

Danyelle Ellett: Hi, I'm Danyelle Ellett. I'm the voice of Josephine. Thank you, all, who are listening. By listening, you're supporting great talent across the black community. Black directed, black written, black acted. And it might not seem like much, just pressing play and spending a few minutes with us through each ep, but representation matters. It matters in every aspect of our lives, and how a whole community can see themselves in what we can aspire to. And I don't pick myself as anything (laughs) more than just a girl in front of a microphone.

Danyelle Ellett: But I know for other girls that were like me, or anyone that was like me growing up black, representation mattered. Because then I could see myself in an attainable goal, that I wouldn't have to be the first one to shatter through that barrier. That someone had already made way for me, and that there was clearcut path, even if it was harder than others.

Danyelle Ellett: Please continue to support black podcasts, black stores, um, and small businesses. Our black community is a thriving one and one that really deserves attention right now, in light of everything going on and the systematic racism in America that has been ingrained into every crevice, and corner, and crinkle of this great nation. And it's something, little by little, we can help make changes, even if doesn't seem like much. Representation, activism, they all matter. And thank you, again, for listening. We really appreciate you.

Narrator: Observer Pictures presents, Margaritas & Donuts. This is a bonus episode, Love in the Time of Corona. Written by Tavius Marshall and Faith McQuinn. Directed by Faith McQuinn.

Josephine: (laughs). Hello, Mal.

Malik: Hello, Josephine. Are we doing the 10-minute lunch break, or the two-minute check-in?

Josephine: Sadly, the two-minute check-in. I miss you. I mean, I miss everyone, who doesn't need some sort of emergency care right now. I'm working my regular hours, um, and then another seven or eight in the ER on Wednesday.

Malik: Is there anyway you can make it like, uh, four hours extra? You seem to be running thin, and it's going to be a marathon.

Josephine: I know. I- I know. But what else am I supposed to do?

Malik: Josephine, you have to take care of yourself.

Josephine: Huh! I've only got about a minute left. Hey, can we talk about something fun, like your birthday?

Malik: I'm- I'm sorry all your plans got canceled, but we don't have to do anything special. Honestly, I'd rather you send me a racy picture, and then take a nap.

Josephine: (laughs). Hey, we still have a week or so, but I have made sure that I have that night off, so we can have some us time.

Malik: Give me just an hour of your time and a smile, and it will make the birthday of my dreams.

Josephine: (laughs). You may need to get more exciting dreams.

Malik: Oh, I'll show you how exciting my dreams are, just after all this social distancing.

Josephine: (laughs).

Malik: (laughs). Did you get my present?

Josephine: Do you mean the hand-carved, free-trade, local labor-supported, made in Nashville, one-foot-tall, wooden unicorn that you sent me?

Malik: Did you memorize all of that?

Josephine: (laughs). Yeah. Your nerdy quirks might be wearing off on me a little.

Malik: I even used a small business to deliver it.

Josephine: I couldn't be happier at your silly ass. I mean, I'm just not sure where you keep finding unicorn presents every month. I think I have six now. My house is starting to look like Lisa Frank had a vomit bender in my living room.

Malik: (laughs). You just wait to see what I found for you now. The internet's a big place and I've explored the far reaches of it for the most handcrafted, amazing stupidity.

Josephine: You are too much. I'm riveted with excitement, and great fear.

Malik: (laughs).

Josephine: You know I'm going to have to turn my extra room into a unicorn monument, if you keep this up for years. Right?

Malik: That sounds like an invitation for a long-term employment position.

Josephine: Uh, more of a permanent position with tenure.

Malik: Hmm.

Josephine: (laughs). Uh, okay. I've got to get back inside. It was nice talking to you, and nice to see outside for a minute. (laughs). I love you, Mal.

Katrina: I love you so much, Josephine.

Josephine: Huh, okay. I really have to go. Bye.

Ron: Who are you about to chat with at 1:00? (laughs).

Katrina: Malik's trying to figure out his birthday date plans for Jo.

Ron: Wait. His birthday?

Katrina: Don't ask.

Ron: Oh, that man is good for Jo, but he is...

Katrina: A lot.

Ron: Yes. And now he's too couped up most of the time.

Katrina: He is a social creature. And will you get me the bottle of wine?

Ron: (laughs). On it.

Malik: Hello, and yo?

Katrina: Hey, Mal.

Malik: Josephine got you doing it, too?

Katrina: Oh, we're not good enough friends for nicknames?

Malik: I'm just not used to people calling me anything but Malik.

Katrina: I can stop, if you want me to.

Malik: No, no. It's fine.

Katrina: Okay.

Malik: So, how's it going? What's up, Ron?

Ron: Hey, man.

Katrina: Well, lots of wine.

Ron: If you need me, I'll be couching it with my book.

Katrina: Any who, we're doing about the same as our last chat. Video calls, homeschooling, lots of Netflix binge-watching. Oh, Lord Jesus, are you trying to cook again?

Malik: I've never tried to cook. I've only succeeded at cooking, just not with any palatability.

Katrina: Saying something doesn't taste good is a shitty rose, by any other name.

Malik: (laughs). I can't believe you'd call my cooking, shitty.

Katrina: We know each other well enough, that I could be truthful with you.

Malik: Uh. Have you ever made, uh, ground beef wrong?

Katrina: You mean overcooked it? (laughs). Sure.

Malik: I wish I could explain what I did wrong. Not- not just once, by the way. And I've tried three times now. It doesn't get any better. If I can't make Shepherd's pie, how am supposed to make my grandma's gumbo?

Katrina: Why are you trying to make gumbo?

Malik: I want to be able to make a decent meal by the time lockdown's all over, and I love my grandma's gumbo. Plus, Josephine is so good at making the most delicate and wonderfully flaky salmon with the roasted cauliflower.

Katrina: I know.

Malik: I can't do anything close to that. So after all the YouTube cooking class fails, I've signed up for master classes.

Katrina: Aren't those for people who are good, but want to get better? Or even have a shining glimpse of getting it right?

Malik: You are apparently perfectly and wonderfully correct, but I'm still doing it.

Katrina: Okay. Tell me something. When Jo listed the reasons why you weren't perfect on that faithful day at my house, that got to you. Didn't it? It bothers you. Are you trying to be perfect?

Malik: I- I think I'm still trying. I- I think, I think I'm always trying.

Katrina: Need I remind you that the reason you're still together is because you're not perfect.

Malik: I know. I know. It's... I'm- I'm not trying to be perfect for everyone, just her.

Katrina: You know, trying to be your best for your partner is a great thing. Trying to perfect for anyone is a recipe to fail.

Ron: Oh, hon. Please, no puns.

Katrina: Aren't you supposed to be reading?

Ron: (laughs).

Malik: (laughs). It's- it's- it's not something that just ticked in my brain, like a record, like- like it was before. But my perfect, honestly, just... It wants to be perfect for her.

Katrina: Has anyone ever told you that you might have a neurosis?

Malik: Yeah. I've been told that I have a few. It's a topic me and my therapist cover regularly.

Katrina: Well, owning them is a step in the right direction.

Malik: Uh.

Katrina: So ground beef was the best. What else have you tried?

Malik: What haven't I tried is the real question here. I gave up on eggs. Still, after all these months, I've made one possibly good egg.

Katrina: Oh, sweet Jesus, you cooking breakfast. I had to remake most of it, including the fucking toast.

Ron: Kat! Tiny ears.

Katrina: Aren't the kids in bed? You said 1:00.

Ron: Yes, they are. But wine ups your decibels, and your decibels float right up the stairs into tiny ears.

Katrina: Wine voices always got me into trouble, mostly at parties around annoying ass people, who I forget can still hear me talking about them over the music.

Malik: (laughs). Kat. Whop! Uh, give me a second. That is, that's on fire.

Katrina: What?

Malik: It's not a fire-fire, but... Oh, yep. I'm on fire.

Katrina: Oh, shoot.

Ron: Okay. I'm stepping in.

Katrina: For what?

Ron: This idle chitchat you, two, have going on isn't doing anything.

Malik: Um, I'm back. Fire's out.

Ron: (laughs). We're going to really help you give Jo the night she needs. Look at it as our birthday present to you, brother.

Malik: I'm open to any and all suggestions.

Katrina: This is the weirdest present.

Ron: These are weird times. Just go with it.

Katrina: Aren't you supposed to be sleeping?

Josephine: That's what I've been telling my brain for the last hour. I'm in bed with a sleep mask on, and the covers snug. Kat, I even took melatonin.

Katrina: Why do you even sound embarrassed about that? You should have been doing that this entire time.

Josephine: You'd think I would just pass out.

Katrina: So what's keeping your mind awake, hon?

Josephine: Oh, it's... Honestly, everything. Work, death, bills, pandemic. Pandemic, fucking pandemic. I feel like I'm on the front lines of anything other than a tsunami. My life is just a wave crashing over me over and over again.

Katrina: Have you considered telling your brain to fuck off?

Josephine: (laughs). I'm close to considering most things to fuck off. Uh, not really. You know, I am... I am just so tired.

Katrina: And can't sleep.

Josephine: No. Not really for days, maybe weeks. Just a few nod-offs between changing my PPE 30 times a day, changing my clothes five times a day, changing my schedule, changing my ability to think of anything else, changing the way I can be there for the kids I treat and have known their entire lives. Changing my relationship with Malik. Hmm. I would love to have a hug right now, for him to hold me really close. Oh, I would love to smell his neck right now. I would love to have some, or any sex.

Katrina: That last part is what video chat is for.

Josephine: No. I am in no mind-frame right now to even think about being sexy, especially over a webcam. Oh, God, and his birthday is in a few days.

Katrina: Hasn't he asked you to rest, and let him take care of it?

Josephine: It's his birthday though. The first one we're having together. I had a plan.

Katrina: Plans change.

Josephine: Change is what I was just complaining about. I wanted to do something big, like he does. Also, how do you know he asked to take care of it?

Katrina: Oh, we've been planning, girl.

Josephine: You and Malik?

Katrina: And Ron, a little bit.

Josephine: Oh, really? Well, are you going to tell me?

Katrina: No spoilers, dear.

Josephine: Aww, mean ole Kat.

Katrina: I am the devil. (laughs).

Josephine: (laughs). And how are you?

Katrina: Locked up, sealed up, and in my own world of virtual insanity. Also, I think I'm going to kill the cat.

Josephine: Oh. What did Tabitha do?

Katrina: I don't think cat is happy with everyone being, uh, home all the time.

Josephine: What's she doing?

Katrina: Well, it has been staring at me for four weeks straight.

Josephine: Oh. (laughs).

Katrina: It's on my desk when I am working, two feet away, staring. It's on the couch, in the kitchen, staring. When I'm in the bathroom, staring. The cat is currently sitting on Ron's pillow, to close for comfort, and fucking staring at me.

Josephine: Are you not going to call her by her name anymore?

Katrina: That is Ron and the kids' cat. Tabitha is it's name no more. I honest think it just wants me to leave.

Josephine: (laughs).

Katrina: (laughs). So that's the zoo for cats. That is now my house.

Josephine: And how's homeschooling going?

Katrina: Did you know there's a delivery service for alcohol?

Josephine: (laughs). That good. Huh?

Katrina: (laughs). For real. They're not that bad. It's just a lot to keep them on task when the cat, and the computer, and the TV are right there.

Josephine: (laughs). I can only imagine.

Katrina: You sound so exhausted. I wish I could serve you some virtual soup-

Daphne: Mom.

Katrina: ... and a sandwich-

Daphne: Mom.

Katrina: ... to help you sleep.

Daphne: Mom.

Josephine: Ohhh. Don't-

Daphne: Mom.

Josephine: ... tease me.

Daphne: Katrina?

Katrina: What did you call me? Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sure you did. Now whatever you wanted can wait. Now go to your room. I'll be there in a minute.

Josephine: Mmm. You should go.

Katrina: She can wait.



Josephine: No. No, no, no. I, um... I think I feel the melatonin kicking in.

Katrina: Are you going to be okay?

Josephine: Yes. And thank you. I needed that moment. In fact, I would love a bit of normalcy.

Katrina: And you need sleep.

Josephine: I know.

Katrina: Love you.

Josephine: I love you, too.

Malik: No. No, I rescheduled nearly all my surgeries. Most of the resident staff is just working from home.

Katrina: So you have even more hours at home?

Malik: Yeah. Frightening enough, I- I do. I'm- I'm not too lonely. I've got you.

Katrina: Aww.

Malik: I got my nephew signed up for a few streaming services. Uh, I covered the cost of a few friends, too. So we can chat while streaming.

Ron: That seems like a little much. But what are you watching, and do you want to pay for my streaming service? (laughs).

Malik: I'm watching everything. Too sad documentaries, and standup, and stand down, and downtown, and high noon, and honestly, I'm not sure what I'm watching at this point. And Ron, if you need a new subscription, just let me know.

Katrina: He doesn't. We're fine.

Ron: Shut up, woman. The man is trying to be kind. Ouch.

Malik: (laughs).

Katrina: Mal, you come up with any better birthday date plans since we last talked? And don't say anything hot air balloon-related again.

Malik: The balloon company said no.

Katrina: Holy shit! You called. Listen, that's too much, Malik. Also, no colored people care about a hot air balloon, other than you.

Malik: Okay. Okay, okay. Let me get my questions for the list then. Uh. Okay. So one, how many flowers are too many flowers? Two, do you think they still do singing telegrams?

Katrina: (laughs).

Malik: Three, if so, do they deliver jewelry?

Ron: (laughs).

Malik: Four, she doesn't seem to like cake, but what if it was a pie that looked like a cake?

Katrina: Hold up, hold up, hold up. The best you can get her is time.

Ron: And food.

Katrina: Time and food. The last thing she said to me, the other day, is she wants normalcy.

Ron: Oh, I got it. What's the place you guys go?

Malik: Fork and Feather.

Ron: And let me Google, if they still have delivery hours.

Malik: Uh, to-go hours start at noon, and delivery is between 2:00 and 8:00, Monday through Friday.

Katrina: Of course, you know that.

Malik: As well. It's about supporting small local business. The flow of local economy is supported through our instituted small economy. So I may or may not be ordering from several good places, several times a day, for several friends of mine.

Katrina: (laughs).

Malik: Did you know Fork and Feather started as a food truck in North Nashville? They didn't open a brick and mortar place until-

Katrina: That's very sweet, Malik, and also kind of neurotic.

Malik: So you've told me.

Ron: Also, kind of hipster.

Malik: (laughs). Hey, hey, hey. Hey, now. No need to get violent, Ron.

Katrina: (laughs).

Ron: So the shoe fits.

Malik: Oh. (laughs).

Ron: So first, I think we need to contact the restaurant.

Malik: On it, now.

Katrina: Then we can get her some booze.

Malik: Yeah. I'm liking this.

Katrina: So do you think it'll work?

Ron: Malik's un-birthday? Of course. I think Jo and Malik are always going to work.

Katrina: You never stop being a hopeless romantic.

Ron: I try.

Katrina: So, how's work going?

Ron: Endless video chat meetings. I figure people would know how to use Zoom by now.

Katrina: Have you considered making a tutorial for everyone to understand it easier?

Ron: Oh, there is a damn tutorial. Carl made it. The same fucking Carl that is supposed to be the ad man, can't ever find his microphone button, and most of the meetings I have to look up his nose, because he has no idea how to use the camera. (laughs).

Katrina: I'm sorry, baby. Maybe you should just start playing music in your headphones for every meeting, instead of listening to the meeting. Just nod and say, "Well, we'll get that to you next week," until they send you emails with actual information.

Ron: (laughs). Mm-hmm (affirmative). You make being stuck together worthwhile.

Katrina: You make going crazy inside worth every moment.

Ron: Oh, yeah.

Katrina: I'm not sure the kids are asleep.

Ron: Yeah. Their door's closed. Hmm.

Katrina: Oh, you are a bad, bad man. (laughs).

Ron: (laughs). Hmm.

Josephine: Good evening, Mal.

Malik: Holy hell! You look amazing.

Josephine: (laughs).

Malik: You didn't have to dress up.

Josephine: You didn't either, but damn does it feel good. Stand up, give me a spin around.

Malik: Fashion. Move. Spin.

Josephine: (laughs).

Malik: (laughs). How are you, my love?

Josephine: Uh! Who the hell is that?

Malik: My surprise.

Josephine: This better not be another unicorn.

Malik: Answer the door.

Josephine: Okay. What is all this?

Malik: It should be steak tartare, from Fork and Feather, and hopefully, a pitcher of margaritas.

Josephine: Aww.

Malik: Am I right, Katrina?

Katrina: Yep. That's what we got.

Josephine: (laughs). Oh, my God!

Katrina: Hi!

Ron: Hey, Jo.

Josephine: Got the kids, chicken fingers and, uh, fries.

Lucy: Hi, Auntie Jo.

Daphne: Hi, Auntie Jo.

Josephine: Oh! (laughs). Hi, girls.

Malik: Also, there should be an assorted pack of donuts from Drunken Donuts.

Josephine: How? How did you-

Katrina: Please, do not ask him. Just bask in the glory of good food and booze. (laughs).

Malik: Toast time!

Josephine: No. No, no, no. No toast to anyone, unless this meal comes with cheddar toast.

Katrina: Please know that I fully protested this.

Ron: She lost.

Malik: My birthday. My rules. Would you like to go first, girls?

Daphne: We love you, Auntie Jo.

Lucy: We love you, Auntie Jo.

Josephine: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I love you, too, little ones.

Katrina: I told them to say that, 'cause they didn't quite understand the toast, and kept writing things about toast.

Josephine: (laughs).

Malik: Kat, you're up.

Katrina: Okay. You work too much, but I love you for doing it. Thank you for continuing to be an inspiration, and a pain in my ass.

Lucy: Mommy said ass.

Katrina: Hey!

Malik: (laughs).

Josephine: (laughs).

Katrina: I love you, bestie.

Josephine: I love you, too. I love all of you. I needed this. Oh! I needed this. Thank you all for spending a moment that is not my moment, for me. (laughs). It's something small. I needed something small, because all of my smallness becomes stress. (laughs). I don't know what I need right now, but thank you all, so, so much. I feel, hmm. I feel like I'm breaking apart. Thanks for being my, um, I guess glue.

Katrina: Always, hon.

Ron: A million times over.

Malik: I love you so much. I guess, uh, that means it's my turn. Um, I've thought this- this moment through so many times, Josephine. Pediatrician, uh, witty-ass daughter of a nurse practitioner. I knew how awesome you were from the moment I saw you in the elevator, before Paul asked me over. I- I remember stuff-

Josephine: (snores)

Malik: ... and I can't forget you. I can't forget what you've done in my life.

Josephine: (snores)

Malik: ... I can't forget every time that you laugh and I get the chance to see your smile. I- I can't forget the way that...

Josephine: (snores)

Malik: You're- you're asleep. She's- she's asleep. Isn't she?

Katrina: (laughs). Yep, I'm pretty sure.

Malik: So glad I didn't propose during that speech.

Katrina: What?

Ron: You were what?

Katrina: I'm sorry, what?

Malik: I'm just kidding. Jesus, guys! (laughs). It's only been nine months.

Katrina: Ohhh. (laughs).

Ron: (laughs).

Malik: I'm more of a like 10 months sort of a guy.

Josephine: Hmm? 10 months, what?

Katrina: (laughs).

Ron: (laughs).

Malik: (laughs).

Danyelle Ellett: This episode featured the voices of Danyelle Ellett as Josephine; Tavius Marshall as Malik; LaQuita James as Katrina; Luke Ison as Ron; Lillie McQuinn as Lucy; and Dani McQuinn as Daphne. Producer, Amanda Lorraine; Sound Mixing, Joshua Suhy; Dialogue Edit, Faith McQuinn; theme music, bpProductions; additional music, Alex Shulgun and The Story Shop.

Danyelle Ellett: For more information on the show, how to support us, and where to find us on social media, please visit [md.observerpictures.com](http://md.observerpictures.com). Thank you so much for listening. And remember, grab a drink, have a treat, and tell your friends about Margaritas & Donuts.