

TREATMENT

CHANCE MOON RISING

Written by:

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"All things will work together for the good."

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The beautiful, self-centered Olivia Parker is consumed with her world and is bent on controlling every aspect of it. She believes that her plush pampered life style is the result of her sharp wit, extensive education and innate ability to destroy anyone who dares to intrude upon her egotistical territory. Even though Olivia is surrounded by admirers; a love interest named Stanley and a mother laden with the debilitating effects of Alzheimer, Olivia is not interested in maintaining these relationships and instead treats them as if they are infectious diseases that require quarantine. In fact, she only engages with her mother, Vivian on an as-needed basis.

On one of Olivia's rare visits with Vivian, she encounters a Resident that gives her a cryptic message of life changing proportions. The "Resident" declares that Olivia is heading down a destructive path that will inevitably end in spiritual and physical death, but because of Vivian's prayers God is going to give Olivia another chance. Olivia is so distraught about the warning that she races away in her car in a panic and she ends up in a head-on collision. She is rushed to the emergency room with the Resident's warning beeping in her ears as Olivia quietly slips into transition.

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Olivia awakes in the worst time in African American history, she awakes to find herself lying on a cot, inside a dank, dark wooden cabin, deep in the hills of South Carolina as a 18th century slave. The cabin is home to a small family of slaves. The family's Matriarch is an overly protective, Ma Mable who is extremely leery of the strange black woman that Lil Pete found lying on the banks of a lake barely clinging to life. Although, cautious of the way Olivia showed up in their lives, she accepts her into their family. The family is comprised of a slow, docile gentle giant named Lil Pete. Pete's strength is intimidating to the Overseers but comforting to the family. There is also a hard-working, brave young woman named Rosie "Duck" Mae, whose quick mind helps Olivia survive in the field. Milly and Sarah are two orphans Ma Mable took in when they're parents were sold. Ma Mable, a widow whose strength lies in endurance and patience.

Olivia becomes painfully aware that she is no longer in control of her life and that there is someone else who not only has the power to take away her neatly manicured life but can do so without cause. Olivia sees this reality unfold as a young boy accused of stealing from the Master's house is dragged off by a pack of howling overseers. Olivia steps out to rebuke the unnecessary punishment, "STOP!" She cries out. Ma Mable grabs her roughly by the arm, pulling her back into the communal cluster. Henry, a charismatic overseer, takes immediate notice of the beautiful, outspoken "strange acting" slave and jumps down from his horse for a closer look. He pushes Ma Mable out of the way

and greets Olivia with a slap in the face. She is jarred by the reality that every attempt to fight back, resist or rebel against the "system" affects the entire community negatively. Her self-servant personality continues to draw the unwanted attention of Henry whose insatiable desire to "have" her causes her panic and terror. Henry's attention provokes the wrath of the giant; Lil Pete who himself has grown infatuated with Olivia and will fight to the death on her behalf. Another Overseer of the plantation, named Clifton is determined to destroy this sassy talking Negro woman if it's the last thing he does. None of Olivia's education, knowledge or personal strength can protect her or prepare her for the terror that is soon to come.

The "Resident" arrives on the scene with a message of redemption. She informs Olivia that if she helps get Ma Mable's family to freedom then she will not only save their lives but she will be allowed to return to her old life. However, the only way to free the family is to travel by night through pitfalls, traps, hounds and murderous slave overseers, to the bank of a lake that must be crossed in total darkness.

She has three days to make the decision or she will lose her chance, for in three days a full moon will rise above the lake revealing all those who secretly attempt to venture cross to freedom. Olivia is left with no choice however, for when Henry attempts to rape Olivia; Lil Pete thwarts Henry's attack putting everyone's life in danger. The overseers have no desire for prisoners as the hunt is

on for the small band of runaway slaves. Sadly their numbers decrease when Olivia loses her protector, Lil Pete. When Olivia reaches the lake she is barely clinging to life. Desperation compels her forward through the dark cold murky waters as she begins pulling the two youngest children to safety. Suddenly a snipers bullet cuts through the water and her flesh. Her 20th Century pride kicks in as her desire to not be defeated forces her to push past the pain in order to complete her assignment with those left in her care.

Olivia begins to slip deep into the waters as pain and fatigue take its toll becoming too much for her to bear. Water wraps around her like a blanket as she looks up at the fullness of the moon welcoming the darkness.

When Olivia awakes she is greeted with the familiar loving smile of Stanley. Standing in the hospital room quietly observing is Olivia's guardian angel, The Resident, giving her the nod before quietly fading away.

Olivia's perspective on life drastically changes as she no longer believes that living is what you can get out of life, but what you are willing to sacrifice for a life.