

Far From The Tree Creative Project (Melissa's life chapter)

Melissa

Melissa's dating life was perfect. She had a loving boyfriend, a nice family, basically everything she has ever wanted. Especially her boyfriend. He was head over heels with her, so loving and kind, and sometimes in the study hall, she would even plan her wedding with him. She has never thought about having kids, but she figured when the time comes, she'll do it anyway. In fact, she will be happy to have a child with Joaquin. That was why she would have never expected to be in this state when she gave birth to Joaquin, Maya, and Grace, and her parents, furious and crazy, burned all of her pictures while she sits in a corner, sobbing quietly, while Joaquin was deported from the U.S.

The day that she found out she was pregnant was both one of the happiest days and the worst day of her life. She was feeling really sick that day, and she threw up, and she made Joaquin drive her to CVS to get a pregnancy test. When they came back Melissa took the pregnancy test and found out she was pregnant with her baby. She decided to name him Joaquin since she thought her baby was so perfect, so beautiful, so, well, *Joaquin*, and she thought it would be the perfect name for her new child. At this point, Melissa was getting very worried and even ashamed that she could not take care of him. Why because she and her sweetheart Joaquin. She had left the hospital since she couldn't bear looking at her poor child, whom she had held on for so long and got taken away from her. She was wandering around the center city, hungry, exhausted, and cold. It was in early spring, and she only had a small light coat with her. "I can't go home!", Melissa thought. Her parents would probably kill her if they ever saw her face again. They had torn up her pictures, burned them, and kicked her out of the house.

She was in a zombie state of mind. That was why she wandered into a restaurant, and she met this really slick looking boy who was a waiter there. At the time, she felt really, really lonely and so having this boy talked to her was really comforting. That was why she ended up with a SECOND baby, which she named Maya. After that night, she wandered back to her parent's house, and fortunately, they let her stay there. Maybe they really want her to come back, or they love her so much, or even if they simply regret things that they have done.

One breakfast morning, she came downstairs feeling all sick and throwing up everywhere, and her mother asked: "What is wrong with you today? Do you have the flu?" She didn't answer, but deep down she already knew the heartbreaking answer to her mother's question. Still, to be sure, she drove herself to CVS, bought some pregnancy tests, and went around to the corner in which she found out she was pregnant but she did find that she was pregnant with another baby. She was afraid to tell her parents about this, but she had to. She knew that sooner or later, they will find out anyway, so might as well as tell them now, she thought. She got home later that day, driving her car as slow as possible and even going around the block a couple of times.

Finally, she parked her car, got in the house, and, taking a big breath, announced: "I'm pregnant with another baby." That afternoon and evening, she can't even describe how mad her parents were. Her parents screamed "ANOTHER ONE you've gotta be kidding me", her father said, and her mother was "not mad" (as she put it) she was "just disappointed" and went to the kitchen. Shortly after that Melissa ran out of the house in tears and did not know what to do or where to go. But a few minutes

later she decided she needed a drink so she drove to a bar. When she entered the bar everyone looked at her because of the wet makeup from her tears on her cheek and she just ignored them and took a seat right next to the pool table at the corner of the bar, she ordered a few beers when a guy playing pool with his friends sat right across from her and the first thing to come in her mind was what was he doing here. Right when she was going to ask, though, he cut her off and started to introduce himself. So apparently, this guy goes to her school and is the same age as her. She and he talked all the way until midnight, and somehow, by the next morning, she found herself in his bed, half-naked. She gathered her clothes and went hurry home, hoping for the best but expecting the worst.

A week later, she began to feel exactly the same feelings she had tried to avoid but can't. The usual stuff: throwing up, feeling sick. Her mother glared at her when she saw her like that, but she didn't ask any questions. Maybe she truly was angry (or "disappointed" as her mother would put it), but hoping that it was just the flu. Maybe she really thought it was the flu and Melissa's spreading it to her. Either way, her mother glared at her behavior and didn't ask any questions, and when Melissa got out of the house, she heard her mother muttered "Oh lord, not again".

She was supposed to meet up with a friend, but she was really suspicious (and even somewhat embarrassed) to go to her house, and so she went to CVS, bought the tests, and went to the spot that changed her life two times before. She saw the results, and she wailed loudly, ignoring everyone eyeing her. Later that day, she went home (she can't even believe she has the guts to do that), and when she got home, there were both her parents standing there at the door. Her father said, angrily and loudly:"

What the hell were you doing going to CVS?" It was then that she knew: her parents already knew, and she might as well as tell them. She explained to them how she got pregnant with another boy at the bar, and when she said that, her parents. Went. NUTS. They threw things at her, curse at her, saying how they wished she wasn't even born. It was wild. The breaking point, though, was when her father burned all of her pictures, including the one when she was a baby. After that, her father was sobbing and finally make the announcement:" If you are like this, then I don't want you to be my daughter anymore. Get the hell out of my house." She begged and begged, and finally, her parents had sympathy, so they said:" Fine. Stay until you have that baby. When you gave birth, though, you have to move out first thing." She was grateful, but at the same time still sad. She knew that her relationship with her parents will never be the same. The sorrow is too deep to be fixed, and in the midst of all of that, she didn't even think about what will happen after she got kicked out. The months and days went by fast, and before she knew it, she gave birth to her 3rd daughter and saw her being taken away. She wanted to cry, but she was too weak. The next morning, her father simply said to her coldly:" get out". Even though it's only two words, she knew that they meant it, and she ran out of the house, not even thinking of where to go. She ran and ran, and she was so mad that when she crossed the road, she didn't realize that the pedestrian light sign is red and there's a 16 wheeler rolling towards her. She didn't even hear the honking, and at the second she turned towards the flaring light, she felt her body being hit, the body that had carried her three little angels, and she felt herself leaving that body. At the last moment, before she closes her eyes forever, she thought to herself:"

This is what I get for being a ****. It's time for me to let go." And she breathes out her last breath, thinking about Maya, Grace, and Joaquin.