

## Stop complicating things

Eric's p.o.v

I work a bit longer. I think I have as much information as I need for my interview tomorrow. I am confident that I will get it done and get my life back. I invite my mother-in-law out to dinner so we can talk about what we need to do tomorrow. We need to make sure we agree on everything and are on the same page. If my mother-in-law is good at anything, it is at being a professional manipulator and I need her to work her magic with the kids tomorrow. I know it sounds fucked up to use my kids to get my wife back, but I have to do what I have to do.

We get to the restaurant and we get lucky that the mayor is dining here, and he happens to know my father-in-law, so that gets my mother-in-law and I a seat at his table. We talk business. I bring up moving on from my position now and looking to go somewhere else. I do not mention that I had no choice. Instead, I tell him that I am moving my family here, for better opportunities. He offers me a position in his office. This is such a great back-up plan for me. I am such a lucky mother fucker. Get in with the big dogs of this city. This will make everything so much easier for me. Vanessa won't know what hit her. I try to concentrate and keep a conversation with him, but his son keeps moving and is annoying the fuck out of me. Why is he moving so much? My kids don't do this or behave this way. I, of course, do not say anything though. I need to keep him on my good side, so I just smile at them all and nod and agree with everything he says. My mother-in-law also does not bring up her upcoming divorce. We both know we need to play our parts.

Dinner is nally over and the mayor tells me to send over my information and we agree to keep in touch. We head out towards the back of the restaurant to get to our room faster. Unfortunately, there are a bunch of little shops and poor people dancing and asking for money. It is disgusting, but I need to get back and email the mayor all of my information like he asked me to. I need to get in there while I am still fresh in his mind. We walk a bit. I am looking at my text messages from Beatrice telling me she had to go to the emergency room because she wasn't feeling well, when I hear my mother-in-law gasp. She abruptly stops right in front of me and I bump into her. I look up and the scene being displayed before me and this whole beach absolutely disgusts and infuriates me. I watch my wife with a huge biker's tongue down her throat. They nally pull apart and just stare at each other. This fucking bitch. How dare she?

"Vanessa, who is this man? What is the meaning of this?" her mother asks. She pulls away from the man, but he pulls her waist close and keeps her right next to him. "Get your filthy hands off my wife." I tell him, but he does not move and I am outraged. Does he not know who I am?

Alex (monster's p.o.v)

"Mom, what are you doing here?" Vanessa asks the woman. Mom, shit. This is not how I expected to meet my mother-in-law and why is she with the ex-husband who I am about to choke and possibly kill might I add. Trying to question me like he is anybody to do that. "I should be asking you that, Vanessa. Get over here and stop embarrassing us. You are a married woman, yet you are out here acting like a slut." she tells her and I see red. "Excuse me mam, do not speak to her like that." I say, but he puts her finger in my face. "You disgusting thing, do not speak to me. How dare you touch my daughter. You are nothing but trash. Look at you. How dare you even breathe the same air as her," she says. Vanessa looks horrified. I can see the embarrassment on her face. I now see why she left. These people are awful. I shrug, "What can I say? I am a greedy motherfucker, so I will take whatever she is giving me," I say, and grin. I love the pissed-off face of her ex-husband. He glares at me. Her mom just looks shocked that I said that and Vanessa looks like she wants to laugh at them. "Shut the fuck up. Vanessa, lets go. We came here to collect you and the kids. Where are they? Oh, I can not believe this. If we take this to court, Eric can tell them how unt you are and I will back him up. How do you think you look, making out like a cheap whore with a dirty biker? Come on Vanessa, I raised you better than this." she tells her and Vanessa's fists clench at her sides. "You raised me to hate everything about myself. You tried to raise me to be a doormat, like you, and I am none of those things, just like I am not a whore or slut like you keep calling me. This is Alex. Yes, he is a biker, but he is an educated man who owns many businesses. He is an amazing person. Maybe you should stop judging people without knowing them first." Vanessa says, clearly trying to get her mom to stop being a bitch and listen, but her mom does not care. She waves her hand, dismissing her. "Lets go, we can talk about this at home, in private. You don't want us to take the kids away from you now, do you?" she says. I look over at the ex-husband and he looks like a weak bitch, not saying anything, allowing the woman to talk down to Vanessa. I have had it with this lady. "Sorry lady, Vanessa is going home with me and none of you will be taking her kids away from her. I will never allow it. Whatever you say will not hold up in courtrooms. I can guarantee it, so stop trying to scare her." I tell them. These people do not know who I am and what I am capable of doing. "Who the hell do you think you are? Vanessa is going back home with me. I am her husband." he shouts. Vanessa looks mortified. "Eric, you know damn well I want a divorce, sign the papers. I am no longer your wife." she tells him, but he shakes his head. "You are my fucking wife. For life, we took vows when we got married." he tells her and I want to punch him so bad. "Oh shut up Eric, you did not take our marriage seriously. You have Beatrice and your new baby now. How does she feel that you don't want to give me a divorce? Just screw off and stop complicating things. I already accepted what you did and I have moved on. You should to." she tells him, and I think this is a great ending statement. We already gave them too much time of our date and I refuse to allow them to ruin the whole date. It was going so well too until they showed up. "Vanessa, get away from that man and lets go right now." He tells her and I put my arm over her shoulder instead. "Actually, it was nice to meet you, both, but my girl and I must get going and continue our date. She will be going home with me and if you go anywhere near her, you will have to deal with me." I tell them, basically dismissing them. I love the fact that Vanessa lets me pull her away and she doesn't even look back at them or tries to stop me. We make it to the car and I look around. Luckily, they didn't try to follow us. Good. Vanessa's phone rings and it better not be her ex. I swear I will go and hit him and beat his ass. I allowed him to walk away right now, because I do not want to cause anymore problems or make her divorce harder than he is already making it. She steps away and talks for a moment then comes back. "Verlene says the kids are asleep and her and Buck are going to sleep too and she told me not to come home." she tells me and I laugh. "Did she now?" I ask her and she nods. "Want to do anything else?" I ask her, completely allowing her to take over and tell me how she wants to do things. I will do whatever she wants to do and I will do it all at her pace. "I want to do you," she says, throwing me completely off guard. She throws herself at me. I catch her and lift her up. I turn and place her up to her van and we kiss, picking up where we left off earlier. "You know what you did back there was really hot." she tells me in between kisses. "What was hot?" I ask her. So much and nothing at all seemed to have happened back there. "No-one has ever stood up for me against Eric or my mother. Thank you." she says, clearly staring into my soul. The look she is giving me right now is the look I want her to give me and only me, for the rest of our lives. I stare back at her and it hits me hard. I want her, I want all of her, completely; kids, family drama and all. I want to make her mine and I want to protect her and her kids from the douche. I need to do this. I know now more than ever that he will be an asshole and I have to be here so she isn't the one taking his shit like she has always had to. "You do not need to thank me, from now on, I got you. You come to me for everything. You got it?" I ask her and she nods. She kisses me again softly and when she pulls away she has a different kind of look on her face...determination. "Alex, take me home with you. Make me yours."