

Briar POV

"Briar, I swear to you, I didn't do this" my mother says. The look in her eyes pleading with me to believe her. "She didn't, I did" my father says as he walks toward us. I feel heat rise in my body as I shoot daggers at my father. If looks could kill, he would be dead where he stands. Morris walks in right behind him. "What the f**k is wrong with you dad? He cheated on your daughter, and you invite him here for lunch like it's no big deal," Morris says. "Stay out of this, Morris. This is between your sister and her husband. You don't throw ten years of marriage away on an indiscretion," my father says. "Briar, please just talk to me. You will never know how sorry I am for everything I did and the pain I've caused you," Calob pleads from behind me. I don't even want to turn around, but I know I have no choice.

I turn to face the man that used to make my heart beat faster. The man that promised to love me until we took our dying breath. He takes a step toward me and I take a step back. "Briar, please forgive me. Give me a chance to explain." I throw my head back and laugh. "You want to explain to me why you f**ked Lucy while you were married to me. Sure, go ahead I'm all ears," I say crossing my arms over my chest. I hear Morris chuckle from behind me. "Explain is the wrong word, Briar. I just want us to sit down and talk, so we can work this out. You are my wife and I love you, only you. I never meant to hurt you and I wish I could take it all back. I will never hurt you again. Please just forgive me," he pleads with me.

"I'm going to say this again so both you and my father can hear me clearly. We are done. The minute you stuck your d**k into another woman, our marriage was over. I will never forgive you. You have shattered the love I had for you into a million tiny pieces and nothing will make it whole again. I hope she was worth it." "She means nothing" he says. He tries to step toward me and this time Morris blocks him. "Get the f**k out of my way, Morris. I don't want to hurt you, but I will if you try to stop me from getting to my wife" Calob says, and Morris laughs. "Please try and hurt me. Give me a reason to knock you on your pathetic ass," Morris says with a laugh. "She is my wife. I love her. I didn't mean to hurt her" he screams in Morris's face. My brother towers over him and, despite Calob's best efforts, he can't get to me.

My mother moves toward me and grabs my hand. She pulls me along with her until we are standing in front of the door that leads outside. "Louise, what the hell do you think you are doing," my father says, dropping his voice in warning. She turns and faces my father. "I'm doing for my daughter what I should have done for myself, you cheating ba**ard," my mother says. Each word is laced with venom. My father looks like he was just slapped, and I mentally st pump that my mother nally told him off. She turns to face me and pulls me into a hug. "I'm so sorry Briar. I'm so proud of you and I love you so much. You are my baby girl. You were right. Never let a man treat you like a doormat, you deserve far better. I wish I had been more like you." The sadness in my mother's eyes nearly guts me. "I'm sorry too mom. I love you." She pulls back, and I turn rushing out of the door. Once I'm in my jeep, I waste no time pulling away from the mansion.

I hate that I left my mother there to face my father's wrath, but for the rst time in my life I think she can handle it. I will denitely call to check on her later. I know Morris won't leave until he makes sure she is alright. As soon as I pull onto the main road, I dial Lola. I ll her in on everything that happened at my parent's house. "Holy sh*t, go Lousie" she says and I smile. "I wish I could have taken a picture of my father's face." "I can't believe that your father is such an a**hole. I hope your mother nally leaves his a**. Maybe he and Calob can start a club for cheaters," Lola says and, despite the cluster**k that is my life right now, I genuinely laugh. "What are you going to do until your date tonight" she asks. "It is just dinner, not a date." I know she is rolling her eyes even though I can't see her.

"You need a new dress. Come pick me up. We are going shopping to get you a sexy new dress for the hottie who wants to get into your panties" she says. "Lola," I yell and she laughs. "Am I lying? No, I'm not. I will see you in a few minutes," she says, and cuts the call. I groan but turn in the direction of the gallery. Three hours later, I have a new red dress and matching shoes. It isn't a dress I would normally buy, but Lola insisted I would look amazing in it. When I stepped out of the dressing room and looked at myself in the mirror, I couldn't believe it was me. The dress hugged my curves in all the right places and, despite being sexy, it wasn't to revealing. Now I'm sitting in my hotel room wearing my new dress and waiting for Derek to arrive. I'm also wondering what the hell I'm doing.

Derek POV

I'm sitting at my desk and nishing up paperwork for the renovations on the pediatric unit. I'm glad it didn't take as long as I thought it would because I don't want to be late picking up Briar. I plan on talking to Briar at dinner about the changes since it was her idea. I start to stick the folders into my briefcase when there is a knock on my oce door. "Come in" I say and Chelsey steps inside. "Mr. Coleman, Dr. Calob Martin is here, and he would like to speak with you. I told him that you are on your way out, but he is pretty adamant that he speak to you right now," she says. I set my briefcase on the oor next to my desk. "Go ahead and show him inside." I take my seat and wait for Calob. A few minutes later, he steps into my oce and closes the door. "Calob, I wasn't expecting to see you for another two days. What can I help you with?" "Don't sit there with that smug look on your face. You know exactly why I'm here, Derek" he says. "Calob, I'm going to need you to get to the point of this visit. I have a very important date that I don't want to keep waiting."

I see anger ash in his eyes and his hands are balled at his sides. He takes a deep breath and looks toward the ceiling before he looks back at me. "Derek, I am asking you man to man, please stay away from my wife. I know she is angry at me right now, but I plan to do everything in my power to earn her forgiveness. I love her and I know in her heart she still loves me." "Calob, I understand that you want a chance to make things right with Briar and I can respect that but you f**ked up. I like Briar and if there is a chance that she wants to give me a shot, then I'm taking it. I am offering Briar friendship right now, but she knows that I want more. The only way I'm backing off is if she asks me to. If she tells me she isn't interested, then I will gladly respect her wishes."

He takes a step toward my desk and I stand to my full height. I'm slightly taller and my frame is more muscular. "My wife isn't going to f**k you. She isn't that type of woman. She has class and despite everything that has happened, I know in my heart that she loves me. This is just a bump in the road and I promise you that she will never pick you Derek" he says. "If you really believed that Calob, you wouldn't be here asking me to back off. You know that there is a chance she won't forgive you. I promise you that if she does give me a chance I will never even think about another woman, let alone stick my d**k in one." "You're a f**king a**hole" he says and stalks out of my oce.