

KATY POLKOVICH

Well there we have it folks. Blake Spade, author of the latest best selling book "Freedom Voices"...

Michelle storms off towards the elevators.

8 INT/EXT ELEVATORS 8

She presses the up button of the elevator a few times before the button illuminates. Nervously, she twists her wedding ring around her finger as she waits. She stares, her eyes cold. One of the elevators DING. Michelle jerks out of her glare and looks towards the available elevator. The doors open. Michelle wipes the tears falling down her cheek and struts inside. Her hand reaches for the floor buttons, and the doors close.

9 INT. SHARED OFFICE 9

People are at work in a large shared space divided by cubicles. Men and women dressed in business attire walk to and from their desks, talk on the phone to customers and amongst each other. Michelle walks into the room and down the center walk way.

9A INT. BRITTANY'S CUBICLE 9A

Along the center walkway is BRITTANY (20's) cubicle. She's putting away a few documents when Michelle walks up towards and past her cubicle. She's messy so she eyes her as she walks past her.

9B INT. SHAYLA'S CUBICLE 9B

Right next to Brittany's cubicle is SHAYLA (30's) cubicle. She scrolls through an article on her laptop while sitting at her desk. Shayla glances up and catches Michelle walking past her.

SHAYLA

Pssstt...

Michelle stops and turns around. She spots Shayla and instantaneously begin fixing her collar.

MICHELLE

Shay... hey...

Shay gazes up at Michelle joyfully.

SHAYLA

Just the woman I wanted to see! You just gettin here?

MICHELLE

Yeah I was running a bit behind. Blake didn't take Aidan to school like he promised. So, yeah... what's up?

SHAYLA

Well, I just wanted to welcome you back homegirl (beat) and ask for a lil favor.

Michelle rolls her eyes.

MICHELLE

I knew it, what's up?

SHAYLA

I have a date and wanted to know if you could watch Caleb for me around 6 tonight.

Michelle stares aimlessly across the room -- giving it some thought for a moment.

MICHELLE

It's been a while since I seen my God son so (shrugs) sure. I'll watch him.

SHAYLA

Yay! Thanks friend! You bout to get in and get to work?

MICHELLE

Yep only after I strangle that husband of mine though.

Shayla's playful gaze flicks upward.

SHAYLA

Oh God, please don't beat him down in front of everybody on your first day back. We should all just try being happy.

Michelle, from zero to a hundred, because who hates her feelings being invalidated, she does.

MICHELLE

How?! How could I be happy when I'm constantly belittled, unacknowledged, not credited for my work and married to Blake.

SHAYLA

Damn, what happened now?

MICHELLE

I was so excited about Blake crediting me for my work in Freedom Voices and --

SHAYLA

(Gasps) Oh my God girl you wrote that?

MICHELLE

Girl Blake could never -- yeah I wrote it, but I didn't get the credit for it (beat) Jessica did.

SHAYLA

But ain't your credit in that check?
(beat)
You wrote another successful book! You should be proud... and paid. Hell proud to be paid. Nothing else matters. People would kill for the life and career that you got. Never forget that.

MICHELLE

It may not matter to you, but I want more than just money that just goes back to life, bills, and mortgages --

Shayla leans dramatically in her seat.

SHAYLA

Damn...big daddy Blake can't take care of the bills all by himself?

Michelle SIGHS and subtly drops her head.

MICHELLE

It's not that he can't, he won't. Says that he wants our marriage to be more 50/50, and not so one sided anymore.

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