

surprising mediation.

Vanessa's p.o.v

I could not sleep last night. I am so nervous about what can happen at mediation. Knowing Eric, he won't just give me the divorce so easily, but I want to be as hopeful as the lawyer was. I get the kids ready and drop them off at school and come back home and clean the whole house. I then shower and get ready and as I am going to get in the car to leave, my sister drives up. "Hop in bltch, I am going with you." she shouts and I feel 100 percent better, knowing that I will have someone there for me. "But who will pick up the kids later?" I ask her. "Buck will, don't worry. Now lets go, we have a couple of hrs to drive." she says. Luckily, Eric agreed to meet me at a court house halfway, so we don't have to drive so much.

We arrive at the courthouse almost 2 hrs later. We get off and speak to the receptionist. She tells me where to go and we go straight there. I need this to be over with already, although I am not ready to see Eric. I am so freaking nervous. We pass by a cafeteria and, of course, Verlene has to stop. "Lets get coffee.. oh and a donut," she says, and I laugh at her face. She looks like a little kid in a candy shop. We grab some things and pay and head up to the room we were told to go to.

I walk around the corner and I am shocked to see not just Eric, but my parents and his mistress Beatrice all here. These people have no shame. "Wow, he brought his mistress." I whisper to Verlene. "Did he now?" she asks. She is eyeing her. "Sister, you know I am honest and that bltch is fu.cking ugly. He cheated on you with her? What a downgrade." she whispers back. "Vanessa, what is the meaning of this?" Mom goes in on me as soon as I am close enough. I ignore her though. "Vanessa, you have been with Verlene this whole time? You allowed her to get into your head and now you are acting out. Where are my grandbabies? You are making a mistake!" she shouts. I turn around and look at her. "This has nothing to do with Verlene." I shout back. "Of course it does, she is poisoning your brain." she tells me and I laugh. The only person to ever poison my brain was her. Always so negative and expected me to bow down to a man and let him walk all over me. "Nessa, can we talk in private?" Eric asks me and I shake my head. The Lawyer runs in behind us and leads us into the room. We quietly follow him, but only Eric and my parents come inside. Beatrice had the decency to wait outside. Verlene explains to the lawyer that those are our parents and he nods, but doesn't say anything.

We sit at a small table. My father stands up while mom and Eric sit on one side of the table along with his lawyer and Verlene, my lawyer and I all sit on the other side of the table. "Vanessa, what is going on?" Dad asks me. "What Eric hasn't told you?" I ask him. "Nessy, why don't you and I talk in private. There's no need to involve anyone in our marriage. You and I alone can work this out." Eric tells me. "The only thing you need to work out is the signature on the papers and tell me when you would like to see the kids and we can both move on with our lives." I tell him, but he shakes his head. "I'm not divorcing you Nessy, you married for better or worse." he shouts. "Hey" my Lawyer cuts him off with a deadly glare. "Do not yell at my client or a woman period." he tells him. Dad approaches me. "What is really going on Vanessa, this isn't like you, so I know that something big had to have happened." He tells me. "I'm sorry dad, but I can't be with Eric anymore. He is abusive, a manipulator, a cheater and I can't be with someone like that. What example would I be setting for my kids?" I say. Dad's eyes y to Eric. "What!" he yells. "Eric, what is the meaning of this?" he begins walking towards Eric, but the lawyer calms him down. "Lets all take a seat and a breather. We don't have much time. So my client is not asking for anything. She does not want any money, she just wants the divorce and to know what days you would like to see your kids." he tells them. "Vanessa, you can't break your family apart over a little mistake," Mom says. "She isn't asking you for anything Eric, you should sign. This is the cleanest divorce I have seen. Pick the dates you want to see your kids and move on." His lawyer tells him, cutting mom off. "No, I am not signing any divorce papers. Vanessa is just confused," Eric says, and I groan. I knew it. He is trying to make it dicult, but I will not allow it. "I am not confused. I know what I saw Eric and you really have some nerve bringing your pregnant lover, mistress, whatever you want to call her here. How dare you?" I ask him. "Eric, what! that is why...oh now I understand?" Dad says. I have no idea what he means and I do not care. I just want him to sign the papers so I can leave. "Vanessa, you didn't keep your husband happy so he had to stray. It's okay, we can x this. Most men do this. They make mistakes. Now, that woman has to hand that child over and you will raise him as your own. Everyone will think you gave birth to the child." My mother says, and I am at a loss for words. My Lawyer looks shocked to hear this. If only he knew the way my mother works. This is just a small taste he is getting. "I couldn't keep my husband happy just like you couldn't either. Guess we are a lot alike mom, but, the only difference is that I refuse to stay with him knowing all of this." I say. "Sign the papers Eric," I turn to him, getting pissed off. "I can't believe this." Dad shouts and looks at mom. "Stop okay, just stop. Leave Vanessa alone. Give me the papers, he will sign them. Vanessa, Verlene, come talk to me. Eric, go home." dad says, and escorts my sister and I outside. I am so frustrated that my parents involved themselves. I expected to walk out of here and be able to put Eric in my past, or at least somewhat in my past.

"I am asking your mother for a divorce." He tells us and that is shocking. "Did Vanessa's situation motivate you?" Verlene laughs. "Yeah, I guess it gave me the push I needed. Eric will move out of the house. That is your house Vanessa. Also, he is dismissed from my company effective immediately. The assistant as well. No-one hurts my daughters and gets away with it. Verlene, why haven't you returned my calls? It's been years." he tells my sister. "Mom told me you two hated me and wished I was dead. She said you were so embarrassed that I was your daughter and she said you two would never accept Joey. She hates that he is a biker." she tells him. "Fu.cking bltch. I am not your mother. I do not think the same way. I have been trying to get a hold of you to be in yours and my grand daughter's lives. I thought you didn't want anything to do with me. I wish you girls would have came to me, not go to your mother. I know I have always worked a lot, but I am still your father. I would have made time for you two." he says, shaking his head. "To be fair, we never went to her, she came to us. She inserted herself." I say. "Come home Vanessa." he says, but I shake my head. "I love my new house daddy. Verlene and her husband have showed me a new life that I am loving. I got a job, a house, a car, the kids go to a school that they love. There's no yelling or ghting every day. They are smiling and it's only been 1 week dad and they are doing so good. They haven't even asked about their dad." I say, realizing that they literally have not asked about Eric and I am not sure if that is a good thing or a bad thing.