AMANDA

Written by

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@babyshowbizz @ida_skibenes INT. SQUADROOM - NOON

The squad room is mostly empty, everyone's off to lunch. Rollins sits at her desk, filling out forms. She barely notices when Carisi walks up.

He's grinning and he holds a paper bag. She looks up at him and notices something else under his arm. She lifts a brow.

ROLLINS What's this?

CARISI Got ya lunch.

He sets the bag on her desk and she smiles gratefully. Before she digs in, she eyes his arm.

ROLLINS

And what's that?

Carisi, still grinning, pulls the garment from under his arm and proudly shows it to her; a baby onesie with the words: NYPD 'New York City Police Department' and a police badge stitched onto it.

Rollins quickly reaches for the onesie and hides it in her lap, a matching smile on her face.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) Not here!

CARISI

(chuckling) Relax, no one's looking!

Rollins looks down at the onesie in her hands and traces over the letters with her fingers.

CARISI (CONT'D) I know it's early, but I couldn't resist.

ROLLINS It's perfect.

He leans down and kisses her.

EXT. SAFE HOUSE - 1 MONTH LATER

The street is full of police officers and paramedics. An EMT wheels a body into a van.

Carisi runs up to Benson in a panic.

CARISI Liv, Liv, what's going on? I just heard! Is - is she ok? Is she - is she alive?

BENSON I just got here so I'm not sure of anything.

A beat. Carisi is worried.

BENSON (CONT'D) But what I am sure of...is that Amanda is a very strong woman. If anyone could survive a gunshot would - we both know that she can.

Carisi takes this in. Takes a deep breath.

CARISI Yeah, you're right. You're right.

Benson pulls him in for a hug and he cries into her shoulder. He pulls away quickly, panic back in his voice.

> CARISI (CONT'D) I gotta - I gotta get to the hospital!

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Carisi rushes down a hallway, bumping into an oncoming nurse. He keeps going, his eyes wild with worry.

He finds the reception desk and sets his shaking hands on the counter.

CARISI Amanda? Amanda Rollins?

The NURSE calmly types on her computer. Carisi impatiently waits as she searches.

NURSE She's in emergency surgery.

CARISI When? How long? Is she - NURSE That's all I can tell you right now. (gesturing toward the waiting room) You can have a seat over there.

Carisi looks defeated and he turns to the waiting area. The nurse stops him.

NURSE (CONT'D) I'll let you know as soon as I hear something.

He nods and finds a chair in the empty room. He slowly sinks into the chair, lets out a ragged breath, runs a hand down his face, and bows his head in silence.

INT. WAITING ROOM - HOURS LATER

Carisi sits in the same position. Fin sits next to him. The room is filled with officers now as they all wait in anticipation of news.

Velasco walks up holding a cup of coffee and offers it to Carisi. He takes it, his hand no longer trembling.

CARISI

Thanks.

VELASCO

No problem.

FIN Amanda's mom called back. She's on her way but stuck in rush hour.

CARISI (realizing) The girls - I have to -

VELASCO Liv called your mom. She picked them up from school. She's gonna stay with them.

Carisi exhales in relief and shakes his head.

FIN We got you, man. Everything's taken care of. You just be here for your girl. The nurse from earlier weaves through the multiple officers, prompting silence, and walks up to them.

NURSE (addressing them all) She's out of surgery. The doctor will be with you soon.

Carisi and those surrounding him breathe a sigh of relief. Fin pats his shoulder.

> FIN (to the nurse) Thanks.

The nurse goes to leave when --

CARISI (to the nurse) What's your name?

She turns, smiles kindly.

NURSE

Sam.

She leaves the group.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carisi enters the room, his face full of grief at the sight of Rollins motionless in the bed.

She's asleep. Her skin is pale. She's hooked up to an IV and the heart monitor beeps quietly. Carisi pulls up a chair next to her.

He watches her breathe and listens to the heart monitor. His hand hovers over her arm, hesitant to touch her. He pulls back.

Rollins wakes slowly, her eyes adjusting to the light.

Carisi grabs her hand and gently kisses it.

CARISI (sighing) Thank God.

ROLLINS You look like crap. She cracks a smile. He huffs out a laugh, kissing her hand again. She watches him. Her smile falls.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) (emotional) I lost the baby.

Carisi's eyes fill with tears. Devastation. Silence. Rollins starts to cry.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) I'm sorry.

He stands over her and caresses her face, wiping her tears.

CARISI It's ok - it - it'll be ok.

She shakes her head and winces at the movement. Stills. He holds her face and she looks into his eyes.

CARISI (CONT'D) It's not your fault.

He wipes another tear and she breathes shakily, covers his hand with her own.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - TEN DAYS LATER

There are flowers and stuffed animals surrounding the hospital room. Rollins sits up in bed, listening as Carisi sits next to her. He holds a yellow folder.

> CARISI Jesse doesn't have homework today. She said she finished it in class -

> ROLLINS (amused) She's lying. She has a book to read every week.

CARISI (shock that he could ever be lied to) She lied to me?

Rollins jokingly pats his back as he splutters in surprise. There's a knock on the door and Benson peeks in.

> BENSON Hi. Can I come in?

Carisi gets up from his seat as Rollins waves her in. BENSON (CONT'D) How are you feeling? It's good to see you awake. ROLLINS (joking) That's because I'm not drugged up yet. Carisi smiles at them and Benson takes his place. CARISI (giving Rollins the yellow folder) I'm gonna go get some coffee. Here's her graded papers. That A+ in math ... (pointing to himself proudly) -- is all me. Rollins rolls her eyes and accepts the folder. Benson watches as they smile at each other and Carisi leaves. BENSON He's turning out to be quite the super dad, huh? Rollins stares at the door where Carisi just stood, a solemn look on her face. Benson notices this but says nothing. ROLLINS (changing the subject) Doctor said I can go home tomorrow. I'll be back at work before you know it. Benson dismisses this and shakes her head. BENSON Don't rush it. Take as much time as you need. ROLLINS (shrugging) I wanna get back to work. BENSON I hear you. But this wasn't a scrape on the knee, Amanda. You almost died.

A beat.

BENSON (CONT'D) (choked up) I will not lose you.

ROLLINS

Hey.
 (she takes Benson's hand,
 reassuring)
You're not getting rid of me that
easily.

INT. ROLLINS' APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Rollins and Carisi enter the apartment to loud cheers. JESSE and BILLIE proudly show off their homemade "Welcome Home Mama!" banner hanging on the wall above the couch. Frannie, tail wagging, wiggles over to her owner and whines for a pet.

SERAFINA and DOMINICK SR. watch their grandchildren from the kitchen.

Jesse runs toward her mother and gestures to their decorations.

JESSE Mommy! Look!

ROLLINS Wow! You guys went all out.

Billie toddles over to her mother and pats her leg repeatedly.

BILLIE Daddy said we can get a cat.

Rollins looks over at Carisi, brows raised, strained smile.

ROLLINS

He did?

JESSE Yeah! A black cat! And we're gonna name it Bluey!

Not taking her eyes off Carisi, he shuffles uncomfortably.

CARISI I said *maybe*. It was my Dad's idea. DOMINICK SR. Don't blame me! (to Rollins) Hey Amanda, welcome home.

Dominick Sr. brings Rollins into a gentle hug and she returns it.

SERAFINA (to her husband) Be careful! (to Rollins) Sit down, honey.

Rollins, beginning to feel overwhelmed, listens to them and walks over to the couch. She sits and the girls immediately surround her. They chatter about the cat but Carisi puts a stop to it.

CARISI Later, girls. Why don't you go get your presents for Mom?

The girls run excitedly to their room.

CARISI (CONT'D) (to Rollins) You alright?

Rollins nods and gives him a smile. He rubs her shoulder.

CARISI (CONT'D) I'm gonna get you something to drink.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Serafina joins her son as he opens the fridge to get a water. She glances at Rollins, the blonde leaning back against the cushion and exhaling.

> SERAFINA (whispering) How is she?

CARISI (softly) She's good, Ma. She'll be fine.

His words do not match his expression and Serafina catches this. He looks over at Rollins, his eyes full of concern.

Heavy breathing.

View of bathroom sink and mirror.

Rollins sits against the bathtub. She hugs her knees to her chest, her hands covering her face. She inhales deeply, her breath hitches in her throat.

She lifts her head, her cheeks flushed from crying. Her eyes are unfocused. Terror.

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Fin, Rollins, and Velasco stand in front of Benson's desk. Benson looks at her laptop. Rollins presses a hand against her stomach and Benson notices.

> BENSON (looking up) Fin, Velasco -- head to Mercy and check on Ava.

ROLLINS

I can go -

BENSON Actually, I need you here.

Rollins exchanges a glance with Fin before he leaves the room with Velasco.

Rollins closes the door behind them and takes a deep breath before facing Benson.

ROLLINS I went through Ava's socials and we found an ex boyfriend -

BENSON I'll have Velasco handle it.

A pause. Benson watches as Rollins shifts uncomfortably.

BENSON (CONT'D) How are you doing?

ROLLINS

Fine.

Rollins takes a seat and Benson gives her a pointed look.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) (sighing) I'm getting there.

BENSON Are you getting any sleep?

ROLLINS

Some. (shrugging) There's nightmares.

BENSON And Carisi? Is he there for you?

ROLLINS When I let him.

BENSON Are you guys good?

Rollins looks away, looking toward the ceiling as if trying not to cry.

BENSON (CONT'D) (soft) What's going on?

A beat.

ROLLINS I was pregnant.

Benson is taken aback, eyes wide, emotional.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) It wasn't planned but -

BENSON (understanding) But you were happy about it.

ROLLINS

(flat) And now it's gone.

Benson's face fills with compassion. Rollins attempts a shaky smile but it falls and she looks broken.

EXT. KING ST. - DAY

DAVID is running. He turns around a corner into an alleyway. Rollins runs after him.

ROLLINS

Stop! NYPD!

She pulls her gun out before she turns the corner.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rollins holds her gun out as she walks down the alley. David is nowhere to be seen.

ROLLINS David, I know you're here. I don't want anyone to get hurt.

Silence. Rollins is nervous.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) I just wanna talk to you about Ava.

Suddenly, David appears behind her and jumps onto Rollins, making her lose her grip on her gun.

She falls to the ground and turns around to face him. Fear flashes in her eyes.

FLASHBACK

Rollins on the ground, bleeding from her abdomen. She winces at the man towering over her with a gun in her face.

END FLASHBACK

David stands over her and Rollins can't speak. Before he can move, Fin is around the corner and points his gun at him.

> FIN Hands up, punk.

David puts his hands up and Fin cuffs him.

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FIN (CONT'D)
(to Rollins)
You ok?
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Rollins pulls herself up, catches her breath.

ROLLINS Yeah. Yeah, I'm ok.

Fin looks unsure but leaves it.

Rollins and Carisi sleep. She turns her head to the side, her face distressed.

Suddenly, she shoots up in bed with a gasp. The movement wakes Carisi and he quickly sits up in alarm.

CARISI (noticing her shaking hands) What's wrong?

She shakes her head, her breathing coming in short gasps. Carisi gently places a hand on her back.

> CARISI (CONT'D) Hey. (she meets his eyes) Take a deep breath.

She does as she's told and breathes with him. He continues to rub her back soothingly as she calms down.

A beat.

ROLLINS Sorry about that.

CARISI Has this happened before?

She nods her head, turns away at his pitiful look.

CARISI (CONT'D) Why didn't you tell me?

ROLLINS I didn't wanna bother you. It's embarrassing.

CARISI

It's ok.

ROLLINS (groaning) It's not ok. I need to get over this.

A beat.

CARISI You've been through so much. And we lost - ROLLINS I *know* what we lost, Carisi.

CARISI Then why don't we talk about it?

ROLLINS (frustrated) What's there to talk about? It was there and now it's gone.

CARISI

It?

ROLLINS (shaking her head) I didn't mean it like that.

Carisi sighs. There's an awkward silence.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) I don't want to think about it. I just wanna move on.

A beat. Rollins notices Carisi's hurt expression. Her shoulders drop and she feels worse than she did before.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) I know you're hurting, too and I don't wanna shut you out -

CARISI

But you are.

ROLLINS (apologetic) I know.

A beat. Rollins moves closer to him in bed, puts her hand on his arm.

CARISI If this happens again -

She turns to look at him, meets his eyes.

ROLLINS

It won't.

Rollins settles next to him, puts her head on his shoulder.

CARISI But if it does - if you have another nightmare, I need you to know that it won't scare me away. ROLLINS I'm scared. CARISI Of what? ROLLINS The future. Losing everything. What I have. He kisses the top of her head. CARISI Let's just take this one step at a time. She looks up at him, relaxing at his comforting smile. ROLLINS But...do you want another baby? CARISI (surprise) Right now? Rollins chuckles and leans in to kiss him. INT. BAR - EVENING STABLER sits in a booth, sipping his beer. Rollins walks into the bar and takes the seat across from him. ROLLINS Thanks for meeting me. STABLER What's this about? ROLLINS How did you know that leaving SVU was the right thing for you?

Stabler sets his beer down, surprise on his face.

A beat.

STABLER I didn't know. It took a long time for me to come to terms with my decision. I wasn't just leaving the job – ROLLINS You're talking about Liv. STABLER (hesitating) Yeah. ROLLINS And your family? Did they support you? STABLER If I hadn't left when I did, I don't know if my family would've stuck around. A pause. STABLER (CONT'D) You thinking about leaving? She ignores his question. ROLLINS There was a baby... STABLER

(realizing) When you got shot.

She nods and Stabler looks emotional for a moment. They sit in silence, lost in their own thoughts.

ROLLINS I don't know how much you've heard, but my past is...

She struggles to word it, shrugging.

STABLER (slight smile) Whose isn't?

ROLLINS But what I have now is -

STABLER - Not worth the risk. She nods and he understands.

STABLER (CONT'D) Sounds like your mind's already made up.

Rollins sighs, sadness and relief in her expression.

INT. ROLLINS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carisi lounges in bed, scrolling through his phone. Rollins, in a tank top and shorts, leans against the door jamb, brushing her teeth.

Carisi looks up from his phone and they share a smile. He watches as she walks to the closet, searching for an outfit for the next day. She pulls out a blazer.

When she turns around, Carisi still watches her and she raises a brow.

ROLLINS (muffled) What?

CARISI (shrugging) Nothing. Just...you look good.

Rollins rolls her eyes and walks back to the bathroom.

When she returns, he still has a goofy grin on his face.

ROLLINS Stop looking at me like that.

CARISI

Like what?

ROLLINS

That.

She climbs into the bed and he shrugs again, innocent.

CARISI You look different tonight. Did something happen?

She straddles him and he places his hands on her hips.

ROLLINS (shrugging) Just happy to be here with you. Rollins kisses him. She pulls back, half serious, half joking.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) Carisi, let's make a baby.

Taken aback, he gulps.

CARISI

Ok.

His eyes flicker with slight worry but she smiles and caresses his face. A wordless reassurance.

She leans in and starts kissing him. Moaning, she rocks her hips into him. He slides his hands up her back and presses her against him.

Carisi lifts up her tank top and she quickly removes her bra.

Rollins intertwines their fingers above their heads.

View of the window above the bed.

ROLLINS (whispering) I love you.

5 MONTHS LATER

INT. SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Rollins stands in the squad room alone. The room is dark. She gathers picture frames on her desk and puts them in a box. She looks up and glances around.

We see the bright, eager Amanda Rollins from the past in the mature and experienced woman of the present.

Benson enters the squad room, wearing a dress.

BENSON Hey, there you are.

ROLLINS Sorry. Just getting one last look.

BENSON (grabbing the glass jar with Rollins' chipmunk) Are you taking this? ROLLINS Do you want it?

BENSON

No...

Rollins shrugs and puts it on Fin's desk. She turns back to Benson with a grin.

ROLLINS To remember me.

Rollins grabs the box and they head for the elevator.

BENSON It won't be the same without you.

The elevator dings and they walk forward.

ROLLINS (playfully) It'll probably be better.

Benson grabs her arm, sincere.

BENSON Amanda, I mean it.

Rollins ducks her head, looks back at Benson.

ROLLINS Liv, this job changed my life.

A beat. They face the elevator doors.

BENSON Meeting you changed mine.

Without looking at each other, they both smile sadly.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The bar is crowded with people. It's decorated with streamers and a banner that reads: "GOODBYE AMANDA"

Everyone's attention is on Fin.

FIN I never thought I'd have to give this speech. Mostly 'cause I hate giving speeches.

The crowd laughs.

FIN (CONT'D)
 (sincere)
But you're doing what's right for
you, for your family. And I respect
that.

Rollins smiles, leaning on Carisi as he pulls her closer. Benson watches them with a sad smile. She holds out her glass to the group.

> BENSON To Rollins.

Everyone raises their glass, toasting. Rollins noticeably does not drink from her glass, but sets it down on the bar behind her.

Benson lifts an eyebrow but says nothing. She watches as Carisi also puts his glass down behind them and the two share a grin.

> FIN (to Rollins and Carisi) We not drinkin' tonight?

> > ROLLINS

I'm not.

She looks at Carisi and they beam. Benson softly chuckles to herself.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) Actually, I won't be drinkin' for a while.

BENSON (knowing) Congratulations.

Benson moves in to hug Rollins, then Carisi. Fin looks at all three of them. Carisi notices his slight confusion and pats him on the shoulder.

> CARISI We're havin' a baby.

FIN (joking then sincere) I knew that. Congrats, man.

Rollins and Carisi are flooded with congratulations and hugs. Benson stays behind, sipping her wine. She turns her head and catches Elliot Stabler's eye. They share a look from across the room and he smiles at her. Rollins notices and after making her way out of the crowd, finds Benson.

ROLLINS You know there's a hotel across the street...

Benson takes her eyes off of Stabler and gives Rollins a stern look.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) (teasing) Or the bathroom down the hall.

BENSON

Stop.

Rollins bumps into her shoulder with a wide grin and Benson cracks a smile.

INT. AIRPORT - 1 DAY LATER

Rollins, Carisi, Carisi's parents, and the girls walk through the airport. Jesse and Billie follow their parents as they wheel their suitcases. Serafina and Dominick Sr. follow behind.

> SERAFINA (to Carisi. Loudly.) Don't forget to have your passport out!

CARISI (hollering back) I know, Ma, it's literally in my hand.

DOMINICK SR. Did you know you could have those on your apple watch?

CARISI Not now, Dad.

JESSE I want an apple watch!

ROLLINS (glaring at Carisi) The cat was enough.

They stop before reaching TSA. Carisi hugs his parents as Rollins leans down to her girls.

ROLLINS (CONT'D) Please be good for Nonna and Nonno, ok?

JESSE

We will.

BILLIE Can you get something for Bluey?

ROLLINS (sighing) I'm sure your Dad will find something.

She hugs and kisses her girls and switches places with Carisi, telling his parents goodbye.

Carisi leans down to the girls, kissing them both on the cheek. He tickles Billie and she giggles.

CARISI Gonna miss you. We'll be back before you know it.

JESSE Nonno said we can have ice cream every morning!

Carisi, Rollins, and Serafina look to Dominick Sr.

DOMINICK SR. What! Look at that face!

Jesse beams. Rollins sighs, kissing her girls one more time. They wave goodbye as they join the line.

INT. ON THE PLANE - LATER

Rollins sits with her eyes closed. Carisi sits next to her, fidgeting, looking panicked. He pats at his pockets, his worry building as he can't find what he's looking for.

Rollins opens one eye at the movement. She has a small smile on her face, greatly amused.

ROLLINS

You ok?

Carisi stops fidgeting.

CARISI Yeah, um, yeah. I'm fine?

Rollins grins at him, reaching under the seat for her purse. She pulls out a tiny black box.

ROLLINS Ya lookin' for this?

He sighs in relief and disappointment.

CARISI How did you find it?

ROLLINS It slipped out of your pocket.

He smiles sheepishly, as if embarrassed.

CARISI I wanted to propose in Italy.

She hands him the box, her smile bright.

ROLLINS So propose to me in Italy.

THE END.

INT. PLANE - SAME DAY Behind Rollins and Carisi, KEITH and ALLIE sit together.

> ALLIE (wistful) So romantic.

KEITH (mildly offended) My proposal was romantic.

ALLIE You don't have a romantic bone in your body.

Keith gestures to his crotch --

ALLIE (CONT'D)

DON'T.

KEITH You set me up.

Allie grumbles as Keith smirks.

KEITH (CONT'D) Hopefully Italy will be better than Australia.

ALLIE I loved Australia.

KEITH If we stayed any longer, we would've died there. Our tombstones would've read: 'Here Lies Keith and Allie - dead by beasts.'

ALLIE The spiders are not that big.

KEITH One was bigger than my --

ALLIE I want a divorce.

KEITH That's fair.