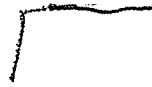


melissa CB

24

Start



MELISSA:
Are you in a hotel? Where are you?

ALLISYN:
Uh- I'm in Dubai, actually.

MELISSA:
Dubai? What for? You didn't tell me you were going?

ALLISYN:
I know. It came up kind of quickly.

MELISSA:
Well, what are you doing there?

ALLISYN:
I'm supposed to be covering a story in Pakistan but they re-routed me here.

MELISSA:
Ally, Jesus. *(beat)*
They didn't let you in, did they?

ALLISYN:
It's fine- it happens sometimes-

MELISSA:
I think we both know why "it happened" this time. Couldn't they send someone else?

ALLISYN:
No.

MELISSA:
Why not?

ALLISYN:
Because Pakistan is my area.

MELISSA:
I know that, Ally. That's not why I asked you that.

ALLISYN:
(She exhales.)
I know. Sorry. *(beat)*

Melissa doesn't say anything. Ben comes out of the bathroom and sits at the table with his laptop.

ALLISYN (cont'd):

Look, I'm sorry. I wanted to tell you I was leaving but I didn't want to worry you, so. I figured you had enough on your plate.

MELISSA:

I...

How long will you be gone this time?

ALLISYN:

I don't know exactly.

MELISSA:

Will you be back for the baby?

ALLISYN:

Of, course.

MELISSA:

I mean, I could deliver any day now.

ALLISYN:

It's another honor killing.

MELISSA:

And I'm having a baby.

ALLISYN:

I'll be back soon, I promise.

Listen, I've gotta run.

MELISSA:

You're not even in the right country. Can't you just come home?

ALLISYN:

I have a colleague here who's working with me, ok? It will be fine; I'll cover this one story and I'll be back.

MELISSA:

You don't have to do this.

ALLISYN:

Actually, I do. *(beat)*

ALLISYN (cont'd):
I'll let you know when I'm back, ok? I love you.

MELISSA:
I love you, too.

ALLISYN:
Ok, bye.

She goes to hang up.

MELISSA:
Ally?... Please be careful.

ALLISYN:
I will. Don't worry. Bye.

MELISSA:
Bye.

End — *She turns to Ben.*

ALLISYN:
Sorry about that.

BEN:
She's pregnant?

ALLISYN:
Almost nine months.

BEN:
First baby?

ALLISYN:
Yea.

BEN:
No wonder; she must be a wreck.

ALLISYN:
Her husband is an OB-GYN.

BEN:
Wow, OK.

ALLISYN:
I mean, he's not *her* OB-GYN...