

BAGGAGE

Written by

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MOMMY ISSUES

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - MORNING

We see DR. BENNETT (33), a Black female therapist fresh out of her PhD program. She wears her prescription glasses, a tight bun, and a boring business casual outfit to look like she fits the part. She sits in a chair to review the patient information sheet in front of her. She looks ahead.

DR. BENNETT

I'd rather not just sit here in
silence with you.

We now see the other side. HALEY (21) is sitting in the middle of the couch. She sports a preppy look, with a face full of makeup. She childishly sits with her arms crossed and her head turned away from Dr. Bennett with a furrowed brow.

DR. BENNETT (CONT'D)

Again, I'm not going to force you
to do anything you don't want to
do. But I will admit that this is
kind of saddening.

Haley quickly turns her head around.

HALEY

(childishly)
Wait, are you mad at me?

DR. BENNETT

What? Of course not. I'm your
therapist, why would I be?

Haley scoffs.

HALEY

Because my mother always finds a
reason to be.

DR. BENNETT

I'm piecing together that your
relationship with your mother is
contributing to your current
unhappiness.

There's a long pause as Haley contemplates the correct words to say. She plays with her sleeve.

HALEY

Do you think there's something wrong with me?

DR. BENNETT

Do you think there's something wrong with you?

HALEY

I'm inclined to say no, but I guess everyone has their faults?

DR. BENNETT

And do you think that affects you and your mom's dynamic?

Haley loudly groans with angst.

HALEY

Do we have to? Like seriously?

DR. BENNETT

What have to address why you've been coming to these sessions.

HALEY

FINE! YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY MOTHER? SHE'S A CONTROLLING, MANIPULATIVE, PAIN IN MY ASS!

DR. BENNETT

(slowly)
That sounded like a very cathartic release.

Haley sighs and holds her head in her hands.

HALEY

(flustered and vulnerable)
This is like, way too heavy for me. I'm gonna cry and I don't wanna cry. I have plans after this.

DR. BENNETT

This is a safe space. I want you to be open with me. If crying is a part of that, then so be it.

Haley speaks softly to herself.

HALEY

Safe space...

Haley looks to Dr. Bennett, tears in her eyes.

HALEY (CONT'D)

This is a safe space?

DR. BENNETT

Of course.

HALEY

I don't think I've ever been in one.
I wasn't really encouraged to
express my emotions growing up. My
mother always said crying was a
weakness.

DR. BENNETT

What is your ideal safe space?

Haley takes a long pause to reflect. She plays with her
sleeve again. She smiles to herself.

HALEY

The softball field behind my house.

DR. BENNETT

Alright then, let's start there.

DADDY ISSUES

INT. THERAPY OFFICE- DAY

LEE looks straight ahead. She wears her hair up in a bun to show off her freshly shaved undercut. She wears cuffed mom jeans and a cut tee.

LEE

I take my personal space very seriously. Very seriously. I don't like people I don't know encroaching on my bubble.

DR. BENNETT hesitantly speaks.

DR. BENNETT

You don't like "people" stepping in your space or men stepping in your space?

Lee looks inquisitively on Dr. Bennett as if she doesn't know her prejudices against men.

LEE

Why do you ask?

DR. BENNETT

I'm sure you know why.

LEE

Okay fine, you got me. I have no problem admitting I'm a misandrist.

DR. BENNETT

And you're okay with that? With everyone knowing you discriminate against men?

LEE

Shit, it's gotten me this far!

DR. BENNETT

Well, sure many could agree with disagreeing with me. Many would consider "violent altercations with me." Other would simply call it assault. Now enlighten me, what does your record say?

LEE

Assault.

DR. BENNETT
We have to hold ourselves
accountable.

LEE
Who's to say I'm not? The question
is, why aren't men.

DR. BENNETT
Do you think your father has
influenced your view on men?

LEE
If you're gonna tell me I have
daddy issues, I've already heard it
from my partner.

DR. BENNETT
What exactly did she say?

LEE
They.

DR. BENNETT
My apologies, what exactly did they
say?

LEE
That my "raging misandrist, ally
character is bordering drag."

Dr. Bennett tries not to laugh.

DR. BENNETT
And how did that make you feel?

LEE
Their opinions are valid, I just
don't think they're relevant at
this moment.

DR. BENNETT
Not relevant, in the slightest bit?
Especially in the context of
physical assault?

LEE
The man didn't acknowledge my
physical boundaries and say "excuse
me!" I'd think that's self defense.

DR. BENNETT
You know violence isn't the answer.

LEE

Thank you so much for the elementary school lesson. Obviously I don't regret it. I felt empowered actually. I'm just disappointed that was the first guy I knocked out.

DR. BENNETT

I don't think-

Lee stands up from the couch proudly. Standing in her truth.

LEE

Ya know, second wave feminism was right. I wasn't meant for this decade.

Lee abruptly leaves from the session as if she's made a life changing decree. Dr. Bennett stares at the empty couch thoroughly confused.

TUMBLR TEEN ANGST

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - DAY

We see COURTNEY, a young teenage girl (15) sitting on the couch hunched over with her legs crossed. She shakes her head.

COURTNEY

I don't even know why I'm here.
This is so embarrassing. Honestly,
my mom should be here instead.

DR. BENNETT

I'm sure you don't really mean
that.

COURTNEY

Oh yes, I do. She deserves jail
time for what she did to me. Going
through my things, reading my
journal; it's not fair!

DR. BENNETT

(sarcasticly)
You're right. You experienced a
betrayal and you're entitled to be
upset about it.

Courtney is visibly shocked to be agreed with. She lets down her guard slightly.

COURTNEY

Thank you. You know, she thinks
she's Iyanla Vanzant or something.
Fix my life head ass...

DR. BENNETT

Do you mind if I ask what was in
your journal? Why do you think they
upset your mother so much?

COURTNEY

Because she's a prude.

DR. BENNETT

That's your assessment?

COURTNEY

How could it not be, I mean, have you seen her? She looks like she hasn't gotten any in years.

DR. BENNETT

Maybe that isn't-

COURTNEY

And just because she isn't getting any, doesn't mean her and dried pu-

DR. BENNETT

Alright!

COURTNEY

Seriously, it's insane how sexually repressed my mom is. I could never be that way.

DR. BENNETT

Is that why you like writing?

COURTNEY

Mm, yeah I guess.

DR. BENNETT

So you can contextualize your fantasies?

COURTNEY

I guess so. I just like to being able to give my wet dreams some context!

DR. BENNETT

Right...

COURTNEY

Can I let you in on a little secret?

DR. BENNETT

Please do.

COURTNEY

You know, I've been thinking about suing Shonda Rhimes.

Dr. Bennett is visibly confused, unsure of where this conversation is about to go.

DR. BENNETT
Please elaborate...

COURTNEY

I swear to you, everything I've written on Wattpad has been in her shows. Everything!

DR. BENNETT
You think Shonda Rhimes is plagiarizing your work? From Wattpad?

COURTNEY

I know she is. There's no way a woman her age is that horny.

DR. BENNETT
You do know older women have sex too right?

COURTNEY

Not the way they have it in those Shondaland shows and certainly not the way I write it.

DR. BENNETT
Hm, let's talk more about how you write it.

COURTNEY

I don't want to!

DR. BENNETT
Okay, then let's talk about school. How's it going?

COURTNEY
It's okay.

DR. BENNETT
How about your classmates?

COURTNEY
They're fine I guess.

DR. BENNETT
You guess? Have you made any
friends?

COURTNEY
A few?

DR. BENNETT
Mostly boys? Mostly girls?

COURTNEY
Mostly girls.

DR. BENNETT
That's nice. Any boy friends?

H
"Any boyfriends?" Like multiple?
No, I don't even have one so no, I
don't have no damn boyfriends.

DR. BENNETT
I meant like "male friends."

COURTNEY
Oh. Well, not really.

DR. BENNETT
Not really?

Courtney gives Dr. Bennett a suspicious look. Her guard
starts to form again.

COURTNEY
I know exactly where this is going.

DR. BENNETT
And what do you mean?

COURTNEY
You're gonna ask me if I like
anyone at school because there has
to be some boy that has me all
horny and writing erotica online.
Right? Well I can inform you right
now that there is no cause to my
sexual awakening.

DR. BENNETT
Then what did?

Courtney mischievously smiles.

COURTNEY
My online boyfriend.

Dr. Bennett sighs exhaustively through her nose.