

SO SHE SLAYS

Written by

GlenNeta Griffin

FADE IN:

INT. NEW YORK CITY BOARD ROOM - DAY

An open board room of Slay Enterprises, Inc. Multiple windows overlook the New York City skyline. Money is made here.

Four male board members in expensive suits sit around an oval conference room table discussing their weekend. They look like polished businessmen or stockbrokers.

LENA FITZGERALD, 32, a single, smart, career driven business woman is stylish in professional attire covering her body and leaving nothing on display. She sits at the top of the board room table in the executive seat next to the CEO seat, facing the door so she can see everyone coming in and out. She shuffles white index cards with her acceptance speech bullets as she awaits the promotion she's been waiting for.

JACKSON A. SLAY, JR., 32, tall, handsome, the CEO of Slay Enterprises, Inc. enters the room dressed with confidence in an expensive, dark suit holding nothing in his hands. He scans the room with his eyes and prepares to make the announcement.

Lena confidently makes eye contact with Jackson as she is already prepared to make her acceptance speech.

Jackson stands at the head of the table next to the CEO Chair.

JACKSON

Good morning everyone. I know you all have been waiting for this moment-- so we'll jump right in. Our newest Chief Operating Officer at Slay Enterprises, Inc. is--

Silence.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Cedric Cole.

The BOARD MEMBERS around the table slowly applaud in awe while staring at Lena.

Lena stares in rage at Jackson without breaking eye contact.

Jackson stares back as if he's won a fight.

INT. CEO OFFICE - POST BOARD MEETING

Jackson sits at his desk with his feet up as if he has no worries.

Lena enters the office and slams the door behind her.

LENA

What the hell was that?

JACKSON

A promotion. What did it look like?

Jackson sits in his chair and smiles while placing his feet up on his desk.

LENA

We had an understanding. You asked me to be here.

Lena begins to mock Jackson.

LENA (CONT'D)

(In a desperate voice)

Lena, I need you. My dad left me his company and I think I'm going to lose it. -- You said I was the BEST. That I was the first person you called when you were in trouble. And that your dad would think you were a failure if I didn't help.

Lena pauses as she tries to keep her composure.

Jackson stares and allows her to finish with a smirk on his face.

LENA (CONT'D)

(She takes a deep breathe)

You promised me that position.

Lena pauses in disappointment.

LENA (CONT'D)

Tell me why?

JACKSON

You know I can't make a WOMAN a COO. All of this diversity and inclusion mess going on. You'll steal my shine. And plus, I owed you one.

Lena leans in with both hands on the desk.

LENA

What are you talking about?

Jackson stares at Lena's chest and gazes her up and down.

Lena glances down and back up while pulling her blouse closed tighter. She makes eye contact.

LENA (CONT'D)

Is that what this is about? I refuse to get back with you and all promises go out the door? Things have changed. You're married now.

Lena stops and looks in disgust. She gathers her thoughts and stands up to pull it together. She hits record on an audio recorder on her phone.

LENA (CONT'D)

I left my career in Atlanta to help you recover your dad's company after YOU made foolish mistakes and side deals with HIS money. Transfers to off shore accounts.

Lena places her hands and phone on Jackson's desk and leans in again.

Jackson stares without flinching.

LENA (CONT'D)

(She begins to speak in a whisper)

And are ALL of the other ladies in the office not enough? Your secretary, the receptionist, the interns? I know about all of them. But the question is, does your wife?

Lena stares at Jackson anticipating a response.

JACKSON

They don't matter. You were suppose to be my woman.

Jackson stands and walks over to Lena.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Is there anything you want to tell me?

Jackson stares directly at Lena without movement.

LENA

About what?

JACKSON

You still don't get it. You pretend to be this ALL PUT TOGETHER woman but you have secrets of your own, don't you?

LENA

I don't know what you're talking about.

Jackson walks around the desk to become face to face with Lena.

JACKSON

Let me help you.

Jackson leans in to whisper in Lena's ear.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

ANTHONY DEAN. I want to hear you say it. Admit that you cheated on me when we were together.

Lena is speechless. She turns her head to the side in embarrassment.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Say it Lena. Drop this good girl act and say it. ADMIT IT.

Lena pauses and takes a step back to gain control.

LENA

Fine. Years ago when we were together, I cheated on you with your best friend. Are you happy now?

Lena stares at Jackson waiting on a response.

JACKSON

Yes. Now we're even. And YOU'RE FIRED! I don't need you anymore.

Lena stares at Jackson in disgust.

LENA

Our past has nothing to do with the work that I've done here. You'll be nothing without me. And this is NOT over.

Lena grabs her phone from the desk and walks toward the door without looking back.

INT. NEW YORK BOARD ROOM- DAY

Lena heads back to the board room. She pauses outside the door. She takes a deep breath and enters with confidence. JACKSON A. SLAY SR., owner and former CEO is sitting in the CEO chair alone in the room. Lena is caught off guard.

LENA

(Surprised)
Mr. Slay... I wasn't expecting to see you here.

JACKSON SR.

Lena, have a seat.

Lena slowly sits in the executive chair placed near the head of the table.

LENA

Mr. Slay, your son just fired me. I was only coming back in to tell everyone I was leaving. They've done a really great job under my leadership.

Lena takes a deep breath.

LENA (CONT'D)

Mr. Slay, I'm not perfect but I love this company and I'm great at what I do. I want you to hear something.

Lena reaches to play the conversation with Jackson Jr. on her phone.

JACKSON SR.

No need. I know everything. I came up today because I wanted to congratulate you in person. But when I arrived, I didn't even recognize my own company.

Mr. Slay leans back in his chair holding a pen.

JACKSON SR. (CONT'D)

If it weren't for you, we would have gone under. I don't care about your past with my son. You're a great asset to this company.

Lena looks confused and surprised.

JACKSON SR. (CONT'D)

I want you to be our new CEO. You're replacing my son.

Lena takes a beat and tears up. She nods her head yes.

LENA

Thank you sir. I would be honored. But what about Jr?

JACKSON SR.

Don't you worry about him. I'll take care of it. He needs some time off. His wife is moving her things out as we speak. Something about him sleeping with other women in the office. He needs to get his life together. You just keep performing the way you've been and you'll have nothing to worry about.

Jackson Sr. stands and walks toward the door.

JACKSON SR. (CONT'D)

Enjoy your new office Lena. You deserve it.

LENA

Thank you sir.

Lena smiles and quietly reflects.

INT. CEO OFFICE- DAY

Lena glances out the window of her new CEO office overlooking the New York City skyline.

She smiles and changes out the name plate on the desk from Jackson A. Slay Jr. to Lena Fitzgerald, CEO. Sitting on the desk is a framed quote, "She Slays."

FADE OUT.

THE END