



CHARISMA SPEAKS

BY
@reeshedanicole

(CHARISMA IS IN BED. THE SUN IS SHINING IN THE WINDOW, REPRESENTING OPPORTUNITY. IN THE FIRST IMAGE, WE SEE HER WAKING UP PLEASANTLY, GRADUALLY, EVEN WITH A BIT OF A PLEASANT SMILE ON HER FACE. THE NEXT THING WE SEE IS CHARISMA SITTING STRAIGHT UP IN BED, ALMOST KNOCKING THE BEDSIDE TABLE LAMP ONTO THE FLOOR. HER HAIR IS PEEKING HALFWAY OUT OF HER SATIN BONNET NOW AND HER ELUSIVE SATIN BONNET IS COCKED TO THE SIDE, DUE TO HER ABRUPT MANNER OF SITTING UP IN BED!)

CHARISMA EXCLAIMS, “HOLY MOLY ROLY POLY!! I GET TO MEET MY AUDIENCE TODAY!! I MEAN, I GET TO, RIGHT?!?!” WELL, IF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD THING, THEN DO TELL ME (SHE TURNS TO THE BLACK GOLDFISH IN THE FISHBOWL ON HER DRESSER AND EXCLAIMS), “WHY AM I FREAKING OUT?!?!”

(IN THE NEXT FRAME THE BLACK GOLDFISH IN THE BOWL IS EMBODYING THE SHRUGGING SHOULDERS EMOJI WITH HIS FINS).

CHARISMA SAYS TO THE FISH, “AAAAAWWWW, ABRAHAM!!! YOU ARE NO HELP! THERE IS NO TIME TO SORT YOU OUT RIGHT NOW. I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW I AM GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE FOLKS REALLY GET TO MEET THE REAL ME!!

(CHARISMA THROWS THE COVERS BACK ON HER BED AND SPRINGS UP LIKE A ROCKET, DASHING TO HER CLOSET.)

“NOW, WHAT IN HERE SAYS, I’M CHARISMA AND I AM LIVING MY VERY BEST LIFE?!?!”

(CHARISMA PARTS THE CLOTHES IN HER CLOSET WITH A THRASH, AS IF SHE IS PARTING THE RED SEA)

“WELL, EVERYTHING IN HERE LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME. PLAID SKIRTS, STATEMENT TEES, VEGAN LEATHER JACKETS, AND KICKS ON KICKS ON KICKS!!

(JUST THEN, CHARISMA’S MOM PEEPS HER HEAD IN AROUND THE BEDROOM DOOR FRAME)

“SOMETHING GOING ON IN HERE, RIZZY?” HER MOM ASKS WITH HER HAND ON HER HIP AND HER HEAD WRAPPED HEAD TILTED TO ONE SIDE, GOLD HOOPS DANGLING FROM HER EARS.

“UMMM...NOPE! HA, HA!!” (A NERVOUS AND SEEMINGLY REHEARSED LAUGH FROM CHARISMA) “YOU KNOW ME, MOM! JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE LIFE OF FASHION...EHHH...WHICH OF THESE OUTFITS LOOKS MOST LIKE ME?”

CHARISMA’S MOM WALKS INTO HER ROOM AND KISSES HER ON THE FOREHEAD. “CHILE. YOU BEEN WEARING SKIRTS, T-SHIRTS, KICKS, AND JACKETS SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. (A REMINISCENT TWINKLE SETS IN CHARISMA’S MOTHER’S EYES) “ALL OF THESE CLOTHES LOOK JUST LIKE YOU! ALWAYS HAVE. WHY THE CONFUSION ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS MORNING?”

“UMMM...(CHARISMA THROWS HER HEAD BACK IN DRAMATIC LAUGHTER, ATTEMPTING TO THROW HER MOTHER OFF OF HER TRAIL) “CONFUSION?!?! NOPE! NO CONFUSION AT ALL! IN FACT YOU ARE RIGHT, AND I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL!”

(CHARISMA PUTS BOTH HER HANDS AND THE SPINE OF HER MOTHER’S BACK AND PUSHES, ONE KNEE BEEN, THE OTHER LEG STRETCHED OUT AS IF TO PUSH A HEAVY WEIGHT FORWARD)

“YOU GO RIGHT ON AHEAD AND START BREAKFAST, AND I WILL BE RIGHT OUT, CUTE AS A BUTTON, IN JUST A FEW TICKS!”

(CHARISMA’S MOM IS UNMOVED AND UNBOTHERED)

"CHILE. YOU AIN'T GOT ENOUGH SKIN AND BONES TO MOVE ME!"

**"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE UP TO NOW, BUT I WILL LEAVE YOU TO IT.
BREAKFAST IS IN 10 MINUTES. EAT IT OR LEAVE IT!"**

"SURE THING, MOM!"

(CHARISMA TURNS TO ABRAHAM—(ABRAHAM USES HIS FIN TO COVER HIS MOUTH AS IF TO SAY, "YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME." CHARISMA FALLS OUT LAUGHING).)

"WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! SHE ALMOST FOUND ME OUT! THIS IS MY BIG NEWS AND MY BIG DAY! THESE ARE MY FRIENDS TO HAVE JUST MY WAY! AND EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WEAR OR SAY, THIS IS OUR LITTLE SECRET, COME WHAT MAY!"

"AND YOU BETTER KEEP THIS UNDER YOUR HAT, ABRAHAM! I WANT TO HAVE MY NEW AUDIENCE ALL TO MYSELF! THIS WILL BE OUR SPECIAL SPACE TO SHARE WHATEVER WE WANT TOGETHER. YOU GOT THAT?!?!"

(CHARISMA LOOKS AT HERSELF IN THE FULL BODY MIRROR ON THE WALL IN HER BEDROOM. SHE STRIKES SEVERAL POSES (2 FINGERS PEACE OUT WITH HEAD COCKED TO THE SIDE, DUCK LIPS, WINKY FACE, AND THEN THROWS HER HANDS IN THE AIR!)

"AAAHHH!! I TOLD MOM! SEVEN MINUTES IS ALL I NEED TO BECOME SO FRESH AND SO CLEAN! CUTE AS A BUTTON WITH 3 MINUTES TO SPARE!! ANY MOMENT NOW, I AM GOING TO MEET MY NEW AUDIENCE, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I AM GOING TO GREET THEM. ALL SMILES? THEY'D LOVE MY SMILE. CALM, COOL, AND CHILL? IF I'M LAID BACK, THEY MIGHT THINK I'M COOL! I COULD TELL THEM THAT I AM HAPPY TO MEET THEIR ACQUAINTANCE! THOSE FANCY WORDS ARE BOUND TO MAKE THEM SEE HOW SMART I AM! HAPPY. COOL. SMART!

(CHARISMA MAKES THE EXAGGERATED MOTION OF PULLING HER HAIR OUT!!)

EACH OF THESE PARTS OF ME MAKES ME, ME, BUT HOW DO I MAKE SURE THEY SEE THE ME I SEE? AAAARRRGGGHHHH!!!

OH WAIT NOW...WHAT'S THAT I HEAR?!?! OH, THOSE ARE PANCAKES CALLING MY NAME! GOTTA SCRAM, ABRAHAM! SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL!"

(CHARISMA HEADS OUT OF HER ROOM, CLOSING THE DOOR BEHIND HER; ABRAHAM USES HIS FIN TO WAVE GOODBYE.)

SCENE 2

EVE (CHARISMA'S MOM) IS SITTING IN A CHAIR AT THE KITCHEN TABLE, SIPPING A CUP OF COFFEE. IN FRONT OF HER IS A HALF EATEN PLATE, AND ACROSS FROM HER IS CHARISMA'S PLATE OF PANCAKES AND SAUSAGE AND A CUP OF ORANGE JUICE. THERE IS AN EMPTY CHAIR THERE FOR CHARISMA TO SIT IN. CHARISMA SLIDES INTO THE KITCHEN WITH PAZAZZ, LAYING HER BACKPACK DOWN ON THE FLOOR BESIDE HER.)

CHARISMA SAYS, "TADA! RECORD TIME! HOW DO I LOOK!?!? PLEASE SAY I LOOK LIKE ME!"

HER MOM REPLIES, "WELL, RIZZY, WHO ELSE WOULD YOU LOOK LIKE?"

(CHARISMA SITS DOWN AND BEGINS TO DEVOUR HER BREAKFAST)

CHARISMA REPLIES (IN BETWEEN BITES OF PANCAKES), "I MEAN...(TAKES A BITE)... THAT I LOOK LIKE...(TAKES ANOTHER BITE)... THE REAL, BEST ME, MOM!" (SHOVES ANOTHER FORKFUL OF PANCAKES IN HER MOUTH)

"FIRST OF ALL, SLOW DOWN, AND CHEW YOUR FOOD, PLEASE, MA'AM. SECONDLY, RIZZY. YOU LOOK THE MOST LIKE YOU THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN! IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL GOING ON AT SCHOOL TODAY? IT'S LIKE YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT SHOWING UP IN A DISGUISE OR SOMETHING?"

(CHARISMA'S MOM LAUGHS OUT LOUD, AND CHARISMA ROLLS HER EYES, PUTTING HER FORK DOWN HAVING DEMOLISHED HER FOOD COMPLETELY))

CHARISMA SAYS, "IT'S NOT THAT, MOM. IT'S JUST THAT TODAY IS A BIG DAY FOR ME, AND I WANT THE WORLD TO SEE ALL OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT WHO I REALLY AM."

EVE REPLIES, "WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS DAY, BUT I DO KNOW THAT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU IS WHAT MAKES YOU AMAZING, CHARISMA RAE. I KNOW THAT'S TRUE, AND I THINK DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW THAT, TOO."

(EVE GETS UP FROM THE TABLE AND KISSES CHARISMA ON THE FOREHEAD.)

