

PASS OR PLAY – A SHORT STORY

“Have you ever thought about being with another man since you’ve been married to Denzel?” Sylvia looked her straight in the eyes.

Yvonne sat quietly wondering. “Should I be completely honest with her? Where is she going with this?”

“Weeeelllll... I don’t know how to answer that.”

“O, come on now, surely you’ve met somebody you fantasized about,” Sylvia pressed.

“Huh? You’re kidding, right?” Yvonne looked startled.

“Okay, okay, let me rephrase the question. Would you cheat on Denzel?”

“No. And not because he’s my husband,” Yvonne settled into her seat, feeling a bit more comfortable. “My concern is how I’d feel about myself.”

“Really?”

“Yes, really. Why do you ask?” Now it was her turn to be curious.

“Well, I really admire you; you’re a good friend and I value your opinion,” Sylvia explained.

“That’s kind of you, but what prompted all this talk of fantasizing and cheating?” Yvonne was serious now, Sylvia’s answer didn’t satisfy her.

“Oh, I just really want to know what you think. I want to know what you would do if you found yourself attracted to another man. Would you pursue him?” Sylvia studied her closely.

“I don’t know.”

“Oh, come on now, of course you do,” she pushed. “I can’t imagine that you, of all people, haven’t thought about that. You’re so clear about your choices, your life, and your priorities. I, well, I sort of...well, I – I wish I could come as close.”

“Uh-huh. In that case, I already answered you. Fantasizing and cheating on my husband aren’t subjects I’ve given any serious thought to.”

“Soooo...if some good lookin’ brotha came along, at the right time, of course, and set off alarms and bells, you’re telling me you could let it go without so much as a taste, even a teeny, tiny bite?”

“Sylvia, this is all hypothetical and I don’t deal in supposition,” Yvonne replied evenly.

“Okay, well, let me put this another way. What would you do if Denzel cheated on you?”
Sylvia’s eyes glinted with a hint of mischief.

Yvonne studied her closely, choosing her words carefully, “I trust my husband completely, and I believe he has the ability to think for himself and respond appropriately to difficult situations. Why do you ask?”

“Because,” she laughed mockingly, “I’m strongly attracted to your husband.”

“Yes, Sylvia, we know.”

THE END

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