD, WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

Secret Service removes barricades, locals wait patiently.
This is the price of living minutes from 1600 Pennsylvania
Blvd.

EXT. ROWHOUSE STREET - DAY

MORGAINIE MITCHELL(50s) African American, yoga pants,
FLUSTERED. She juggles groceries and cleaning while trying to
close her SUV tailgate.

INT/EXT. ROW HOUSE PICTURE WINDOW - DAY

Mostly remodeled, contemporary furnishings, African and South
American art everywhere. Boxes and Law books line the floor.

MR. JOHNSTON(70s) grandfather, veteran, musician rolls up in
a wheelchair wearing a mean BERET. TABITHA(2) Morgaine's,
bright-eyed daughter, sits perfectly in his lap. They watch
Morgaine while a commercial for CIRQUE DU SOLEIL plays on the
television.

In walks CORRINE(32) caregiver for Mr. Johnston and Tabitha.
Off, off, Broadway actress with a bowl of popcorn.

Morgaine's FEAT reflects perfectly in the Row House Picture
window.

EXT. PICTURE WINDOW - DAY

WIDE ON a captivated Mr. Johnston, Tabitha, and Corrine.
Popcorn is passed around like Friday night at the Landmark.

ROCKY, the Boston Terrier leaps on the ledge. Crooked lip,
big eyes. He enjoys the view.

INT. PICTURE WINDOW - DAY

CORRINE
Best movie ever!

Mr. Johnston digs in the bowl for a hearty helping.

INTERCUT - ROWHOUSE STREET/TELEVISION - DAY

Morgaine juggles everything.

Cirque du Soleil prepares for a high wire juggling feat.

MUSIC BUILDS.

Morgaine nearly drops everything. Her crowd gasps.

Cirque du Soleil performs their Act from above, nearly dropping a performer. Their crowd gasps.

Morgaine finally gathers everything and closes the SUV.

MUSIC CRESCENDOS.

Cirque du Soleil gets a standing ovation for a superb Act.

Morgaine takes a breather and a figurative bow.

EXT. PICTURE WINDOW - DAY

Tabitha cheers, Mr. Johnston, is prideful, Corrine hates on her skills. Rocky looks for loose popcorn.

EXT. MAILBOX - DAY

Morgaine adjusts the "MITCHELL LAW" temporary label. She feels accomplished.

She walks up the stairs with confidence, only to watch her groceries roll down the stairs from broken bags.

She belts a cynical laugh and talks to herself.

MORGAINÉ

The only thing missing is a bird
with a good aim.

A shirtless and bright smiling ARMAND(30s) stops to assist.

Morgaine is smitten, she contains herself. The cool breeze stimulates her nipples. She attempts to cover them while picking up the items.

ARMAND

Let me give you a hand!

Her eyes lock on his sweaty sculptured chest for quick BEAT.

MORGAINE

It's okay, I have it.

ARMAND

Nonsense, that wouldn't be
gentleman like!

Morgaine hides baby wipes in her purse. Armand gathers the rest of her things.

He hands her a huge, curved cucumber.

She makes a comparison between his running shorts and the cucumber.

SEX DREAM SEQUENCE STARTS.

Morgaine rides Armand reverse cowgirl. She's in control and loving every inch of him.

SEX DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS.

Morgaine thinks about the possibility.

MORGAINE

NOPE!

Morgaine quickly snatches the cucumber and dashes for the door fighting off temptation.

Armand is speechless and feeling dry humped.

INT. ROWHOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Morgaine drops everything and pants to calm herself.

CLOSE ON Morgaine twisting the door handle back and forth, she fights the urge to go back outside.

Her family comes to the rescue.

MR. JOHNSTON

You look like a tomato!

CORRINE

Something's got a hold of her.

Morgaine spots an empty shower fixture box on the floor. Corrine sees it too.

CORRINE (CONT'D)
They finished the upstairs shower
yesterday.

Morgaine kisses Tabitha before stomping her way up the stairs
like a kid.

MR. JOHNSTON
Where you going?

MORGAINNE
I'm going - to take - a shower!

Mr. Johnston is confused.

MR. JOHNSTON
You just got home?

Mr. Johnston and Tabitha roll away confused, Corrine knows
precisely what's on her mind.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Morgaine sips on a perfect glass of Merlot while admiring past accomplishments hanging on the wall.

Mr. Johnston is quietly perched in the doorway. His eyes are filled with a Father's concern.

She senses him and pours another glass.

MORGAINE
Join in the festivities.

MR. JOHNSTON
What are we celebrating?

MORGAINE
Living. Breathing.

She hands him the glass.

MR. JOHNSTON
Cheers!

Mr. Johnston smacks his tongue from the bitter taste.

Morgaine laughs.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)
What is this, bark?

MORGAIN
You are supposed to sip it like
this, Neanderthal Man.

Morgaine demonstrates.

MR. JOHNSTON
Sipping. Holding your nose. None of
that's going to help.

Mr. Johnston pulls a FLASK from his wheelchair pocket.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)
Now this right here, Mississippi
fine spirit company.

MORGAINE

I don't think you and your friends running a Steel in the middle of the woods, constitutes a legitimate business.

He offers.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

And who's driving me to the hospital?

She declines.

MR. JOHNSTON

Best batch in years?

She has a second thought and swallows her last.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Bottoms up!

She slaps on her chest from the burning sensation.

MORGAINE

How can you drink this crap?

MR. JOHNSTON

Removes paint. Great for the joints, and telling lies.

He laughs. She chokes. She laughs. They laugh together.

MORGAINE

You think!

Mr. Johnston changes his tone.

MR. JOHNSTON

You've come a long way. I know he's watching proudly over you.

Morgaine picks up a West Point Academy photo of her deceased husband, FRANK(30s).

MORGAINE

So much promise and opportunity. He had a lifetime ahead of him. What could he have seen in this old lady?

MR. JOHNSTON

Everything you and the world choose
not to see. I see it, he saw it
too. Strength, intelligence, and a
good heart. You are so much like
your mother.

MORGAINE

Life ain't fair.

MR. JOHNSTON

It is what it is. You would do
yourself good to stop thinking so
hard.

MORGAINE

I wish there was a line you could
stand in and get all the gut
punches at once.

MR. JOHNSTON

Everybody stumbles. Keep getting
back up. After a while, it's just
muscle memory. You got the best
muscles in the game, use them!

MORGAINE

Maybe I'm a little more you, then
Momma.

Mr. Johnston's eyes GLISTEN over.

MR. JOHNSTON

Cheers!

He takes one to the head.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

That's smooth.

Morgaine gets SENTIMENTAL, Mr. Johnston changes the subject.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Bet you didn't know, they gave you
a nickname at the nursing home.

MORGAINE

I'll bite. What do they call me?

MR. JOHNSTON

Killer Cougar!

MORGAINE

There's nothing funny about that.

MR. JOHNSTON
Yeah, there actually is.

Morgaine takes another sip.

MORGAINE
Thanks for moving in, it really
means the world.

MR. JOHNSTON
I was tired of all those old women
coming on to me. What's a Player to
do?

Mr. Johnston digs in his wheelchair pocket.

MORGAINE
That's disgusting. I'm not taking
condoms from my Father.

MR. JOHNSTON
Just in case.

MORGAINE
I won't be needing that anytime
soon.

Mr. Johnston checks an alert on his phone and makes a quick
maneuver for the door.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)
Where you going?

MR. JOHNSTON
Silver Singles!

MORGAINE
Silver Singles?

MR. JOHNSTON
I ain't dead yet!

Morgaine laughs and shakes her head.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Corrine makes Cubans and Coffee. Mr. Johnston feeds and SERENADES Tabitha with his freshly polished Trumpet.

Morgaine enters wearing a POWER suit and tight bun. She struggles with her earring back.

MORGAINE

Morning!

She kisses Tabitha, barely missing her sticky SWEET POTATO fingers. Morgaine dodges Mr. Johnston's horn twirling. Tabitha strategically prepares to place her hands on Morgaine - she misses.

MR. JOHNSTON

My baby, back in the saddle again.

CORRINE

She's casket clean.

Mr. Johnston gives her the "too soon" eye.

CORRINE (CONT'D)

My bad!

MORGAINE

(to Corrine)

Do you think you could stay a little later tonight, maybe even sleep over?

Morgaine still struggles with the earring back. She feeds Rocky.

CORRINE

Mr. J and I already know it's your big day.

MORGAINE

Thanks.

CORRINE

You need something on your stomach.

Corrine hands her a Cuban.

MORGAINE

I haven't had one of these in years. Smells incredible.

Morgaine savors the sandwich and memories.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)
I feel like the new kid on the
block.

CORRINE
Breathe deep.

Corrine DEMONSTRATES. Tabitha laughs. Morgaine repeats it.
She takes a second look at Corrine's outfit.

MORGAINE
Didn't you have that on yesterday?

Corrine searches for words to explain.

The Kitchen Sink pipes knock and squeal.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)
Can you call -

CORRINE
I'm calling the contractor now!

Corrine grabs her phone. She and Mr. J lock eyes, feeling
relieved about her secret.

Tabitha cheers at her sweet potato high chair art work.
Morgaine sends love to her from afar.

Corrine makes Mr. Johnston's coffee.

MR. JOHNSTON
Make her a special one.

MORGAINE
Hold the Irish! I'll take a
regular, although a little nip
might not be so bad.

She gives up on the earring.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)
Maybe I'm still weirded out by last
night's conversation.

Mr. Johnston laughs.

Tabitha reaches for Morgaine's back again and misses. She
gives her some baby talk and encourages her to eat.

The Kitchen Sink pipes knock and squeal LOUDER.

Rocky is frightened, he DARTS past Morgaine and out the doggie door.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

ROCKY!

Morgaine turns the Sink Faucet on and off until the squealing stops.

CORRINE

I'll check on him.

MORGAINE

Please.

Corrine follows Rocky outside.

Mr. Johnston waves Morgaine over and adjusts her earring.

MR. JOHNSTON

This reminds me of your first day
in school, you were so nervous.

Daddy comes thru with the earring save.

MORGAINE

Thanks for being my Rock.

MR. JOHNSTON

You're my favorite daughter.

MORGAINE

I'm your only daughter!

MR. JOHNSTON

That's why your my favorite.

Morgaine kisses Tabitha. Mr. Johnston notices a "terrible two" look in Tabitha's eyes.

Morgaine turns to reveal a sweet potato handprint on her skirt. Mr. Johnston doesn't have the heart.

Tabitha claps at her ARTWORK.

MORGAINE

Wish me luck!

Morgaine grabs her coffee and walks out, ready to conquer the day.

Corrine and Rocky walk back in.

CORRINE
You ready for another cup?

MR. JOHNSTON
I didn't drink any.

Corrine has the DEER CAUGHT IN LIGHTS look.

CORRINE
I left your cup right here.

CLOSE ON container of powdered laxative.

Mr. Johnston and Corrine realize Morgaine has the wrong cup of coffee.

Tabitha cheers and claps.

INT. COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR UP - DAY

Morgaine is a Sardine can of dark suits. QUINN(30s) fake breasts, spray tan, nasally, eyeballs her from the rear.

Quinn adjusts her girls, bleached hair, and applies a long spray of Perfume.

A few Passengers cough and sneeze.

Morgaine spots Quinn's reflection in the elevator door. Anxiety kicks in. One more floor to go.

Quinn makes her way toward's the front.

QUINN
MORGAINES - I thought that was you.
How are you, honey?

Quinn serves up fake air kisses.

MORGAINES
Hi Quinn.

QUINN
You're practicing again - I
couldn't believe they fired you.
Damn shame, we girls have to stick
together.

Quinn throws SHADE and spills the TEA. Quinn's voice is irritating to everyone.

MORGAINE

I wasn't fired, I resigned. My choice.

QUINN

Still fighting the good fight. No clients, and working all those hours Pro-Bono just to get a name in this town -- you still single?

MORGAINE

Widow.

QUINN

I'm so sorry, and he was super young and really good looking. Any kids?

MORGAINE

Ye -

Quinn interrupts and shows off.

QUINN

- Here are Alex and Asia - twins. This picture was taken before Oliver made Partner.

Morgaine peeps her perfect dollar store framed family photo. She spills some Tea of her own.

MORGAINE

I didn't know you were still servicing Oliver!

QUINN

Excuse me?

The Peanut Gallery chuckles.

MORGAINE

Helping him with his clients?

QUINN

Yes, as much as I can. These days it's more about drinks with the girls at the club and being there when Oliver calls. He's so busy, but he keeps me happy.

Quinn flashes a brilliant diamond wedding ring.

MORGAINE

I'm very happy for you.

CLOSE ON Morgaine hides her plain wedding band behind her back.

Last stop, the Sardines are loose.

QUINN

We should do lunch sometime, you've got guts.

Quinn spots a friend.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Chow!

Morgaine feels the Bubble Guts coming on.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

A group of LADIES wave from down the hall, Morgaine waves back. She grabs her stomach, the BUBBLE GUTS are working overtime. She B-lines to the restroom.

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

A CLEANING LADY wipes down the sink and pinches her nose. A Stravinsky composed orchestra plays from the stall. The cleaning lady is pissed off.

INT. STALL - DAY

Morgaine tries to HOVER over the toilet, but the explosions are too much. She gives in, the cleaning lady gives up.

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

CLEANING LADY

HELL NAH! - I ain't getting paid enough for this.

She bolts out, leaving her cart and smock behind.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Morgaine takes a breath and gathers her nerves.

GLORIA WHITECLOUD(30s) walks up. Medical scrubs, traditional NATIVE AMERICAN Bracelet, Coal-black hair past her waist.

She gently places her hand on Morgaine's arm.

GLORIA

My grandmother would like to thank
you.

Gloria points out her GRANDMOTHER and the Native American
Nurses Association.

INT. COURTHOUSE BENCH - DAY

GRANDMOTHER(101) dressed in traditional Monacan Tribe garb
and two braids, she needs help to stand.

Grandmother smiles and places a BEADED BRACELET on Morgaine's
wrist.

GLORIA

It's for strength!

Morgaine stands taller in her purpose.

INT. ROW HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Morgaine saunters in and drops her briefcase, coat, and heels
on the floor.

She rolls her neck and stretches out the long day.

A television light flickers from the rear SUN PORCH.

INT. SUNPORCH - NIGHT

Morgaine gently picks up a sound asleep Tabitha from the
cradle. She adjusts Mr. Johnston's blanket and removes
popcorn from Corrine's lap. Morgaine pays special attention
to Corrine's WORN SHOES on the floor.

Morgaine turns off the television, Mr. Johnston wakes.

MR. JOHNSTON

Must have been a hell of a day?

MORGAINNE

Actually, the opposite.

MR. JOHNSTON

Really?

MORGAINNE

I spent almost an hour in the
bathroom. By the way, thanks for
the coffee.

MR. JOHNSTON

By the time we figured it out, you were already gone.

Morgaine snuggles and admires Tabitha.

MORGAINE

My client, or should I say, clients, were a dozen nurses from a Monacan Native American Tribe. One of the elders, a beautiful old woman, gave me this. It's for strength.

Morgaine shows off her Beaded Bracelet.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

They fixed me up and got me in front of the Judge. They were so impressed that they offered me the chance to represent all matters concerning the Nurse's Association.

MR. JOHNSTON

Mitchell Law is officially open for business.

MORGAINE

I can't thank you enough.

MR. JOHNSTON

It's what daddy's do.

Mr. Johnston picks up an empty cup from the floor, he frantically looks around.

MR. JOHNSTON (CONT'D)

Have you seen my dentures?

Morgaine looks over at Rocky in the corner, nestled up with Mr. Johnston's dentures.

She smirks a little payback.

MORGAINE

I'll help you look in the morning.
Night!

He gums a goodnight.

MR. JOHNSTON

Goodnight, baby girl.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Morgaine gently closes Tabitha's bedroom door. A partially opened closet door catches her eye.

Morgaine struggles to close the door. The top portion comes off the hinges. Another repair went wrong. Unfamiliar items fall on the floor. She recognizes a sweatshirt with a DRAMA LOGO.

She thinks, then takes it with her.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

A gentle knock at the front door. Two blurred faces appear thru the stained glass.

EXT. ROW HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

FREE and BIRD(70s) throwback hippies in Tie Dye pajamas and dispensary aromas. The NEXT DOOR neighbors.

Something bulges from Bird's POCKET.

MORGAINE

Everything okay?

FREE

We're fine. We wanted to see how your first day went.

BIRD

Checking on you.

MORGAINE

That's sweet. It was a little rocky at first, but very soon afterward, things were back on track.

BIRD

Real cool.

Morgaine senses more, Free is hesitant to say.

MORGAINE

Your sure there's nothing wrong?

FREE

We may need your services for a small Dispensary issue.

BIRD

A glitch.

Free hands Morgaine a cease and desist order from the State.

MORGAINÉ

I didn't know it was legal.

FREE

That's the issue.

BIRD

Tiny.

Morgaine smiles at their NAIVETÉ.

MORGAINÉ

Let's talk tomorrow IN THE
AFTERNOON. I'll see what I can do.

FREE

Always the best.

Morgaine senses something else.

Bird removes a beautifully carved MITCHELL LAW sign and hands it to Free.

FREE (CONT'D)

We don't have a lot of money.

Morgaine is MOVED. She notices burned stains on the back.

BIRD

We needed something to roll on, we
have plenty if -

MORGAINÉ

- Thank you, it's beautiful and No!

Free leans into Morgaine's ear.

FREE

The walls are a little thin.

Free and Bird are very comfortable with being sexually active Seniors.

MORGAINÉ

I'm a sound sleeper.

Free smiles. Bird sticks out his chest.

FREE
Goodnight sweetie.

MORGAINE
Night.

BIRD
Peace.

INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Morgaine is enamored by the Law sign. She talks to Frank's picture.

MORGAINE
I hope I'm making you proud.

Pipes knock inside the walls.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)
I'll take that as a yes.

Morgaine enjoys a pleasant moment.

Corrine BURSTS in the room.

CORRINE
Something's wrong with Mr. J!

Morgaine drops everything. Corrine notices her DRAMA LOGO sweatshirt on the chair.

INT. VA HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Morgaine leans over an unconscious Mr. Johnston. She rubs his head and shares her childhood memories.

MORGAINE
I remember Momma making those homemade hamburgers with onions and green peppers on white bread. It was so soggy, you could barely hold it long enough to eat. You knew I was mad and how much I hated it. All my friends were eating McDonald's burgers, fries, and chocolate shakes. I was so embarrassed. But you told me that one day I'd understand. You were right!

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

She poured all her love into that
burger, just like you do for every
day.

Tears flow.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

You've survived so much. I know I'm
selfish, I need you to see that all
those sacrifices made a difference.

NURSE BETTY(60s) Dianne Carol type walks in with an
encouraging disposition.

BETTY

Morning! Let's bring some sunshine
in here.

MORGAINE

Goodmorning.

Betty opens the blinds, and hands Morgaine a tissue box.

BETTY

How did you sleep?

MORGAINE

Barely.

BETTY

I keep telling them we should get
rollaway beds.

Nurse Betty checks Mr. Johnston's vitals and adds medicine to
his drip.

BETTY (CONT'D)

This will keep him resting
comfortably.

MORGAINE

Did his tests come back?

BETTY

The doctor will be in shortly -
here THEY are now!

In walks DR. PAGE(50s) Heart Surgeon and DR. ELLIS(50s)
Neurosurgeon.

DR. PAGE

Good morning, and how is Mr.
Johnston doing?

BETTY

All vitals are good.

Dr. Page checks his digital chart and reads the vitals machine for himself.

Betty double checks Mr. Johnston's connections.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Would you like a coffee?

MORGAINE

Cream and sugar, please.

BETTY

I'll be right back, excuse me.

DR. PAGE

I've asked my colleague here because we've discovered something about your Father.

Morgaine braces for the worst.

MORGAINE

Okay?

Dr. Ellis explains with the digital X-ray.

DR. ELLIS

This mass here is the reason for your Father's paralysis.

MORGAINE

I don't understand.

DR. ELLIS

It's a bullet fragment. We believe if it were to be removed -

MORGAINE

My daddy could walk?

Dr. Ellis looks at Dr. Page for confirmation.

DR. ELLIS

There are no guarantees. He'll have to go thru therapy to build and strengthen his legs, but yes - there is an excellent chance.

MORGAINE

I thought it was a heart attack?

DR. PAGE

Your dad suffered a very mild version. We found some blockage and cleared it up with medication. We still want to place the old stents -

DR. ELLIS

- Mr. Johnston has been on the list for some time.

MORGAINE

What list?

DR. PAGE

Surgery. He wanted to have the fragment removed years ago.

Dr. Ellis shows her on the iPad. Morgaine stares confused and unsure.

DR. PAGE (CONT'D)

We're confident we can replace the stents, and remove the fragment in the same surgery.

MORGAINE

This is a lot, all at once. I need to think about it.

DR. PAGE

Of course. Take your time, it's a difficult decision. We'll check back in on you later.

Nurse Betty walks in with coffee. Morgaine is heavy in thought.

BETTY

Lucky for you, I had some French Vanilla stashed away.

Nurse Betty tries to lighten the mood and Morgaine's emotional load. She's up close and personal.

BETTY (CONT'D)

He's in good hands.

MORGAINE

That type of surgery at his age seems chancy.

BETTY

I meant a different set of hands.

CLOSE ON Nurse Betty's Cross hanging from her neck.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Watching you, let me know the kind of man he is. The way you care for him. Your thoughtful, kind, intelligent, and obviously the apple in his eye.

Morgaine grins from ear to ear.

MORGAINE

I'm sure he trusts any decision you make on his behalf. Just make sure you make it from here.

Nurse Betty points to Morgaine's heart.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

I appreciate the kind words.

BETTY

You're exhausted. Go home, get some sleep. If anything changes, I'll call you myself.

MORGAINE

I don't want to leave him alone.

BETTY

Look around! He's not alone.

Morgaine watches the Nurses and Doctors hard at work.

MORGAINE

Thank you. For everything.

BETTY

See you tomorrow.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Morgaine agonizes, taking off her clothes, exhausted. She checks her phone to make sure it works properly.

Corrine politely knocks.

MORGAINE

You don't have to knock.

CORRINE

Tabitha did well taking her bath.
After that, she was out like a
light.

MORGAINE

Thanks for staying and helping out.

CORRINE

Mr. J is my guy. Anything I can do
around here.

Morgaine is emotionally distracted. Corrine searches for
words.

CORRINE (CONT'D)

Are you hungry, I made Lasagna?

MORGAINE

Dad's favorite.

CORRINE

I'm sorry - I wasn't thinking.

Corrine is flustered. Morgaine pats her a seat on the bed.

MORGAINE

C'mon. It's okay - sit!

CORRINE

I was right there, and I couldn't
help him.

MORGAINE

There was nothing you could have
done. Grabbing me, calling 911. You
did exactly what you were supposed
to.

CORRINE

Mr. J, Tabs, Rocky. You guys are my
family.

Morgaine turns to her and opens up.

MORGAINE

Then why not come to me?

CORRINE

About what?

MORGAINE

You've been wearing the same clothes for the past couple of days.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

Then I find your personal belongings stuffed in the hall closet.

Corrine finally fesses up.

CORRINE

I didn't want to bother you with my personal problems. I'm just your employee -

MORGAINE

- Listen! We have passed that point, obviously. Family is not just about blood relationships. It's about people coming together in difficult times. It's about those same people coming out on the other side, better than before. You're a part of that.

Corrine tears a bit. Morgaine speaks with conviction.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

I already spoke to the contractor, they'll have the back bedroom finished by the end of the week. Until then, you'll have to make do on the couch.

CORRINE

Are you sure?

MORGAINE

It's going to be really busy around here for a while. Tabitha, Dad, my Practice. You think you can hang?

CORRINE

Of course. Any word on when Mr. J will be coming home?

MORGAINE

They want to operate on his back, some procedures that may help him walk again.

CORRINE

Walk! You scared?

MORGAINE

Terrified. He's been on this surgery list for years, I had no idea. Daddy has always been a strong and confident man, but what if he could walk again?

Corrine delivers some unexpected and profound words.

CORRINE

I was ten when my granddaddy fell sick. He worked in the Mills most of his life after the Army. He was ten feet tall. At least that's how he appeared to me. Never told me he loved me, not that I can remember. But he showed me every day. I remember standing on the side of his bed while he struggled to breathe. I told him how much I loved him, and he didn't have to hold on any longer. I just needed him to know that I would be okay no matter what.

Rocky jumps on the bed and cuddles with Morgaine.

CORRINE (CONT'D)

I don't know if that helps. No matter what you decide - just be okay. Mr. J would want that for you.

MORGAINE

That means a lot.

CORRINE

Family is not just about blood relationships. Got that from someone I really admire.

They hug it out like Sisters.

Pipes in the walls knock.

MORGAINE

Maybe we'll look for another contractor.

They laugh it off.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Morgaine, Corrine, and Tabitha sit patiently in the waiting room. Nurse Betty points out Morgaine to Armand. He's dressed in a Physical Therapist's uniform and a support belt.

Morgaine and Armand make eye contact. Her eyes smile.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Title card: **THREE MONTHS LATER**

INT. ROWHOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Armand rolls Mr. Johnston inside a packed house filled with cheering family and neighbors.

Mr. Johnston has a surprise.

ARMAND

Ready?

MR. JOHNSTON

No better time.

Armand places him in the middle of the floor, pushing everyone back to give Mr. J, room.

Mr. Johnston slowly puts one leg down, then the other. He stands wobbly, then completely upright.

Tabitha breaks from Morgaine's hand to help Mr. J.

TABITHA

Poppa!

Morgaine gasps with joy. Tears of disbelief fall from every eye as Mr. Johnston walks side by side with Tabitha.

The party is really lit now!

INT/EXT ROW HOUSE - NIGHT

Morgaine and Armand passionately kiss goodnight.

ARMAND

I could stay over.

Morgaine fights the temptation.

MORGAINE

Goodnight!

Another passionate kiss for the road.

INT. MORGAINE'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

In pajamas and earbuds, Morgaine finishes a self-healing Podcast.

THUMPING sounds penetrate the walls. Free and Bird are having sex again. Morgaine is aroused.

MORGAINE

Three times?

Morgaine grabs her phone and opens Armand's number.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

Gotta stay strong!

She contemplates as the thumping continues. She places her hand between her legs.

MORGAINE (CONT'D)

I'm not sleeping anytime soon.

INT. HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

Morgaine checks Tabitha's, Dad's, and Corrine's room. A sense of ease rests on her face as she watches her family sleep.

INT. FRONT ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Morgaine peruses court documents and drinks coffee. There's a gentle knock at the front door. She double checks the time and approaches the door, thinking of her neighbors.

MORGAINE

Free and Bird with these late-night visits!

Morgaine opens the door, STUNNED to meet her husband's identical twin WILL(30s) scruffy, Carhartts and work boots.

Morgaine passes out cold.

END OF EPISODE