

From Caviar to Cornbread and Collard Greens

Tamara Morty's life was a dream. She had the best friends in the world, a cute boyfriend, and a great relationship with her parents. Tamara loved her life very much. Although enough was never enough for her she always had to have more than what she needed, which was wonderful at times but this year she needed to learn that sometimes she needed to be grateful for what she already had. Tamara lived in the San Diego, California. Her parents owned one of the biggest mansion's in her town. Tamara attended one of the best private schools. Her parents had set up a great life for her. She took trips to Paris, Hawaii, and shopping sprees all over. Tamara never went without anything.

One day her dad got a call from his job saying that he was fired because he lied on his resume and that it would take a lot of work for him to find a job that good again. Damien and Alice, Tamara's parents knew that this day was coming soon but they didn't want to worry anybody. Everyone knew that Tamara would freak out. She was very spoiled but hard working. Tamara had everything according to everyone except herself. Bills started adding up her father couldn't pay them. He tried so hard but against everything he believed in he had to give up and find somewhere else to stay. That wasn't the hardest part though, it was telling his daughter. Tamara was devastated. She never knew what hit her. This would change her life forever. The next day her father found out that he was getting for closed on. Also the bank would be demolishing his house and turning it into a community club house to market their sub division better. They didn't have any family both of her parents were the only child and their parents were dead. So they had nowhere to go. She couldn't stay with any of her friends because she knew they would grow suspicious and ask questions. Tamara wouldn't be able to bear the pain. Her parent's had already paid her tuition at the beginning of the year so she could stay in school.

All they had left was her moms Cadillac escalade. During their devastation they were riding by their town, they stopped at the park to rest awhile. When they were there they met this joyous family and this family just so happened to be the first family of Johnson Missionary Baptist Church. Tamara started a friendship with the pastor's kids. Mister and Misses Morty began a conversation with the pastor and first lady. They never told anyone about their problems before but for some reason they felt a spirit or something to tell someone and take a little bit of pressure off their shoulders. Pastor Johnson gave them a place to stay he had an extra room in his house and Tamara shared a room with one of the pastors' daughters, Brielle. The Morty's were very grateful but they knew that this was not the way they wanted to live for the rest of their life.

Damien began looking for a job as soon as he could. Damien talked it over with Alice and they asked Pastor Johnson if he could squeeze in a job at the church to help Damien get back on his feet. Pastor Johnson, known as Jeremiah, happened to find a job for Damien as the church's accountant. Every day Tamara caught the bus and took it to school all the way from the east side. She was so embarrassed. Tamara would get off the bus three blocks before her school because she didn't want people to know she rode the bus. People asked where her driver was and she said that she was trying to get more exercise. Tamara's parents started noticing that she was changing. She didn't have that same ambition or drive for success any more. They knew that it obviously had something to do with the status change but her parents felt that she should talk to the pastor. She began counseling with the pastor and some youth counselors and she got help and started remembering all the things she had and that if she started working hard again she could have them again. Her father started making more and more phone calls to people he was meeting. He didn't know how many good people he could meet by doing a little Christian fellowship. Life was getting good again. They never made it back to the high status that they were at in the beginning of the year but it was good enough for them. Tamara learned that it was okay not to have everything but it was important to know that she could get it with hard work and good ambition.