

Numb

"Both their cars are at Sloane and are due back tomorrow. I think we should meet them there." Beau said as he sat across from her with a coffee. "And we'll be honest... to a point. We ran into one another at the coffee shop, you asked why I wasn't on the job with Aaron, and we realized they've been hiding that they're doing jobs together, and we'll apologize for making them feel like they had to hide it. We're all adults, and we can move past our past relationships. And even more good news, you and I have overcome our differences and want to hang out together more."

"I gotta be honest Evie. I don't just want proof; I want them to suffer. Aaron is supposed to be my best friend, and he's fucking my wife. Plus, he lied to us both and kept us from having what I felt was going to be a great friendship between us."

"Nope, I'm with you there. Honestly, the fact that he took her to my house in Maine? I'm so fucking done." Evie was tempted to fly up there and surprise them, but she was willing to follow Beau's plan.

"What's your plan?"

"Get proof of the cheating and move out as soon as possible."

"I think you should come to stay with me in my condo. It has two bedrooms and lots of space for us."

"And the added bonus of driving Aaron absolutely crazy." She said thoughtfully. "I thought you and Susan had a brownstone in Astoria?"

"We do. I kept my condo from before we moved in together in Bay Ridge. She knows about it, but it's mine, and she's only been inside once or twice, for a few minutes, same with Aaron. It's my place when I need a break, and I've kinda kept it at a distance from everyone because I don't want to share it."

"You're letting me stay in it; won't that ruin that?"

Beau shrugged. "I think we need each other right now Evie. Besides, I want to rekindle that friendship that was taken away from us. Plus, sharing it with you doesn't give me the pit in my stomach that sharing it with other people usually does, and Aaron has ruined your escape with my wife, so think of this as my way to make it up to you."

"As long as you're sure."

"I'm sure. I wouldn't have offered it if I wasn't." Beau smiled at her.

"You can come to stay tonight as a trial run if you want; check it out, and see if we're comfortable with one another."

"Okay, let's do that." She added Beau as a contact in her phone and passed it to him to put in his number. While he was putting it in and sending himself a text so he had hers, she studied him. He was the same stoic Beau he always was, his angular, handsome face showing no emotion. She felt like a mess. Her whole world was crashing down on her, and he just looked like it was any other Tuesday.

"Are you upset about this at all?" She asked quietly. "Because I'm so angry, hurt, and sad I've actually gone numb."

"Oh, I'm pissed and hurt, but I don't know; I've known something was off with her for a long time, and she could never give me a good reason. When she didn't want to tell me, I just sat back and watched her. I've been trying to figure things out without being obvious for two months."

"He yelled at me before he left." She said quietly. "I brought up how he'd been acting and asked what was going on or if I did something because I didn't deserve to be treated that way. He yelled and told me it was "really fucking hard to balance his job with having such a needy child for a wife." Then he left when I started to cry." She ducked her head as her cheeks flushed. "He came back and apologized after he found the divorce petition, we had sex, but it was obvious neither of us wanted to. He just rolled over and turned over. I felt so gross. When he left, he said we'd talk when he got back. I knew something was wrong, but I never thought he would cheat. I feel foolish right now."

"Of course, you wouldn't think he would cheat Evie. He's supposed to be above all that." Beau reached out and took her hand. "You're not stupid for trusting your husband."