

ANNIVERSARY

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INT. KYLE'S OFFICE - DAY

Kyle Woodbridge (35), a good-looking African American in an expensive suit sits at his desk and types on his laptop. The office is spacious but simple and modern in style.

In front of the desk there is a smaller table for visitors, with several armchairs and a couch.

On a side wall there is a large television, with a couch and two armchairs in front of it.

The wall behind Kyle is all glass.

Kyle picks up a desk phone and dials a number with a single press of a key.

KYLE

Marion, could you cancel all my meetings today..? Yes, reschedule them for tomorrow... No, no, move Wilson to Friday, thanks.

Kyle puts the receiver down, picks up his cellphone, dials a number and puts it to his ear.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hi Honey... Of course I haven't forgotten. Your present is in the living room, but don't open it till I get there.

Kyle looks at a large clock on the wall.

INSERT - WALL CLOCK

It shows the time as 4:30pm

KYLE

... I'm going to be a little late... I have to finish up an important contract with Richard. I love you too Honeybunch!

Kyle carries on typing on his laptop.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPHS ON HIS DESK

One is of Kyle with his wife STEPHANIE (35), an African American woman, hugging, smiling; the other is with RICHARD(35), a white guy, a friend from college, in their graduation gowns, arms round each other, smiling.

INT. KYLE'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

SECRETARY (40), well turned-out, curvaceous blonde, sitting at her desk, writing something in her planner.

YOUNG MAN (25) walks in, African American, holding some kind of file in his hand.

The young man approaches the desk timidly, holding the file in front of him.

The secretary looks at him.

SECRETARY
How can I help you?

YOUNG MAN
I am Buenos Anderson.

The secretary looks at him, clearly waiting for the young man to expand on his reasons for being there.

YOUNG MAN (CONT'D)
Harassment in a courier company, Mr Woodbridge said...

SECRETARY
Oh, that Mr Anderson. Mr Woodbridge is very busy today. Leave your papers and he will get back to you as soon as he can.

The young man looks at the secretary, still timid, almost scared.

YOUNG MAN
Mr Woodbridge said I should come today, that he would see me personally...

Kyle comes in.

KYLE
Hello Buenos.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Hello Mr Woodbridge.

The young man offers the file to Kyle. Kyle takes the file.

YOUNG MAN
These are the documents you asked for.

KYLE

Excellent. I've a lot of work today. I'll take a look at what you've brought me and we can touch base tomorrow.

The young man looks at Kyle doubtfully.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Don't worry, everything will be fine.

YOUNG MAN

As you say, Mr Woodbridge.

The young man extends his hand to Kyle. They shake hands. Kyle smiles politely at him.

The young man leaves.

KYLE

Marion, please call that florist's and have them send my wife a big bunch of red roses. It's our wedding anniversary today.

Kyle heads for his office and then turns back.

SECRETARY

Don't worry sir. I won't let them put some clichéd message on there. I'll think of something romantic.

Kyle smiles at her, gives her the thumbs-up and goes into his office.

The secretary picks up the phone receiver and dials a number.

Richard comes in. The secretary puts the phone back down right away.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Hello Mr President.

RICHARD

Marion, when you've finished up you can go. Kyle and I have a lot of work over that Australian contract so it's best if we are not disturbed.

SECRETARY

I understand, Mr President, I just have a few little things to get done.

Richard winks at her and goes into Kyle's office.

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - LATER

STEPHANIE (35), Kyle's wife, is putting a candle-holder with two decorative candles on the dining table, which is laid out for a special occasion.

The apartment is luxurious, and the dining and living rooms are all one open space.

Stephanie looks at the table, satisfied, and then looks at the clock on the wall.

INSERT - WALL CLOCK

It is showing 7:15.

Stephanie anxiously paces around the living room, holding her cellphone to her ear, waiting for a call.

She then angrily throws the phone on the couch and sits down next to the phone.

STEPHANIE

Of course he can't call, he's working overtime again for that idiot Richard - the guy is using him.

Irritated, Stephanie looks towards the present in its elegant wrapping paper on the table and cannot hold out any longer. She starts to angrily open the present.

Stephanie takes the black lacy underwear from their torn box and her eyes sparkle with excitement.

She brings the panties to her face and sniffs them.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

You son of a bitch!

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Stephanie paces the living room irritably in the underwear she was given. She is talking on her cell phone.

STEPHANIE

It's not true... Mom, are you listening to me? Richard's father is a known racist. So what if Kyle and Richard are friends from college... it's not conspiracy theory, that racist old asshole used their friendship and employed the only black attorney in the firm just for the sake of appearances.

Stephanie sits down angrily on the couch and crosses her legs.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

... Of course it's true! Do you think I'm dumb? How many black people have won Oscars, eh?

Stephanie listens to what her mother has to say at the other end of the line, as she looks at the large, grandfather clock with its pendulum.

INSERT - GRANDFATHER CLOCK

It is showing 8:30.

STEPHANIE

... Daddy's Boy - he could at least have made allowances for his so-called best buddy's wedding anniversary!

INT. KYLE'S APARTMENT - LATER

On the table is a half-empty bottle of wine and a glass.

Stephanie is sitting on the living room couch, still in her new underwear, talking on her cell phone.

STEPHANIE

... Listen, Liz, you are my best friend and all, but it's exploitation, that's what it is - slavery...

Stephanie sips wine from the glass.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

... So whose side are you on, anyway? What are you trying to say?
(MORE)

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

You are always beating around the bush... of course I want to hear it. Cheating? Ha, you are joking! With all his clients Kyle doesn't even have time for me, never mind for cheating. Well thanks for backing me up!

Stephanie cuts off the calls and angrily drops the phone down next to her on the couch.

She leans back and closes her eyes.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

The secretary, dressed up in S&M gear, whip in hand, is riding around on Kyle, holding his tie like reins. As he crawls on all fours with her on his back she is whacking his backside with the whip.

Kyle is exhausted, but the secretary lustfully continues driving him around the office.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

Stephanie wakes from the dream with a start.

STEPHANIE

I knew some sort of exploitation was going on.

Stephanie gets up and goes to her wardrobe.

Through the apartment window we see that it is pouring with rain and lightning is flashing.

Stephanie puts a fur coat on - and nothing else - over her underwear, and heads for the door.

INT. ENTRANCE HALL TO KYLE'S COMPANY BUILDING - LATER

GUARD sitting at his desk.

Stephanie approaches, wrapped in her coat, soaked to the skin from the rain and with a forced smile on her face.

STEPHANIE

Hi Sam.

GUARD

Good evening Mrs Woodbridge.

The guard lifts up the phone receiver to call ahead Stephanie's arrival.

STEPHANIE

No, no, this needs to be a surprise, Sam.

The guard holds on to the receiver, unsure as to what to do.

Stephanie quickly takes two twenty-dollar bills from her bag and palms them to Sam.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Let this be our little secret, Sam.

The guard looks at the value of the bills and replaces the receiver.

Stephanie heads for the lift.

INT. KYLE'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE - LATER

Stephanie walks angrily into an empty office.

STEPHANIE

So! Everyone else has a home to go to, you are the only one grinding overtime! Like a slave. So I was wrong.

Stephanie angrily opens the door to Kyle's office.

INT. KYLE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kyle and Richard are sprawled on the couch in front of the big TV, playing an NBA basketball game. The sound is turned up loud. On the table in front of them is a pile of cans and spilt potato chips.

Stephanie stomps in and is taken aback when she sees what they are doing.

Kyle and Richard have not even noticed her come in.

Stephanie slams the door shut as hard as she can.

Kyle and Richard both turn startled towards Stephanie and then both stand up, still holding their gamepads.

KYLE

Honey...

RICHARD

Steph...

Stephanie marches up to the couch.

STEPHANIE

Not a word, either of you!

Kyle is speechless.

Richard tries to salvage the situation, putting down the gamepad and approaching Stephanie.

RICHARD

Steph, we got to the playoff
finals.

Stephanie looks daggers at him.

STEPHANIE

So you really are this idiot's best
friend.

RICHARD

Of course I am! Steph, you know we
have been friends since college...

STEPHANIE

Please - go home. It's our wedding
anniversary today.

Richard looks at Kyle.

RICHARD

And you didn't think to tell me?!

Richard holds his forefinger threateningly at Kyle.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

You're out of line! If you'd told
me...

STEPHANIE

Richard, please go home.

Richard heads out.

RICHARD

Steph, I will make this up to you,
really, I will - and he...

Richard looks at Kyle.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
... I'll make him pay for this
screw-up!

Stephanie just looks at Richard.

Richard leaves.

Kyle puts the gamepad down and speechlessly watches Steph
come towards him.

Stephanie stands in front of Kyle and looks at him in
silence.

STEPHANIE
You stupid son of a bitch!

Kyle looks nervously at her.

Stephanie takes off her coat and before Kyle can recover from
the shock she kisses him passionately.

Richard comes in and avoids looking at them, assuming that an
unpleasant confrontation is under way.

RICHARD
I forgot my suit jacket.

Stephanie and Kyle ignore him and carry on kissing.

Richard looks at them in shock.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Actually it's not that cold out.

Richard waves to them and exits.

THE END