

Chapter 76

"Would you be open to a third round?"

Heat crawled up to Riley's face. Then, images of her being pressed against the tinted glass window and fucked from behind played in her head. Riley's throat became paper dry as she answered, "Adrian?"

She laughed and restarted, "I was just joking. Haha. Don't worry about it."

"You mean you don't want to?" Adrian asked as he rested his incredibly handsome face against his fist.

"Um." Riley bit her lip. She made a silly face and admitted, "Of course, I want to. It would be an exciting way to keep our fire burning, but regardless, I am happy and contented with whatever we can do?"

"The bed is so comfortable," she pointed out.

"But what if? What if I could stand and walk, would you?" Adrian repeated.

Riley's brows furrowed. She was unsure where Adrian was going with this, but she answered his hypothetical question accordingly, "Third round? Why not?"

Then, she laughed.

However, her amused expressions were cut short when Adrian suddenly admitted, "I can walk, and I can stand."

Riley choked on her own spew. She was confused by what she heard. She asked, "What? What do you mean, Adrian?"

"I don't want you to be mad, okay? There is a reason why I kept it a secret from everyone," Adrian revealed. "It's like what I said. I can walk, and I can stand." 1

Hearing that the second time around, Riley sat up. She took deep breaths, and her face formed varied frowns. She clarified, "You can walk and stand?"

"Yes," Adrian answered. He slowly sat up and repeated, "I have been able to walk and stand for four months now. A year ago, I had that second surgery, remember?"

Riley did not answer. She was just staring at Adrian in shock.

"Anyway," Adrian narrated, "I took that second operation. It was that particular surgery that decided my life. If it had failed, I would have become paralyzed, but thank god, that I didn't."

"After the surgery, the shaking in my left leg stopped, and I could do more exercises. Day after day, I had at least two hours of therapy until, finally, I was able to walk and stand without support," Adrian disclosed.

"And you might be wondering why I kept it from you? So, let me explain, okay?" He requested.

Riley was still frozen in her stance, taking it all in. She did not answer because she was still evaluating Adrian's revelation.

"I had many reasons," Adrian began.

"It better be good," Riley spoke.

Adrian gasped and said, "For one, there was Leni. She never liked our engagement because I was disabled, and I had to keep it that way. We, the

Kings, are influential, but the Eros family has far greater leverage. Their connections run deep, including the government."

"I did not want her to want me," Adrian added. "I am not conceited, but I know my value as a King. If Leni favored me and I opposed, things could go wrong with my plans... even if I am a King."

"Besides that, there is Fredrick and Tonet," Adrian resumed. "I wanted them to continue thinking they had destroyed part of me. Besides, I am still looking into them and trying to find out their involvement in my accident. I want them to be complacent, even just for a little. So, I kept it from everyone, including my grandfather -"

"Not even Clint?" Riley asked.

Adrian cleared his throat and answered, "Clint knows."

Riley couldn't refrain from gasping in disbelief. She said, "So, you trusted Clint more than me and your grandfather?"

"Look, Riley," Adrian reached for her arm, but she pulled her hand back.

Riley asked, "Let me see."

When Adrian did not reply, she repeated, "Let me see you stand and walk."

Adrian breathed in profoundly. He moved to the edge of the bed and stood up. Then, he walked a meter away and turned to her. He raised his arms and said, "I'm standing."

"Yeah, but you could do that before, with a little limping, and I supposed that was an act too," Riley said with a hint of sarcasm in her voice. 

"Riley, it was important to me that you accept me as this disabled person for my plan to work. Your reactions had to be real in front of my rivals," Adrian explained. "Moreover, I honestly wanted to know if you were that same Riley who could appreciate someone despite one's flaws because even if I can stand and walk now, I did lose a part of myself seven years ago, and you did. You accepted me."

"Walk around some more," Riley ordered, and the man did as instructed. He walked around with no problem for a good minute. His leg was not shaking, and he wasn't feeling any discomfort.

When the truth was finally there before her eyes, Riley's shoulders fell. She covered her face and cried. She said, "I can't believe you would hide this from me. Did you think I wasn't worthy of the truth?"

"No, Riley. No," Adrian rushed to her side and embraced her. He pulled her into his arms and said, "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry."

"If I did not tell you that I wanted to have sex while standing up, you wouldn't come clean with me?" Riley raised, and she cried some more.

"I'm sorry," Adrian repeated. "Please, forgive me. I thought my reasons were right, and I wasn't planning on keeping it from you for long. I had always meant to tell you. In fact, I was planning to tell you during our honeymoon."

"Forgive me, Riley, please," Adrian said. "I promise. I meant to tell you."

He littered kisses on her face and begged, "Please, Riley. Please. I love you so much."

Riley continued to weep until her tears ran dry. She did not answer, but she lay in bed while Adrian held her. Riley did not know when it

happened, but she fell asleep with that pang in her chest.

Dawn came, and Adrian still held her. When Riley awoke, she glanced at her husband and saw his puffed eyes. Clearly, Adrian had cried after realizing he had hurt her. He looked as though he did not get any sleep either. 1

"Riley," Adrian said while cupping her face. "I love you so much and don't want to lose you. Please forgive me."

Riley turned her frame completely to face Adrian. She expressed, "Marriage is about trust. You can trust me in your plans, whatever they may be."

"I realized that now. I'm sorry," barely a whisper, Adrian answered.

She touched his handsome face and declared, "So, I'll forgive you because I love you, but you'll have to make it up to me."

"Anything," Adrian claimed.

"Well," Riley said, taking a deep breath. She proposed, "For starters, let's use your strong legs."

Her face burned as she revealed, "Forget the window. We will be late for our flight, but you can... ruin me in the shower."

