

Miles and Felix

Evie hung up and leaned her head against the window. Beau reached out and held her hand again. She took the nonverbal comfort and squeezed. "What happened with Susan?"

"I asked, as I did with Aaron, if they were having an air. She freaked out, total overreaction, yelling and screaming that she wasn't sleeping with Aaron. I asked her what the hell I was supposed to think. She hid working with Aaron from me for ten months and has been treating me like shit for the last two. She accused me of sleeping with you to get revenge for her and Aaron's "imaginary" air; she wanted a separation and said I was too happy with you. I told her this was her chance to tell me, and if something came out later, I would enforce every part of the prenup and not negotiate a single thing. She got a little pale but insisted that she would get proof I was cheating. I just smiled, told her good luck with that, and le . I was just getting in my car when you called."

"Having me stay with you will look bad Beau." She frowned.

"Doesn't matter. She cheated and cheated first, we could fuck right in front of them right now, and it wouldn't matter under the prenup." He smiled at the thought. "Can you imagine Aaron's face?"

"I can. I also can imagine him trying to kill you. He may not love me, but the idea that I would leave him and be with you is killing him."

"Are you sure you want to see him this evening?"

"I need answers, Beau. I don't think he'll tell me he's cheating, but I need to know why he said what he said to me. It's echoing in my head. I know I'm needy, but I did try to rein it in with him because I know how much he hated it. When he had sex with me that night, I waited until he went to sleep and cried for hours. He made me feel like sex with me was a burden and a chore like he just wanted to get it over with. He couldn't even bring himself to cuddle me a er. My panic attack and breakdown had less to do with him cheating and more to do with that. I don't want him to touch me a er he made me feel that way."

Beau felt his heart break for her. "Ok, first, let me make something clear. Yeah, someone could call you needy, but you're not. You're affectionate, and yeah, you may need some reassurance, but Aaron never encourages you or builds you up. He doesn't actively tear you down, but he's indifferent, which is way worse. The opposite of love isn't hate; it's indifference. Aaron likes how you make him feel, and that's why he's panicking now. He doesn't want that feeling to go away, even though he's done nothing to deserve or hold onto it."

"I do believe he regrets his actions and feels bad, but at the moment, it was about what he wanted, and he didn't think about you or me. It wasn't until he thought he was caught that he realized he'd made a huge mistake. Now he's panicking because he realized if this comes out, he's gonna lose you and me and a lot of his friends, and he can't do anything about it except accept responsibility."

"As far as the sex thing Evie, there's no way any reasonable, red-blooded straight man would find having sex with you a burden or a chore. Especially if you're anything like the main characters in your books, cause not to be weird or inappropriate about this, but the number of times I've had to "relieve some tension" a er reading a sex scene in your books is ridiculously high. If Aaron couldn't appreciate what he had with you, you two were either sexually incompatible, or he's a fucking idiot, or both." Beau pulled up to Miles and Felix's oice and looked at Evie, who was in tears up to the last part when she started to laugh.

"Oh god. You were so sweet and wonderful, and then the last part." She shook her head. "Now every time I write a sex scene, I'm gonna be thinking "I hope Beau enjoys this one."

"The last part wasn't sweet and wonderful?" Beau grinned. The happiness he got from making her laugh was a little concerning.

"It was." She squeezed his hand. "Thank you." She looked up and realized where they were. "What are we doing here?"

"Miles and Felix are my lawyers too. I have to talk to them about Susan."

"Oh!" She nodded in understanding. "Okay." she pulled out her phone while Beau got out of the car. Beau realized she wasn't getting out and poked his head back in.

"Come say hi."

"I figured you wanted to talk to them alone." Beau shook his head, closed his door, and walked around to open hers. She quickly undid her seatbelt and took the hand he offered to help her out of the car.

"Evie. I know I seem like I've got it together, but I'm in a million pieces inside. I need your support too." He held her gaze and tucked a strand of hair behind her ear.

"I'm sorry Beau." She looked up at him anxiously. "Aaron hates when I push myself on him or ask too many questions about his feelings."

"I'm not Aaron. Push yourself on me. Ask me questions. Unless I specifically say I don't want you with me, assume I do. You have my full permission and consent to be as affectionate and inquisitive as you want to be with me."

"Okay." She grinned. "Remember you asked for it; please don't yell at me. I don't handle being yelled at very well." She slipped her arm around his waist as they approached the oice door.

"Did Aaron yell at you a lot?" Beau would break his jaw the next time he saw him if she said yes.

"No, not a lot. Just when I annoyed him too much."

"What did you do that annoyed him?"

"When we first started dating, and we fought about something, I would need to step back and think about things so I could discuss them and have my thoughts in order. He thought the fight was over because I would back down, and he would move on. So when I brought it up a few hours later, he would get mad at me for "never letting things go" and tell me to drop it. I explained so many times that I needed to think about the problem before discussing it. He would always say, "I know, I'm sorry, in the heat of it, I forgot you needed that. I'll do better next time." but he never did, so I just stopped and let things go because what was the point?"

"For the last year, it's been that I touch him too much or want sex too o en. He'd snap at me if I tried to initiate, and he wasn't in the mood. Tell me I'm too needy and he needed space, or I need to see someone because my sex drive is too high... I don't think it is. I thought being attracted to your partner and wanting sex more than once a week was normal."

Beau looked at her. His hand tightened into a fist. Aaron had beaten her down until she just gave in. He didn't think Aaron had done it on purpose. He had just responded to something bothering him until it shut up and le him alone. "Right. Well, for the record, you're right, and I want you to bring all this up to him when we meet him tonight."

"I'm going alone, Beau. That's why I said Jerome's. I can walk there and back to the condo."

"I don't want you walking alone, but if you want to see him by yourself, I'll drop you o and pick you up."

"Beau..."

"Not up for discussion Doll." Beau smiled as Miles Maloney and Felix Nunez came out. "Hi! Sorry to drop in without an appointment, but it's a little urgent."

"No problem Beau. What's going on?" Miles held out his hand, and Beau shook it while Felix said hello to Evie.

"Susan has accused me of cheating and asked for a separation."

"Really?" Miles was surprised. "Are you cheating?"

"Nope. She and Aaron are though."

Miles nodded. "I'm sorry." He held out his arms to Evie, who hugged him immediately. "So what's the plan?"

"Right now, they don't know we know. Evie is staying with me for other reasons as far as Aaron is concerned. We're collecting evidence, but I want every detail of the prenup followed to the letter. No negotiations, no being nice or polite, or making things easier. We'll go to court if we have to; she's not getting anything extra. Do I need paperwork stating we're separating?"

"To have a legal separation recognized by the courts, yes. We have to sit down and work out the terms of the separation with you and her and her lawyers, your rights and responsibilities while separated, division of properties, debt, etc., and everything has to be voluntarily agreed to by both. If you want to use separation as a basis for divorce, you must be separated for a year. Years separated will count as years married, which means she will get more under the terms of your prenup."

"I want a divorce, but we're still trying to collect as much evidence as possible regarding the cheating, so I guess we'll have to start the separation agreement process."

Felix looked at Evie. "Are we starting the process for you too?"

Evie slipped her hand into Beau's. "Yes please."

"Are you two together now? Because that may present a problem."

"No." Beau shook his head. "We found out this was happening yesterday and have been supporting each other."

"Ok, send us the terms you want in the agreement. We'll do the paperwork and arrange a meeting with them and their lawyers."