

The Voicemail Box Is Full Ep 10: A Very Special Episode

BELLE: The Maudlin Anthology Presents: The Voicemail Box Is Full. Written by Belle “Toast” Stanfield.

[MAUDLIN ANTHOLOGY THEME]

[PHONE DIALING TONE]

LIVVY: [UPBEAT, CHEERY] Hello hello hello! You’ve reached the voicemail box of Livvy Whitlock. Sorry I missed your call, but rest assured that I will get back to you A. S. A. P. *As soon as possible!*

[BEEP]

MOTHER WHITLOCK: [HAUGHTY, SMUG, SUPERIOR] I know you’ve elected to ignore me as well. And it is ignorance, I know you’re not busy. You never are. [A SIGH INTO A SAD AFFECT] I’d love to leave you alone forever as you obviously want, but unfortunately your sister is also ignoring me. So, I have no clue if you two have just banded together to hate me or are dead in a ditch somewhere.

What is a mother to do but worry?

I know I already lost Carn. I lost her a long time ago. I guess I just didn’t think you’d end up like her. For the longest time, you were the only way I could ever get to her... Used to be the other way around, you know. I’m sure you don’t remember that, though. Children always have such selective memories when it comes to their parents. They have a way of remembering all your flaws and none of your strengths. It’s hell bringing them into the world, and it’s hell losing them.

It’s hell losing anyone, but you never imagine it with your kids. Or, *well*, you do imagine it, but it’s a horrible nightmare you torture yourself with when they’re throwing a tantrum so you remember why they’re worth putting up with. It’s

unnatural, watching them leave you. I guess I just really thought you'd never be one to go.

Well before you do, a word of advice: *Don't have kids. They'll only break your heart.*

[BEEP]

LOVER: Hey, I got your text. You are quite the sweetheart, you know that? Made me laugh at work which might have gotten me in trouble but was *totally* worth it. Takes a lot to make me laugh when I'm at that place. I, uh... I also had like a really good time the other night. And, if you're down, I'd love to see you again? This little indie theatre in my neighborhood is doing a showing of *The Thing*. It's the good one with Kurt Russell. You should come. [AWKWARD PAUSE] I want you to come. Okay, call me back. Bye.

[BEEP]

PHARMACIST: Hi, this Meyer's Pharmacy for a— [PAUSES TO READ] *an* Olivia Whitlock? There was an issue with your insurance and your prescription was not set out for delivery today. Please call us at your earliest convenience.

[BEEP]

COWORKER: [HUDDLED OVER, WHISPERING] Liv, *Liv!* Where the hell are you? Micheal's gonna be *pissed* when he finds out you no-call, no-showed. Listen, I can cover for you for like an hour, maybe. Say you went out to get batteries or something and just forgot to clock in, but text or call or something when you wake up so I know you're coming. *Please*. You're the only reason I'm still working here and I don't wanna job hunt.

[BEEP]

ROOMMATE: [DRUNK] Hey girl, *Cabo is fucking crazy!!!* I thought I was fluent in Spanish. I am not. But THEY [PAUSE WHILE SHE DRUNKINGLY POINTS AROUND] don't even care so it's not an issue.

RANDO IN THE BACKGROUND: You should come!

ROOMMATE: OH MY GOD she's so right you *should* have come. I know you're like broke, or whatever, and I know you're worried your sister is gonna like [DRUNKEN WHISPER THAT MAY AS WELL BE SHOUTING] *kill herself*, or something but like live a little!!! You're not LIVVY Whitlock for no reason. Come onnnnnn!!!! I'll buy you a plane ticket and everything don't even— [A SUDDEN PAUSE] [OFF-SCREEN VOMITTING] *oh my god do i have to pay for that?*

[BEEP]

DETECTIVE ROBERTS: Hello Miss Whitlock? This is Detective Roberts over at Reagan County. I'm calling to inquire about a missing persons case? Not the one we've discussed before with Christopher Marks, but a new one with his sister. We did some investigations after she was reported missing. We think she believed you had something to do with her brother's disappearance. She had these notes and documents about you. When she went missing, one of the first places we looked was your property in Reagan County. We found some scraps of clothing, but no body. We think maybe she went looking for her brother and as we've been unable to locate her, we wanted to warn you in case she turns up again and tries to cause trouble. She's been... *relentless*. Call us if you know anything or if you want a detail. We sent some local officers to talk to you in person about it, but you weren't home.

[BEEP]

CARN WHITLOCK: [AWKWARD STATIC] I know you're smart enough not to listen till you're alone, but I also know he— *that thing* won't leave you alone for long so I'll be quick. It's not like a monster in a movie, Liv. You'll probably only get one shot at this, so make it good. I know you can.

You have to face it, Livvy. You have to look it right in the eye. I don't know what form it's in. It might seem like it doesn't even have eyes, *it does*. They're probably not obvious. They're probably shielded or hidden somehow. But if you want it to leave you alone, you have to face it.

You'll know you're looking at it head on when you feel like you're gonna vomit. It's gonna hurt like hell. Like every atom of your being is pulling away from you. Into *it*, but **you have to do it**. You're gonna want to bang your head against the wall until you can't feel anything at all, but **you have to do it**. It's the only way it'll leave you alone, okay? It'll hurt him just as much as it hurts you and I *know* Olivia Whitlock is tougher than that thing, you hear me?

It's like staring into headlights waiting for them to blink. It *will* blink. It *will* turn and run with its tail between its legs. **You just have to do it**. It doesn't even want you, not really. If you do it, it'll run.

You've got Dad's eyes, you know that?

[HESITANT] I love you, Liv.

[BEEP]

ROBOTIC VOICE: The voice mailbox is full. Please try again. Goodbye.