

Excerpt from *Mixed Emotions*
by L. M. Tinsley

Robert was definitely anxious about this difficult conversation. Hopefully, Alex wasn't figuring out he intended to tell Julius something he hadn't intended on telling her. He shifted his eyes to look at her. She looked back at him with an almost quizzical look. *Was she able to detect the ache and illness he had been feeling more and more lately?*

God, how he wished she could help him. Even if she was scared of the outcome, she could help him through whatever was happening. Robert knew she had made that vow a long time ago and was always bound and determined to stand behind it.

Walter watched the two of them and realized Alex was seeing something she hadn't noticed before. Robert came over to the table and sat on the empty chair next to him. They all sat quietly and waited for Julius to speak.

As Julius rose from his seat, Walter turned to look at him. He was glad his old friend had called and asked for his help in the Columbus office. It meant he had made an impression with all his hard work out in Sacramento. It also meant that something was not right in this office or completely missing altogether.

Julius looked at his newly formed team. He had waited a long time to have the three of them together, and it was finally time to expand the company internationally. Julius walked to the edge of the conference table, leaning forward as his hands cupped along the sides. He began to address them poignantly. "I want to first welcome Walter to our team. He is an amazing asset for us to have here and just the person we need to take our products and services global."

Walter realized now what his friend was trying to accomplish. He wanted to make MCD one of the foremost advertising firms in the world. It would be simple enough for them to accomplish with their impressive list of clients and amazing support staff. He knew the four of them together would be almost unstoppable.

Julius continued, "I find myself at a point where we either do this or we will no longer be profitable. We will have more than one task to accomplish together. First, we need to market ourselves to all the top businesses all round the world. Next, we need to gain their attention and make them want to be part of our firm. Last, we need to take them places no other company could have possibly imagined."