

Woman Thou Art Loosed

MISS RODGERS

Excuse me I'm looking for Michelle Jordan.

MICHELLE

Who are you?

MISS RODGERS

I'm Marie Rodgers, her new parole officer.

MICHELLE

Well, I've been calling in everyday like I'm supposed to.

MISS RODGERS

I know. I just need to check in on my parolees in person.
Make sure they're okay.

MICHELLE

I'm fine thank you.

MISS RODGERS

And you've met your activity requirement?
One of the more unusual stipulations, I admit.

MICHELLE

Yeah, the revival. No it's been pretty incredible.
I think it's having a good impact on me.

MISS RODGERS

Mm-hmm. I'll bet.

MICHELLE

Excuse me?

MISS RODGERS

Oh everybody who gets out of jail finds Jesus, Allah... or the agnostic equivalent. I know every trick in the book and a few that haven't been published yet. Let me check your house-arrest band. It's not the most complimentary accessory, but it's a necessary one nonetheless. Now you know that part of your parole... you're subject to mandatory random drug testing.

(Rodgers hands Michelle a specimen container.)

MICHELLE

I'm clean Miss Rodgers.

MISS RODGERS

You have a history of drug abuse.
You served time for drug possession.

MICHELLE *(She snatches the cup.)*

Okay.

MISS RODGERS

You know that any drugs, paraphernalia
or firearms will be in violation of your parole.

MICHELLE

Look it's like you just waiting for me to
mess up or something.

MISS RODGERS

Let me check your bag.

(Michelle hands her the purse. Rodgers opens it; she
removes a child's dress.)

MICHELLE

You know I'm not the same Michelle that I used to be.
And I don't care if you believe me, as long as I know.
(Rodgers exams the dress, it has dried bloodstain.)

MICHELLE

Bishop Jakes asked us to bring something to church that
kept us bound. That's been buried under my house for over
20 years.

MISS RODGERS (re: the dress)

What is this?

MICHELLE

You remember the day you found out that the bogeyman
was more real than you thought? You remember how ugly
the world was? When a 12 year old has her innocence taken
by her mother's boyfriend the world never looks the same
again. I need to leave that at the alter tonight... so I can

know what it looks like to look ahead and not behind me.

MISS RODGERS (*she puts the dress back*)

Well, Michelle...

MICHELLE

Thank you.

(*Michelle takes the bag back.*)

MICHELLE

I once heard the bishop say that -- that God's bank account was limitless. And I thought somebody owed me for every wrong turn my life took. I thought somebody owed me for every day of freedom that I lost behind bars. I thought somebody owes me... for every day of my childhood that I lost. You know the first day I saw him, I had him pegged. A dog will always avoid eye contact when they busted. But a snake... a snake will never show weakness. Nowadays you got internet predators coming into your house... coming after you babies. But back in the day though we had the Uncle Reggies. Snakes.

MISS RODGERS

Don't let me hold you up. You have a revival to get to right? Don't be late.