

**I REMEMBA MAMA**  
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**Characters**

**Mama Jenkins**

**Jason**

**Madison**

**Setting:** It is midnight; Mama Jenkins and Jason are found on the subway.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Sit down, Jason! I'm not gonna tell you again. It's too late for all that moving around.

**Jason:**

Grandma, I'm bored. It ain't nothing here for me to do, but sit down. I'm tired of sittin.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Why don't you go to sleep or something? You don't need to be doin' all this movin' 'round. You know how clumsy you are. You might knock something down.

**Jason:**

I ain't gonna knock nothin' down. Nobody on here but you and me. We bout to get off in a couple more stops anyways.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason, we are slowing down now. That means we are about to make a stop. So, come on and sit down.

**The subway stops and a young lady enters the subway and sits directly across Jason and Mama Jenkins**

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason! Watch out for that-

**Jason hits a broom that was standing against the wall and hits the young lady. The broom knocks some ballet shoes off of the shoulder of the young lady.**

**Jason:**

Uh oh!

**Mama Jenkins:**

You see what you did? I told you to come sit down. You just don't know how to act. **(To the young lady)** Are you alright? I'm sorry for my grandson.

**The young lady nods her head.**

**Mama Jenkins:**

You can't talk? I just apologized to you and you can't respond? I don't know what's wrong with ya'll chillen' these days. Act like ya'll ain't got no home training.

**The young lady begins to cry.**

**Jason:**

Look at what you did. You made that girl cry.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason, hush up!

**Jason:**

She didn't cry when that broom hit her, but when you fussed at her she just started crying.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason, I said hush! **(She moves and sits beside the young lady and begins to rub her on the back)** What's wrong sweetie? Did I hurt your feelings? I'm sorry. What's your name?

**Madison:**

**(Still crying)** Madison

**Mama Jenkins:**

That's a beautiful name. You know, my mother's name was Madison. I just love that name. I always said if I ever had a little girl I would name her Madison, after my mama, but I had a boy and could never have anymore kids. I just love that name. **(She pauses)** Anyways, what's wrong?

**Madison:**

**(Stops crying)** Well, I have been staying with my boyfriend for some time now and we got into a big fight because I am leaving college to become an actress and he thinks that I'm going to go out and cheat on him. I told him that I wasn't going to be gone long. I just needed to really go out and do something that I love and acting is something I love to do. So he put me out. Then I called my parents and my father told me I couldn't come home because he told me even before I moved out to never even think about coming back home if I was going to move in with Derrick. So basically I have nowhere to go and when I got here you began to fuss at me and it did me no good. The broom didn't even hurt me at all. Actually, it was a good thing the broom did hit me. **(Chuckles)** I had to make sure this wasn't a dream.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason, pick those shoes up for Madison.

**Jason:**

These are some ugly shoes. They soft and flat.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Now is not the time for that. Just give her back her shoes.

**Jason:**

Why you got them with you any ways? That's all you got with you, too.

**Madison:**

Yeah, those, and this mask. I didn't have time to get my clothes. I had to get out of that house immediately. He was going crazy. He yelled at me and began to *TRY* to put his hands on me. Then, I realized I had to get out without clothes. I grabbed my mask and my shoes and got out.

**Jason:**

So where are you gonna go?

**Mama Jenkins:**

Jason, quit askin so many questions. So, Madison, where are you gonna go?

**Madison:**

I don't know. I'll just ride 'til I come to a stop and hopefully I find a comfortable place for me to be. Hopefully, someone will allow me to perform and see my potential. I just want to be an actress.

**Mama Jenkins:**

How long have you been acting?

**Madison:**

I have been acting since I was about seven and I'm twenty now. So, about thirteen years, is it?

**Jason:**

Duh! Seven plus thirteen equals twenty. And, you're in college?

**Madison:**

(Smiling) Well, Jason, math is not my subject. (Pinches his cheek)

**Mama Jenkins:**

So, what's your major?

**Madison:**

It's English Education with a minor in Theatre. I'm thinking about changing it to just Theatre. I love to act. It allows me to be in a place of comfort, but at the same time having fun doing it.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Yeah, I know what you mean.

**Madison:**

Huh?

**Mama Jenkins:**

I know what you mean. **(Stands up)** I used to act. Yep, back in the day. It was fun. A whole lot of fun too. I remember my first show; I played the daughter of a poor man, John Rufus. It was just me and my poor daddy. He tried his hardest to provide for me, but come to find out he had three other outside kids. In the play, my mom had passed which left only me and my daddy. We struggled together. I was 'posed to go to school, but many times I didn't. As a matter of fact, I remember my first line. "How am I 'posed to go to school, daddy? I ain't got no clothes. I ain't got no shoes. Mama done died and left us here alone. Daddy, I don't know how to sew. What are we gonna do?" My daddy, in the play ya know, looked at me and said, "We gone be alright. With God on our side, me and you and all my other kids are gonna make it." Yep, I remember that one like it was yesterday. But, you see it was a struggle for me to get in the industry. In my day it was a struggle.

**Madison:**

But, you don't look like an actress.

**Mama Jenkins:**

And you don't either, but look at you. You're an actress.

**Jason:**

**(Jumps out of his seat)** Yeah, I'm an actress, too!

**Mama Jenkins and Madison laughs at Jason**

**Mama Jenkins:**

No, Jason, you can be an ACTOR, but not and ACTRESS.

**Jason:**

What is that mask for?

**Madison:**

My grandma had this mask and gave it to me when I was ten. I always use this mask to cover my face when I'm upset and want to get away. It really does help out. If only it wasn't cracked. It doesn't have too much longer before it's going to be done for. I'm going to have to throw it away soon.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Who said you had to throw it away?

**Madison:**

Well, there's not going to be much that I can do with it.

**Mama Jenkins:**

There is a lot you can do with it, honey. You are an actress. A true actress always keeps up with their costumes. If you throw that away, then what will you use when you wanna get away?

**Madison:**

I don't know.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Let me see it? **(Reaches for the mask)** Look at this. You can still use it. You better use the method that I always use to keep things together.

**Madison:**

What's that?

**Mama Jenkins:**

A little duck tape. **(Begins laughing)** Let me learn ya something real quick. **(Sits back down beside Madison)** Never throw away your things. You always wanna keep your stuff for sentimental value. If you throw it away and your career comes to a stop, then what are you gonna do?

**Madison:**

I don't know.

**Mama Jenkins:**

That's why you keep your things forever. I sure do wish I would have kept mine. That's why I can tell you these things. You always gotta listen to someone that done been through something. That might be why your dad told you not to come back home. He probably did the same thing back in his day.

**Madison:**

He did. How did you know that?

**Mama Jenkins:**

I been through it all. I know exactly what I be sayin. You gotta listen when older folk tell you something. Nine times out of ten they been through it themselves.

**Madison:**

Yes maim, I understand. I just wanted to be an actress and wanted to do my own thing.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Don't we all?

**Madison:**

So what should I do?

**Mama Jenkins:**

Well since it's so late and you don't know where you're going, you can come spend the night with us. In the morning, I'll call your parents and I know a few things they may be able to consider and allowing you to come back home, may be just one of them. As for you, you gotta take your mask and cover your face sometimes. Close out the world and find yourself for a moment. Then you put your shoes on and dance and act 'til you can't act no more. You're gonna make it and you want me to tell you how I know?

**Madison:**

And how is that?

**Mama Jenkins:**

Let's just say I know somebody who knows somebody else that just might be able to do some things for you.

**Madison:**

**(Begins to cry)** Thank you! Thank you so much.

**Mama Jenkins:**

Here is our stop. Jason, pick up that broom and put it back up against the wall and come. Madison, you come too.

**Madison:**

Yes maim. And, what is your name?

**Mama Jenkins:**

Just call me MAMA! Now, come on here.

**Jason:**

Yeah, come on here.