

CALLED INTO ACTION

A Play

By

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Characters

MEGAN, 25-year old full time wife to Chris, mother, student, and elementary school teacher's aide.

CHRIS, 25-year old husband to Megan, father, full time truck driver, and Air National Guard Airman.

LILY, 7-year old daughter of Megan and Chris.

ADDISON, 6-year old daughter of Megan and Chris.

TAYLOR, 3-year old daughter of Megan and Chris.

DIAMOND, 29-year old friend of Chris and Megan.

Setting

Chris and Megan's bedroom. The present. Hurricane occurring outside.

Lights up to reveal MEGAN, walking into her bedroom. She instructs LILY, ADDISON, and TAYLOR to put their backpacks up and go play in the other room. MEGAN puts down her bags and hangs up her keys on her key hook in her bedroom.

MEGAN'S phone begins to ring, it's MEGAN's Husband, CHRIS.

MEGAN smiles and answers the phone cheerfully.

MEGAN

Hey baby! I was just about to call you.

CHRIS

Hey gorgeous. Are you and the girls still at school?

MEGAN

No, the school sent everyone home because of the hurricane.

CHRIS

Did you pick up Taylor?

MEGAN

Yeah, I picked her up on our way home.

CHRIS

So, you made it home with all three girls ok?

MEGAN

Yeah, we just walked in actually.

CHRIS

How is it looking at our house?

MEGAN

The wind is picking up and it is raining off and on. Where are you?

CHRIS

I am on my way home from work.

MEGAN

Oh, did they send all the truck drivers home?

CHRIS

No, right now they only sent me home.

MEGAN

Why just you? That is kind of weird.

CHRIS

I need you to sit down and listen to me very carefully.

(MEGAN sits down on her bed.)

Her hands begin to shake.)

MEGAN

(Chuckling)

Ok, I am sitting down. What is going on Chris?

CHRIS

I just received a phone call from my unit.

(CHRIS pauses)

CHRIS

I am being sent out to help clear roads and help with evacuations during the hurricane.

(MEGAN drops the phone.

Tears begin streaming down her face.)

CHRIS

Megan? Megan? Are you still there?

(MEGAN picks the phone up off her bedroom floor.)

MEGAN

(Takes a deep breath) Yeah, I am still here. What do you need me to do?

CHRIS

(Serious) I need you to go find one of my cameo bags and pack me three full sets of uniforms. Each uniform needs the following: top, bottoms, undershirts, belts; socks, underwear and my boots.

MEGAN

(Shaking) When do you need this by?

CHRIS

As soon as possible. I will explain more when I swing by the house. I got to go, I am driving. I love you.

MEGAN

I love you too. See you soon. Bye baby.

(MEGAN gets up off her bed.

She paces the room, crying.

She begins talking to herself.)

MEGAN

This isn't happening right now. This isn't happening right now.

He can't go! He can't leave me alone. I have never done this before. How am I supposed to keep three kids safe by myself?! I have never been in a hurricane before. This isn't happening.

(MEGAN begins ripping her bedroom apart, looking for the uniforms CHRIS requested.)

(MEGAN picks up her phone and calls DIAMOND while packing the uniforms in Chris' bag.)

MEGAN

(Crying) Please pick up the phone Diamond.

DIAMOND

Hey girlie, what is going on?

MEGAN

(Speaking unclearly)

DIAMOND

Woah, calm down. Catch your breath! What happened?

MEGAN

Chris just called. The National Guard is being sent out. They are having him do road clearance and evacuation.

DIAMOND

Ok. It will be ok.

(MEGAN begins pacing again.)

MEGAN

Diamond! He is being sent out in the middle of a category 4 hurricane. I am going to be freaked out. I can't do this by myself, I am not prepared. You know I am from California, I was built and prepared for earthquakes, not hurricanes. I can't stay calm for these kids.

DIAMOND

Have you been evacuated yet?

MEGAN

No, we haven't.

DIAMOND

Ok, look. This is what I am going to do. I have been told to evacuate. I will start heading over there and stay with you and the kids. You are not alone.

(MEGAN puts CHRIS' bag on
her bed and sits down next
to it.)

MEGAN

Diamond, it's not safe. You live all the way across town.

DIAMOND

Megan, I have to evacuate anyways. I will be fine. I have been through this before. I am on my way. See you soon.

(MEGAN hangs up the phone.

MEGAN gets up and grabs a pen
and paper. She writes a letter
to CHRIS. She finishes the letter
and puts it in CHRIS' bag.

She begins to pace again. A few
minutes pass by.)

(Enter CHRIS)

(CHRIS walks over to MEGAN,
he kisses her on the lips.
MEGAN gives him a big hug.)

MEGAN

I am so glad you made it home safe. How long do you have?

CHRIS

Only a couple of minutes. Is this the bag you packed for me?

MEGAN

Yeah, everything you asked for is in there. I also wrote you a note that is in there. Please don't read it now. Read it if you find yourself missing me.

CHRIS

I will do exactly that.

(MEGAN and CHRIS sit down
on their bed.)

MEGAN

When did they call you?

CHRIS

They called me a couple minutes before I called you.

(MEGAN nods. She grabs
CHRIS' hand.)

MEGAN

How long are you going to be gone?

CHRIS

I am not sure. It could be a couple days, hopefully. It depends on the damage to the roads and if we can get people to evacuate compliantly. I checked the house on my way into our bedroom. You have plenty of water bottles, canned food, and candles. You should have everything you need.

MEGAN

(Holding back tears) Thank you for checking. Diamond is on her way over here to help me with the kids, so I am even more prepared. Please be safe while you are out there. We will be right here waiting for you to return. I promise I will be right here.

(CHRIS kisses MEGAN's
Forehead.)

CHRIS

I love you.

MEGAN

I love you most.

CHRIS

I got to go unfortunately. You know I would never leave you if I had the choice. I am going to miss you.

MEGAN

(Crying) Please don't leave me. Please. I am going to miss you.

CHRIS

I don't want to leave you. I don't want to let go of you. I don't know what is going to happen, but I promise you I will find my way back to you. You are my soulmate, I will always find my way back to you.

(CHRIS and MEGAN stand
up, hug and kiss goodbye.

CHRIS grabs his bag and
leaves.)

(EXIT CHRIS)

MEGAN

(Calling into the other room) Girls, come in here and bring your homework please.

(ENTER LILY, ADDISON,
and TAYLOR with their
backpacks.)

MEGAN

(Calmly) Who has homework?

LILY

Why do we have to do homework? There is no school for 5 days.

MEGAN

Well if we do your homework now then we won't have to worry about doing homework during the hurricane. Get it done now and you get to play and watch movies till the power goes out, if it goes out.

LILY

I have homework.

ADDISON

I have homework.

MEGAN

Alright, get your homework out and I will help you girls get it done.

LILY

What about Taylor? She is only in preschool. She doesn't have homework.

(MEGAN hands TAYLOR paper
and a box of crayons.)

MEGAN

There, now Taylor has something to do.

(MEGAN, LILY, and ADDISON
are sitting on MEGAN's bed
doing homework. TAYLOR is
sitting on the floor coloring.)

(About 20 minutes goes by.

There is a knock at the front door heard in MEGAN'S bedroom.)

MEGAN

Lily can you let your Aunt Diamond in please.

(EXIT LILY)

(MEGAN goes back to Homework with ADDISON.)

(ENTER LILY and DIAMOND)

DIAMOND

Hey. How you holding up?

(DIAMOND sits down next to MEGAN on her bed.)

MEGAN

I am ok. I finally stopped crying. I always knew that this could happen. I knew he could be sent out for crap like this. Nothing really prepares you for it though, when it does happen. I know he will be ok...I hope he will be ok. There has already been one confirmed death though, so I will still be nervous for him.

Thank you for coming.

DIAMOND

Of course. I am here for you. Let me get the girls out of your hair. We will go play. You rest.

MEGAN

Thank you. I need to take a nap. My mind is racing not knowing if he made it to where he was going. I hate not knowing if he is safe. I just want him home already. I want him to be safe.

DIAMOND

Come on girls, let's go in the other room. Let mommy get some rest. She has had a long, emotional day.

(EXIT DIAMOND, LILY, ADDISON, and TAYLOR.)

(The hurricane outside
becomes louder and stronger.

The house loses power.

Someone begins pounding
at the front door.)

LIGHTS FADE.

END OF PLAY