

Miyah+Aaliyah

Miyah

Miyah works at the jewelry store in one of the busiest malls in her city. Her customers were often middle aged and middle to high class people. Miyah usually sees kids from her school at the mall but never acknowledges them because she is a bit of an introvert. Since she moved schools so often, due to her mother's job she never really made genuine connections with people.

Her parents moved around a lot for work but everywhere they moved to Miyah kept a part-time job. She never really thought about college or getting a job that actually paid well, she relied mainly on her above minimum wage paycheck. When kids at her school talked about college, Miyah didn't put her two cents in the conversation. She often would stay quiet unless someone asked "Miyah how about you, have you applied to any schools yet?" Miyah would lie her way out of that question.

"I've applied to NYU and Columbia," Miyah would say this every time knowing that she wasn't going to be at that particular school for long, so the kids wouldn't be able to ask a follow up question when acceptance letters came out. Miyah would change up the universities that she said as she moved from school to school.

Miyah always thought about moving out as soon as she turned 18 but what did Miyah look like living on her own, she couldn't even afford her expenses throughout the week. Her parents weren't any help either. Kevin, her stepdad, was the worst. He never did anything for anyone but would sit around all day verbally abusing their mother. Tia, Miyah's mother, was her best friend. Despite Tia being in a toxic relationship with Kevin she still managed to keep a relationship with her daughters.

The moment Miyah saw Kevin physically abuse Tia was the moment that she knew that she had to get out of that house no matter what. One night in particular, Miyah had just come back from work and her parents were arguing as usual. Miyah carefully listened to her parents arguing from her room, sitting by the vent under her big window, breathing as steadily as she possibly could. She always listened to make sure that it hadn't got physical but this time she had a gut feeling telling her that she should leave her room and break up the argument. So Miyah put socks on and slowly started opening her door. Her door creaked open as she tiptoed through the fluffy rug in their long, dim hallway. As she walked through the hallway she could smell the lasagna her mom had made for dinner that night. As she walked through the quiet hallway, the yelling got more intense. She quietly sat at the top of the steps debating whether she should go completely down and end the argument. "YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME OR MY KIDS," Tia screamed at Kevin, but it seemed like he had tuned her out completely. "Are you even listening to what I'm saying any more?" Kevin looked around the dining room as if he had never seen it before. Miyah was nervous sitting at the top of the steps because Kevin was known for doing crazy things while arguing with Tia. Kevin slowly walked up to Tia taking small steps at a time and reaching his hand out to grab Tia's wrist. As he went to grab her wrist she put her hand behind her. Kevin stopped for a moment. Instead of going with his original plan he decided that he needed to become more aggressive. Miyah was still listening from the steps until she heard a loud thud. She quickly ran down the stairs where she saw her mom in the dining room with a little cut on her upper thigh. She knew Kevin had pushed Tia into their huge glass table that had little cracks on the corner. The cracks were from the last time Kevin and Tia had gotten into an argument and Kevin slammed a hammer down on the table. Miyah quickly got her mom to the couch and then saw Aaliyah hiding.

Aaliyah

Aaliyah was the annoying little sister that you would see in movies. She was a social butterfly unlike Miyah. For obvious reasons none of her friendships really lasted long but she was pleased to have more friends than her sister. “Why don't you have any friends?” Aaliyah asked Miyah one day as they walked in the house.

“Why do you care?” Miyah said while dropping her school bag down next to the shoe rack and taking her shoes off. Aaliyah couldn't think fast enough of a valid reason for why she cared if Miyah had friends or not.

After school, Aaliyah would meet Miyah at the bus stop and they would get on the bus together. They would then get off the bus and walk about 10 minutes to get home. The nights that Tia and Kevin fought, Aaliyah often stayed in her room. She had a nice set up that was very comforting and helped her cope with her anxiety. Tia never did anything to help Aaliyah, although, one time she took her to a therapist and let's just say that it didn't work out too well.

During lunch one day at school, Aaliyah was sitting with her group of friends as they talked about their siblings moving out soon. Aaliyah never wanted to talk about Miyah moving out because she knew that it would be scary at home without her. What would Aaliyah do when Tia was arguing with Kevin or how would Kevin treat Aaliyah? Later that day when Miyah and Aaliyah finally got a moment to sit down on the living room couch, Aaliyah asked “Are you going to move out when you turn 18?”

“I'm not sure,” Miyah said seemingly surprised at the question. “I want to but I don't know if it would be the best option,” Miyah continued. Aaliyah was quiet but Miyah could tell that she was anxious because she was twirling the ends of her curly hair, getting tangled by the

second. Miyah knew the circumstances of her moving out but she didn't want to give Aaliyah that much information.

Miyah

Miyah just got in from work on a Saturday night. As she walked in the house she realized that it was pretty quiet in the house. Usually she would walk in and the living room tv would be on with Kevin and Aaliyah sitting on the couch while Tia was in the kitchen cooking or cleaning up from dinner. She carefully walked upstairs yelling out “MOM,” but nobody responded. She noticed that Kevin's phone was still there and he had gotten a text from a number that seemed to be another woman. Miyah couldn't open the text so instead she waited for him to get home to ask about it.

About 15 minutes later, Kevin and Tia walked in the door. Miyah asked “Hey where have you guys been?”

“We took your sister over to her friend's house for the night,” Tia said in a mellow tone. Miyah nodded and watched Kevin walk into the living room without saying a word. Miyah walked into the living room right behind Kevin while still holding his phone in her right hand. Kevin looked her up and down.

“Is that my phone?” Kevin asked with a stern look on his face.

“Are you cheating on my mother?” Miyah asked knowing he would get irritated quickly.

“Give me my phone, you have no right to ask me that question,” Kevin says

“You've been cheating on my mother this whole time, I knew you were a bad person but gosh,” Miyah said shaking

“GET OUT MY HOUSE,” Kevin yelled.

Miyah knew she was unwanted in that house. Her own mother didn't even come in to stop the fight or even defend her. Miyah threw his phone across the room and decided to go get her stuff and leave.

Aaliyah

The next day Aaliyah came home and saw all of Miyah's stuff down stairs and Miyah loading everything into her car. "What's going on?"

"I'm leaving, I'm unwanted in this house so why would I stay?" Miyah says with a little bit of attitude.

After Miyah says bye to her mother and Aaliyah, Aaliyah is worried for Miyah's safety and her future.

"Where are you going?" Aaliyah says while standing by Miyah's car.

Immediately after she hears Aaliyah, Miyah says, "I'm moving away from here and never coming back."

Aaliyah feels defeated and speechless. "So you're just going to leave me here?"

Miyah kept quiet for a moment then finally after about 10 seconds of silence said "I'll come and get you as soon as I am able to, be good and take care of mom," Miyah said as she turned on her car and drove away.

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