

Mommy's Gotta Go

a very short play
by
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Character

LATANYA

female, mid-30's, Bronx black

Setting

A lower-middle class home in the Bronx.

Time

Present.

(A little boy's room. It is dark save for the light pouring in from the hall through the open door. We hear the voice of LATANYA calling.)

LATANYA (O.S.)

Elijah...?

(LATANYA appears near the doorway.)

LATANYA

Elijah, you in heeyuh? I know you in heeyuh 'cuz I heard yuh lil' feet, bay-bee... *(She enters the room, turns on the light. She is spattered with blood. She sees that she has smeared blood on the light switch and attempts to wipe her hands on her jeans. She looks in the closet.)* Mommy's real sorry that she... that she woke you up, sweetie. I wuz hopin' that you wouldna heard cuz me and Daddy wuz outside, but I guess if the nay-buhs heard, I shoulda known bettuh, right? Believe me, sweetie, the last thing I wah-ned wuz... fuh you to see awl that. I didn't mean to...*(She looks behind the curtains)* ... I didn't mean to scare you. You scared? Is that why you hidin'? You ain't got nuthin' to be scared about, bay-bee. Not no moowuh. Mommy fixed everythin'. She tawt Daddy a lesson...you know how he was awl-ways tryna teach us a lesson, Elijah? Well, that's awl Mommy wuz doin', okay? *(She gets on her knees and looks under the bed.)* Can you come out now? *(In the distance, sirens sound.)* Shit... Sweetie, you gotta come out now, you gotta come out where Mommy can see you. Please...? Elijah...? *(She reaches for a stuffed animal on the bed.)* Look! Mista Giggles wants you to come out! Mista Giggles ain't scared...*(speaking to the stuffed animal)* Mista Giggles, have you seen Elijah? *(holds it up to her ear, as if it were whispering to her)* Oh, I unnah-stan, but he should know that Mommy didn't have no choice. Daddy didn't give huh no choice, but she would nevuh—nevuh—hurt huh baby like that... What's that Mista Giggles?...Yeah, well... if you *do* see my Elijah...*(The sirens get closer.)*... if you see my bay-bee, then you tell'im... *(fighting tears and losing)*... tell'im that I love him sooooo much and that I would do anythin' fuh him—*anythin'!*—and you tell'im that no mattuh what, I will *awl-ways* love him and that if anythin' happens... *(The sirens are right outside)*... if anythin' happens, I will awl-ways be proud of my brave lil' man... and then you give him this hug fuh me, okay...? *(She clutches the stuffed animal fiercely to her chest and rushes her words now.)* Tell'im how much I wah-ned to hug him mah-self, more than anythin' in this world, more than *life itself*, I wah-ned a hug from my Elijah... *(There is banging on a door offstage. Latanya closes her eyes tightly, desperately. Loses it completely.)* I just wanna hold you bay-bee, I just wanna hold you, *please!* Just come give Mommy uh hug *pleeeeeeease!* *(Suddenly, Latanya stops speaking and straightens up. Elijah has come out of his fourth-wall hiding place. She looks at him, smiles, heaves a huge sigh of relief.)* Bay-bee... *(Still clutching the stuffed animal in one hand, she stretches her arms out toward him.)*

(END PLAY.)