

Love and Life

by

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Cast of Characters

Jamison: 23-year-old Male, goes to College.

Caroline: 21-year-old Female, goes to College. Jamison's Girlfriend

Mr. Crownson: 56-year-old business man. Caroline's father.

Scene

The Front Room of Jamison's House

Time

Current Day

ACT I

A door opens and slams shut, JAMISON, dressed all formal, is rather flustered and annoyed and starts pacing. CAROLINE, also dressed formal, comes in the door and runs to him as Jamison continues paces back and forth.

CAROLINE

Jamison, I didn't realize-

JAMISON

I know you didn't.

CAROLINE

Then why do you seem so upset right now?

JAMISON

Seriously!?

CAROLINE

You know what I mean!

JAMISON

Caroline, this changes quite a few personal things for me. Things I believed wouldn't really be affected by each other, I now might have to choose something that is affctive to both.

CAROLINE

I'm so sorry.

JAMISON

(Stuttering)It's- It's not-

CAROLINE

(Annoyed)What are you wanting to say?

JAMISON

I want to say it's not all your fault. It just feels like the only comfortable way to say that is, it's not entirely your fault.

CAROLINE

Do you still love me?

JAMISON

What?

CAROLINE

Amidst all that's occurred, do you still love me?

Jamison stops pacing and stares at her. He has to think about everything. Caroline seems to get sad with each passing second of silence.

JAMISON

(Soothingly)Caroline, I really want to say yes. I want to because it is true, but it's hard to say yes amidst all this.

Caroline starts to sob a little.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

Hey, hey! That shouldn't sound bad. I hope you understand that I am frustrated right now because I thought I had a perfect life where my job and my girl were going to be the best things of my life no matter what. The fact is though, now, that your dad and my boss being the same person...I have to...

CAROLINE

(Sadly)So you are choosing your job over me?

JAMISON

No! That is not at all what is happening. If your dad approves of us, then maybe all is well. It just sounded like he wasn't thrilled to hear about us.

Jamison tries to comfort Caroline.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Caroline. I am sorry you are in this spot and I am sorry I am in a really bad mood right now, but all of this is important to me. I really have to sit back and figure it all out or I am going to lose everything, and I will be more sad if that happens.

Caroline stops sobbing, looks up, and smiles at Jamison.

CAROLINE

Thank you. Thank you for showing that you care! I am sorry as well for jumping to conclusions. I just want you to know how much I love you and want everything to work out as well.

JAMISON

Go back home and get some sleep. This has been a hard night for both of us.

CAROLINE

Sounds good to me. Will I see you tomorrow?

JAMISON

As long as I am not booked at work. I'll call you when I am completely free.

CAROLINE

Perfect! I'll be waiting for your call.

Jamison smiles at Caroline, as she walks out the front door. He listens to her footsteps trail off, and then continues pacing the floor and deeply thinking of all that has transpired. Shortly after, Jamison hears a knock at his door. He opens his door and, instantly, his body goes pale with fear.

JAMISON

Hello sir. How are you?

MR. CROWNSON walks past Jamison, into his house. After entering the house, Jamison, nervously, closes the door, walks over to a night stand. He opens the drawer, pulls out his cigar holder, and offers one to Mr. Crownson.

MR. CROWNSON

No thanks Jamison, I don't smoke those.

Sheepishly, Jamison puts it back in the night stand. Mr. Crownson starts to look around the room and observing all that is in it.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

Quite a night we had at the company party.

JAMISON

Uh- Yes sir, not the kind of night I was looking for. It was definitely an unusual night with some interesting developments.

Mr. Crownson turns back to Jamison and looks directly at him.

MR. CROWNSON

Do you love my daughter, Jamison?

JAMISON

Nervously)Sir?

MR. CROWNSON

(Bluntly)You can say how you feel young man, you are your own individual.

JAMISON

Well sir- If- If I am allowed to- Which you are doing so kindly-

Jamison looks down at his hands starts to mess with them in a nervous fashion. He then takes a deep breath.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

(Hastely)I would like to say that your daughter is the prettiest woman I ever saw. I think she has one of the most amazing attitudes and personalities I have ever come across in a woman of her status.

Jamison looks back up at Mr. Crownson with a bit more confidence.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

So yes, I do love your daughter.

MR. CROWNSON

Have you talked about Marriage?

JAMISON

No sir, I personally believe it is way too early for that.

Mr. Crownson looks over to him with a stoic expression about his face. Jamison is surprised by this expression.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

Why do you ask sir?

MR. CROWNSON

Jamison- I like you.

Jamison relaxes immediately.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

I think you are going to be one of my best employees to date and you have a desire about you to do well at work.

Jamison starts to smile.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

And because of that, we chose you as the one to offer our company proposition of taking those college courses.

JAMISON

You mean the deal that was made with me?

MR. CROWNSON

Yes.

JAMISON

Sir?

Mr. Crownson looks sharply at Jamison

JAMISON (CONT'D)

What about that? What does this have to do with Caroline?

MR. CROWNSON

Well young man, as I was going to continue on saying before you asked-

Jamison looks down a little embarrassed.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

I like you! I think you going back to school for the company is what is going to help you progress. Group that along with your "work ethic", all of that will make the "best employee to date", I just said, a factual statement.

Mr. Crownson walks over to Jamison and puts his hand on his shoulder. Jamison looks up and they lock eyes.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

So with that I would like to up the ante on that deal.

Jamison gets a really shocked expression about his face.

JAMISON

Uh- Wow sir! I'm...honored.

MR. CROWNSON

So let me explain what I would like to add. By the way, do you have any water?

JAMISON

Yes sir!

Jamison walks off stage, and comes back rapidly with two glasses of water. Mr. Crownson takes a sip.

MR. CROWNSON

Thank you. Anyways- As I was saying, I would like you to continue fulfill the deal and I want you to be the top student of each class you take. For accomplishing that each semester, we will give you that raise.

Mr. Crownson takes another sip of water, and Jamison follows in suit.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

Now if you do all that, as well as stay on pace at work- In fact, even go above and beyond when possible at work-

Mr. Crownson then smiles as if he came up with a great idea.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

And I also want you to make my daughter be the happiest person ever. Anyways- If you do all that, I will honor your relationship, and will give you my blessing when you feel ready to marry her.

Jamison almost chokes on his water as Mr. Crownson finishes.

JAMISON

Really?

MR. CROWNSON

On my honor.

JAMISON

Sir- I don't-

Mr. Crownson smiles at him and pats him on the back. Jamison lets out a few more coughs with each pat.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

This is awesome news! Thank you sir!

MR. CROWNSON

Do you think you can succeed?

JAMISON

Can I? I honestly couldn't say currently, but I will go for it.

Good boy.

MR. CROWNSON

Mr. Crownson pats Jamison again on the back.

MR. CROWNSON (CONT'D)

I do this because I have confidence in your success. I also do this, to which should be no shock to you, because I love my daughter. All I want for my daughter is to have a great of a life as possible.

Mr. Crownson then leans closer to Jamison

MR. CROWNSON

(Whispering) Plus, if you fail, then I don't feel bad firing you and cutting off your ties to my daughter.

JAMISON

What do you mean sir?

CAROLINE

Yeah, what was that about my life?

Jamison and Mr. Crownson both leap out of their chairs.

MR. CROWNSON

Caroline! Honey! What are you doing here? I thought I saw you leave a little bit before I knocked on Jamison's door?

CAROLINE

I did leave. But then I discovered that I had set my purse down, and had to come back for it. But what were you saying about my life? And what did you whisper to Jamison?

JAMISON

Nothing baby! I mean-

Jamison looks over at Mr. Crownson a little nervously.

JAMISON

Nothing Caroline. Your father was just telling me that he approves of our relationship.

CAROLINE

(Annoyed) That's not what it sounded like.

Mr. Crownson and Jamison both look at each other.

JAMISON

I promise Caroline.

MR. CROWNSON

Yes Caroline, I was just telling Jamison what I expect and hope of him as he continues to date you.

CAROLINE

Then why did it sound like you were trying to make him jump through hoops, for you to approve of us?

Mr. Crownson goes pale.

MR. CROWNSON

Caroline, I- I-

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Daddy! How could you?

Mr. Crownson looks over at Jamison. Jamison is looking back down even more nervous than before.

MR. CROWNSON

Don't you want what is best for you, Caroline?

CAROLINE

(Upset)I know what is best for me! Why do you always have to interfere with my life!?

JAMISON

Caroline, I- Your father-

CAROLINE

(Upset)Are you defending him!? I thought you loved me!

Jamison takes a step back.

JAMISON

(Sincerely)I'm- It's not a defense. He presented something that sounded amazing and I want to take it as to satisfy my future goals of work and a family, which I-

Jamison looks over at Mr. Crownson, to which Mr. Crownson looks back at him and nods.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

I do see a future with you.

Caroline is a little taken back, but still physically upset.

CAROLINE

Well- I like that you had me in mind, but I feel like this choice is based more for work than it is for me. My dad being involved makes me think he did this to be controlling of us too, to which I will not stand for.

JAMISON

I understand

CAROLINE

Good!

MR. CROWNSON

Good!

JAMISON

So, what would you have me do?

Caroline starts pacing the room back and forth, thinking. Mr. Crownson and Jamison look back and forth between Caroline, and each other.

CAROLINE

Daddy, I hate to do this but-

Mr. Crownson looks at her. Caroline looks past him at Jamison.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Jamison either has to choose you or me.

JAMISON

What?

MR. CROWNSON

Why?

CAROLINE

I can't live with the thought of him pleasing you, even if our future was in mind. I feel like you will end up doing anything to get rid of him from me.

MR. CROWNSON

Caroline! I- That isn't-

JAMISON

Are you being serious, Caroline?

CAROLINE

Yes! Dead serious. So, what will it be?

JAMISON

This doesn't seem like a fair time to be doing this.

CAROLINE

No, it has to be now. I can't wait for you to make a choice. I was already a bit of a nervous wreck from everything that happened at the party.

Caroline again looks over at Mr. Crownson in annoyance.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I can't even imagine how I will be if you don't tell me what your decision is, right now!

JAMISON

I-

Jamison looks over at Mr. Crownson. Mr. Crownson is nodding at him as if to assure him he will make the right choice.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

I-

Jamison looks over at Caroline. Caroline is looking deeply at him with love and concern.

CAROLINE

What!?

MR. CROWNSON

CHOOSE!

Jamison shakes his head like he just got out of a trance.

JAMISON (CONT'D)

I should have known it would wind up coming to this. But, I already know which choice is the right one for me!

THE END