

**Happy Anniversary**  
**Written by: Lakeisha Coffey**  
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**Characters:**

Calvin – African American Male 20’s – 30’s

Melissa – African American Female 20’s – 30’s

**Setting:**

Quiet internal room. No windows. Muffled soft elevator style music throughout except where indicated.

**SFX:** Wooden door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly higher in volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation. Wooden door closes. Footsteps from hard bottom dress shoes on tile or similar hard surface floor walking across the room. Short walk then abrupt footstep sliding to a stop.

**CALVIN:**

Wow babe! You look...amazing! I’m literally speechless.

*(pause as he looks at her)*

Well! It’s a good thing that I know better and wrote down what I was going to say to you today. I know. I know. I know. *(Chuckles)* I wrote this...

**SFX:** Hitting the paper

**CALVIN:**

...the same night I proposed to you. Yep! I wrote my vows AND what I would say on our first anniversary. I mean, I knew both days would be special and I wanted to make sure I didn’t say anything stupid. I know. I know. It’s the “perfectionist” in me that you hate. I can’t help it. *(chuckles)*. So here goes.

**SFX:** Metal chair sliding across tile or similar hard surface floor.

**CALVIN:**

*(Settling into the seat, reading letter, tentatively at first).*

To the most special woman I have ever met in my whole entire life. You bring sunshine to a cloudy day. You bring joy to pain. You bring...UGH!

**SFX:** Paper crumpled

**CALVIN:**

Oh to hell with this cheesy shit! I have been preparing for this day so damn much but this feels dumb as hell. Speak from the heart is what they say right? Yeah, that’s what I’m going to do. Yeah, I’m going to take my time and speak from the heart. Just...bear with me babe. .

*(inhales deeply, exhales slowly)* I love you. Plain and simple. From the day I first laid eyes on you I knew that I had to have you in my life. That stupid ice cream cone thing I did? *(chuckles)* About as cheesy as this stupid ass letter. But I was determined to get your attention. And thank God it worked. You believed in me for me, and I’m forever appreciative my love. You know they say the nice guys finish last, but because of you I know it’s *(imitating her voice)* “a lie from the burning pits of hell” as you would say. You gave this geeky, gaming, Sci-fi and anime loving, jigsaw puzzling and daily crossword filling guy a real

chance. Despite all the grief your friends gave you. Man, that first game night! (*laughs hard*). I just knew you were gonna break up with me. (*continues to chuckle*) They you gave you hell but you stuck by me. You made me put that saying to rest. I won the biggest and best prize there is in the whole wide world. And I love you. I can't say it enough. One year after we stood before damn near everyone we know and professed our love for each other, I get to tell you, and them, once again how proud I am to be your husband. And I will continue to make you proud. You can count on that! I'm going to be the best father our baby girl could ever ask for. And that's a promise! I'm going to put in the same work being her protection. So she feels not just my love but our love. And I will not fail her babe, I promise. You have my word. She's so lucky to be a part of you because I'm...(*interrupted by sound*)

**SFX:** Knock on wooden door. Door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly louder volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation behind Melissa.

**MELISSA:**

Mr. Carpenter? Sorry to interrupt but we'll be closing in about 10 minutes for the day. I wanted to give you a few more moments with your wife before we have to lock up. You will be able to have some time before the service tomorrow to view the body again.

**CALVIN:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. I was just about done, so I'll be out soon.

**MELISSA:**

Of course. I'll leave you now so that you can have these final moments alone.

**SFX:** Wooden door closes

**CALVIN:**

Well babe...I guess this is it until tomorrow. We'll be right back in the same sanctuary we took our vows...as we prepare to lay you to rest. I never thought that "until death do you part" thing would come this damn soon. (*sadly, holding back tears*) I don't know how I'm going to make it through, but I will. I have to. For you. (*deep exhale*) I love you so much and don't want to say goodbye. So I'll say see you soon.

**SFX:** Footsteps from hard bottom dress shoes on porcelain tile or similar hard surface floor walking across the room. Door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly higher in volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation.

**CALVIN:**

Happy Anniversary my love.

**SFX:** Wooden door closes with sound

## **Sound Effects Cues**

**Ambiant SFX:** Muffled soft elevator style music throughout except where indicated.

**SFX:** Wooden door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly higher in volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation. Wooden door closes. Footsteps from hard bottom dress shoes on tile or similar hard surface floor walking across the room. Short walk then abrupt footstep sliding to a stop.

**SFX:** Hitting the paper

**Page 1 Cue Line:** I know. I know. (Chuckles) I wrote this...

**SFX:** Metal chair sliding across tile or similar hard surface floor.

**Page 1 Cue Line:** I can't help it. (*chuckles*). So here goes.

**SFX:** Paper crumpled

**Page 1 Cue Line:** You bring joy to pain. You bring...UGH!

**SFX:** Knock on wooden door. Door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly louder volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation behind Melissa.

**Page 2 Cue Line:** She's so lucky to be a part of you because I'm...(*interrupted by sound*)

**SFX:** Wooden door closes

**Page 2 Cue Line:** Of course. I'll leave you now so that you can have these final moments alone.

**SFX:** Footsteps from hard bottom dress shoes on porcelain tile or similar hard surface floor walking across the room. Door opens with slight creaking sound. Soft elevator style music without muffle slightly higher in volume in the distance with low mumbles from conversation.

**Page 2 Cue Line:** So I'll say see you soon.

**SFX:** Wooden door closes with sound

**Page 2 Cue Line:** Happy Anniversary my love.