

Jackie Bridgett Cooper

I felt very cold chills moving across my whole body. My heart was broken and my mind felt empty. My mother was gone now and I miss her so much. She was my confidante, my friend, and my source of knowledge and information, from political affairs to making homemade biscuits, but now she was gone. The feeling of despair came over me. How was I going to make it without her? The way I was going on about this you would think I was alone with no one else to call on in a time of need. Well, I guess I could consider my older sister but we've never connected, not the way Ma and I did. We were not only daughter and mother, but we were best friends.

Jackie Bridgett Cooper is my name; most people call me J.B. for short. You could describe me as an African American female 5'6" inches tall, 135 lbs., smooth mocha complexion accented with light brown eyes and a personality that grabs your attention. Working for one of the largest banks in the country has its challenges but I'm always up for any challenge. If I have to say so myself, I am all that! Some might think of me as being a bit arrogant but Ma always said, "If you don't think good about you, nobody else will".

I have one sister. Her name is Carolyn Denise Cooper we call her Carol but she would prefer to be called “Carolyn”. She finds it atrocious that I allow people to call me J.B. I personally don’t care what you called me as long as it’s not something that would make me stop behaving like a lady.

Our father left us when I was one and half and my sister was six years old. Mom took on the common role that most single parents do. She was Mommy and Daddy all wrapped up into one.

Carol is quite the character. She walks around acting like nothing ever bothers her and the world is always “peaches and cream”. And let Carol tell it, making a mistake is something she has never done in her entire life.

I asked God, “*What I’m I going to do without Ma and why was I left with Carol?*” This must be some kind of punishment to the worst degree. Look at her standing there acting as if nothing was wrong, entertaining family and friends. How can she smile at a time like this? Our mother is dead!

I’ve come to the conclusion, there was no way I will be able to have a relationship with her. It will never happen in a million years. You could count on that!

I've been trying not to think about Ma but it was so hard, especially now with all of the chaos in my life. Two weeks before Ma died I broke up with my boyfriend of two years. And because she was so sick I couldn't worry her about what was going on with me. It just seemed selfish on my part, so I decided to wait until she got better. Well, of course that never happened.

Anyway, he came to the funeral services but kept his distance. I would have kept my distance too, if I had of done what he did. I really thought Anthony and I had something special until IT HAPPENED. A woman's worst nightmare, unless of course you're the other woman. I caught him and Tonia Wilkinson, an acquaintance of both of ours, in our bed together. No let's erase that thought, they were in my bed. I'm the one paying the mortgage!

Everything is so fresh in my mind. It seems like it happened a few hours ago. I was having such a really bad day. Some transactions at the bank came up missing on several accounts that I was responsible for a few years ago. United Bank and Trust is one of the largest banks in the nation and I've worked hard to get where I am. The thing that really puzzled me was that the accounts in question were so old and outdated the problem should have come up years ago. In any case, I had been through so many drills about these darn transactions. Over and over again they asked question after question. This had to be worse than a suspected terrorist interrogation. I'm sure Saddam