

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 11

Shooting range "So how's your day sweetheart?" I ask Noal The phone is between my shoulder and ear I was trying to maximize by talking to him while doing some cleaning. It wasn't an easy but at least my shoulder was doing so much better now.

"It's awesome"" he shouts through the phone almost bursting my eardrums "We just had ice cream and now we are going to the slides, they have slides here and they lead straight to the ocean" His excited chatter makes me happy. His happiness in my happiness The fact that he is safe and enjoying himself was enough for me.

"That's great baby...see, I told you that you would have lots of fun" Giving up on cleaning, I take a seat on the couch. It would be better to finish talking to him first.

"What about you mommy, how's your weekend?" What could I say? It was boring as hell. My eight year old son was having more fun than I was. I didn't have anywhere to go or anyone to hang out with since I had no friends.

My colleagues used to invite me to things but they stopped after I kept turning them down Deep inside I knew they invited me as a formality, because I was there when they were inviting others. Not because they genuinely want to know me or hang out with me.

"Uh, it's okay...just doing some cleaning" I murmur I hear him sigh. "Mom, you need to go out and have fun like I am. Since I'm not there, I don't want you to stay at home all alone" Why the hell did I feel so chastised right now?

"I will, I just have to finish my chores first" I lie.

After cleaning I would probably just watch a movie and drown myself in junk food. Or I would just catch up on sleep. Both options didn't seem that bad.

"Fine...I have to go mommy, Pa is calling for me" "Okay my love, talk to you at night" "Bye, and grandma says hi to you" Noah calls mother grandma and used to call father grandpa. As for Rowan's parents, he calls them Pa and Ma "That's good be careful on the slides" I say, completely ignoring the greetings from my supposed mother.

He hangs up after that. Good thing he's so excited about the slides to realize I ignored his grandmother's greetings. Noah is usually in tune and nothing escapes his notice. A character he got from his father, but not today. Today his mind was completely on having fun.

I smile and put my phone down. I get back to cleaning but soon I'm finished. Instead of watching a movie like I had planned, I decide to go through the biology essays of my students. So far the ones I've marked have done really well! I don't mean to brag but I am a damn good teacher and it shows with my subject being the best performed in school.

I was almost done when my phone rings. My heartbeat lurches when I see Ethan's name flashing. This was totally unexpected.

"Hello" I answer unsure, part of me afraid that he had dialed my number by mistake.

"Hi, Ava...are you busy?" he asked.

I guess it hadn't been a mistake like I had thought.

"Not particularly, why?" "I was told you aren't at the station's shooting range. I thought maybe we could drive there together" I frown in confusion. None of the things he said were making any kind of sense to me.

"Why would I be at a shooting range?" "Because the rest of you family is there. They were all advised to train in shooting and to get a firearm license just in case they ever got in trouble" Well that was news to me but I guess it did make sense. I mean having a gun when dealing with a dangerous gang could come in handy.

I wanted to be pissed that no one told me about this but I couldn't bring myself to care. They could all go fuck themselves for all I cared.

"Can I come pick you up?" Ethan asks interrupting my thoughts.

I had nothing better to do. Plus this could be fun. Not to mention that I get to hang out with Ethan again.

"Sure" "Great! I'll be there in ten minutes" He hangs up and I rush to my bedroom to find something decent to wear. Seeing we were going flats. Ethan arrives in ten minutes like he said and we immediately leave.

"So, what made you decide to become an officer of the law?" I ask turning to face him.

The atmosphere was comfortable and I felt at ease around him. It was nice. I haven't felt this comfortable around another adult for a long time.

"My dad was killed by a cop" he answers with a shrug.

I frown, a bit surprised. "That would turn most people off from being cops" "I know, but my dad wasn't a good man and neither was he a good father. When the officers gunned him down for selling illegal firearms I was actually relieved. Seeing those cops taking out trash like my dad who thought was untouchable made me want to do the same thing. Make the area I was living in a safe place" He goes quiet but I can tell there was something more. The way he talked about his dad with disdain let me know that his father wasn't just bad, he was a terrible man.

I've had such kids in my class. Students who had really abusive parents. I try to help as much as I can because no child needed such parents. Abuse was abuse. Whether it was physical or emotional.

"And what made you become a teacher?" I usually hold myself back but I find myself opening up to him, something that takes me by surprise.

"My parents weren't the best and I was neglected as a child. When I was around nine years, I had this amazing teacher. She was everything I wanted my mother to be. She cared, praised me, hugged me when I needed a hug, supported me. She was kind and not only to me. I never forgot her and when I grew up I wanted to be like her. It also helped that teaching just felt right" Miss Olivia had been my support system when I was young. Her class had been my safe space.

Even though it's been years, I'm still grateful for the kindness she showed a nine year old girl who was extremely sad and lonely.

"Wow" he simply says, awe in his voice.

We are quiet for a while before he surprises me.

"I know you have a kid, but are you single?" he asks.

I wasn't sure why he was asking. Maybe it was to make conversation.

"Divorced" "Well, I guess that gives me permission to shoot my shot" he lips forms a smirk.

I laugh at that because I was sure he was only joking. There was no way he was serious about shooting his shot. Even if he was he would soon lose interest the moment he saw Emma.

If 'my family' is here like he said, then like all the boys back when I was teenager, he will take one. look at my sister and completely forget I exist.

We soon get to the shooting range. We get out and Head instead. Ethan greets and introduces me to some of his friends and colleagues and finally we get to where the actions takes place.

The rest are already there. Rowan, Emma, Travis and Gabe.

Gabe and Travis were shooting. Emma was seated down and Rowan who was facing her turns to us when we enter the arena.

His brows turn downwards and I roll my eyes at that.

"Who invited you?" he ask coming to stand next to Ethan and me.

"Not you obviously" "I tried to call to let you know but you never picked up" he argues, irritation marking his voice.

“You obviously didn’t try hard enough” I snap.

I was already irritated and I hadn’t been in their presence for more than five minutes. I was starting to regret my decision on coming here. I should have asked Ethan if we could reschedule.

Before Rowan can say anything else, Ethan pulls me away. “Come, let go get you fitted” I look back for a split second and see Emma glaring at me. If looks could kill, I would already be an ancestor.

I sigh. This was going to be headache inducing, I should have just stayed home.

A jealous Rowan Rowan I watch the cop that saved Ava leads her away. For some reason I hated how he was holding her hand. Like seriously, was it a must he holds her fucking hand?

I didn’t know why the hell seeing the two of them together irritated me but it did. I didn’t like whatever was going on between them.

I feel soft hands holding mine and it’s then I realize that my hands were balled into a fist.

“You okay?” Emma asks and I turn to face her.

Her beautiful face brings me back to the present.

‘She’s the one I want, the one I’ve always wanted’ I remind myself, pushing back the thoughts of Ava, I didn’t want Ava so it shouldn’t bother me whether another man takes interest in her, right?

“Yeah, I am” I reply and smile at Emma.

She smiles back at me and just like the first time she did, her smile captures me. Enthralls me and takes me back to the time when we were together.

Minutes later, Ava comes back with the cop. She is laughing at something he said. She looks so peaceful and at ease around him.

Something grips my heart and the irritation that had faded comes back two folds. Damn it! What the hell was happening to me?

I’ve never cared for her much, so why the fuck did I feel like punching Ethan to a bloody pulp? = “Aren’t you going to say hi to us?” Travis’ asks Ava, He had put down his gun and taken off his earmuffs off.

Gabe does the same and comes to stand beside me. We were twins but we weren’t identical.

Looking at us side by side, you wouldn’t even tell that we were actually twins.

Ava gives her brother a cool look. The warmth that was on her face a few seconds ago completely gone.

“No, there is no need for that” she answers.

“What do you mean there isn’t any need, we are family?” Travis asks in a hard tone. Irritation in his voice “Since when? Last time I checked you only had one younger sister, Rowan had one love and Gabriel, well, he never wanted me as a sister in law. Since the woman you all preferred is standing, right next to you, I don’t see why I should bother making any pleasantries.” She says it as a matter of fact. Her once expressive face gives away absolutely nothing. She leaves us all shifting from one foot to another feeling awkward. She was right. We were never really pleasant to her even when she tried.

“You’re being such a bitch” Emma snaps. “Is it wrong that your brother wants to hear from you?” Ava laughs. A sarcastic and cold laugh. Something I have never heard from her.

“Thanks for the complement Emma, you see, they all thought I was a bitch so I decided that it was high time to live by their expectation and let me tell you, it’s quite invigorating” Emma goes to reply but Ava cuts her off.

“Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to get away from all of you before your drama chases Ethan away” With that she takes Ethan’s hand and walks away, not bothering to look back at us..

So the cops name was Ethan? I make a mental note to have him investigated. There was just something about him I didn’t like. 3 They get to a booth and Ethan begins taking her through what I assume is the same process we were taken through. I pull my gaze from them and focus on the rest “What the hell just happened?” Travis asks, ‘completely flabbergasted.

Gabe smirks. “Ava finally grew some balls” He looks like he’s enjoying this way too much, which I can say is a far cry from the rest of us.

“Let’s just finish what we were doing and get out of here” Emma says irritably.

With one last disgusted look directed at Ava, she takes my hands and turns us around.

Both Gabe and I were already licensed gun holders. I was here to offer support to Emma and Gabe was here because he hasn’t gone shooting for a long time and he thought it would be really fun.

After a while I give up because I can’t focus.

F***! I should be concentrating on Emma but my eyes keeps wandering to my ex-wife. No matter how much I try, I can’t keep my eyes from her and the bastard.

It also didn't help that I noticed every fucking move he made. His arms on her hips as he positions her. How close he was to her backside or how his lips were too close to her ear as he whispered something in her ear.

“Ro?” “What?” I snap at my brother.

This has never happened to me before. Ava has never affected me until now and I didn't fucking understand why.

“You're not okay, what's bothering you?” he asks me lightly.

“Nothing, why would you think that something was bothering me?” Damn it! Why the hell did it seem like he was caressing her with the way his hands glided across her arm? And what the fuck was she giggling at?

“The fact that you're glaring at your ex-wife and her hero” he states.

“He's not he fucking hero!” “He is...in case you've forgotten he did try to save her so, that makes him a hero in her eyes” She turns to him and gives him a look I've never seen in her eyes before and it didn't sit well with me.

“Shut the fuck up Gabriel” I growl.

He chuckles, obviously finding all this funny.

“Look, you have to pull yourself together. You came here with Emma so you can't spend the entire fucking time staring at Ava. Emma is the one you want remember plus she's noticed your attention is divided” 3 That snaps me back to my senses. I look at Emma to find her sitted down, her hands on her lap and face turned down. Shit! Gabe was right. Emma didn't deserve this, we were supposed to be starting over and here I was obsessed with Ava, who seemed to have moved on.

I place down my gun then sit down next to Emma.

“I'm sorry Emma, my head is just not in the right place today” It wasn't a lie. For some reason, Ava had me all twisted up today which was unusual.

She places her hand in mine and then kisses my cheek. “I understand. You've been married to her for nine years so it's understandable you would be watching after her, after all we don't really know this Ethan guy. He's a cop but he could also be bad news.” I sigh in relief and nod. She was right. I was just looking after Ava She was after all Noah's mother. There was nothing more to it.

About thirty minutes later, I watch Ava leave the arena. This was the first time that the cop wasn't see some fucking sense.

“What the fuck Rowan?” she all but screams when I enter the ladies room and lock it behind me.

I walk towards her, my steps controlled and measured.

“What the fuck was that out there?” I snarled at her.

“I have no idea what the hell you’re talking about” her brows are furrowed as she answers.

I was in the mood for her stupid games. I needed to say what I was supposed to say and go back to Emma.

“Don’t play dumb with me Ava, what is going on between you and the douche bag?”

She smiles but it doesn’t reach her eyes. “Oh that? That is none of your business and his name is Ethan by the way” “I don’t give a shit what his name is.. I just want to know what the hell you’re doing with him” Why was she being so difficult? She wasn’t like this before.

A sinister gleam glows in her eyes and I just know that I won’t like her fucking answer.

“The way to get over someone is to get under someone else, that’s what I’m doing” I don’t know what comes over me but I see red. Moving, I pin her body to the wall behind her and cage her with my arms.

“You’re sleeping with him?” I growl at her, unable to contain my anger at the thought of another man touching her.

“It’s none of your business whether I’m fucking him or not, we’re divorced, remember?” She is right but I still can’t help myself. The need to erase his touch on her skin consumes me. As if they have a mind of their own, my hand go to her hips. The feel of them very familiar.

Her breath hitches letting me know that she probably wasn’t unaffected. I get close. So close that I can taste her breathe on my lips. I completely forget where we are and who we were here with.

All of a sudden she shoves me away. Snapping me back to the present.

“What are you doing Rowan?” she whispers, tears start filling her eyes. “You can’t do this to me, I won’t let you. Emma is back, she’s right here so if you want to kiss someone, kiss her and stop whatever game you’re trying to play with me.” With that she side steps me and leave. Banging the door behind her.

I take a deep breath and run a hand through my hair.

Why the hell did I do that? And what the hell was I thinking?

“F***” I yell before punching the wall I had pinned her on.

Again, Ava was right. I finally had Emma with me so why the hell was I about to sabotage that by almost kissing her sister?

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Tragedy strikes Ava "So Rowan?" Ethan asks me as we drive back home!

After the incident in the bathroom, I didn't want to be anywhere near Rowan so I had asked Ethan to take me home thirty minutes later.

"He's my ex-husband" I reply toneless and we fall into silence I still couldn't believe the nerve Rowan had to corner me in the bathroom. As if that wasn't bad enough, he almost kissed. Me! He has never initiated a kiss with me before so to say I was shocked would be an understatement.

I almost gave in. This was what I've always wanted but then I remembered that he was with Emma. That he had most likely kissed her and done some other things with her. That's what gave me the strength I needed to push him away from me. I just couldn't let him use me like that. Not anymore. He had Emma and I was nothing to him except the mother of his son.

Rowan has never been jealous or possessive when it comes to me. He used to do that when it came to Emma back when they were teenagers and I found it hot. I imagined how great it would feel if he did the same when it came to me. He never did, never bothered until now.

He was jealous. You could tell by the way he behaved the entire time. I know he thought I didn't notice but I did. I noticed him glaring at Ethan and me with a locked jaw and tightly fisted hands.

He confused me and I didn't understand why he would behave like this. Sure I lied and made it seem like Ethan and I were sleeping together but that was to get him off my back. I honestly didn't think it would push him over the edge like it did. Part of me wanted to celebrate that he was actually showing emotion when it came to me, but I also knew I couldn't count on that.

Ethan didn't love me, pure and simple. I wasn't going to fool myself into believing there was something more to his behavior. 1 "I thought he was with Emma who by the reports is your sister?" Ethan asked confused.

"He is" "Then what's the deal? He just jumps from one sister to the other?" I wince at that. Ethan was new in town so he didn't know what went down nine years ago. Even if I like being around him, I wasn't comfortable telling him how my st*pid actions ruined three lives years ago.

“It’s complicated and I don’t want to talk about it” In all honesty, I didn’t want to even think about it. I’ve paid enough for my mistake and thinking about it brings nothing but pain.

“Okay I won’t push it, but just know that I am here for you if you need to talk” my whole body softens at his words.

No one has ever said that to me. If I had a problem, I dealt with it myself because no one was there to catch me when I fall. Or to offer to listen to me. I was always alone.

“Thank you, Ethan” I murmur, my throat clogged with emotion.

Soon enough we are pulling into my street and seconds later we are outside my house. Like the gentleman he is, Ethan helps me out of his car and walks me to my house.

It was late evening and I could see my nosy neighbor peeping through the curtain.

“I had a wonderful time even though it was cut short...next time I promise to take you out for a bite” he grins at me.

His grin is so infectious that I find myself smiling back at him. He and Rowan were similar in some ways. Their confidence was on another level.

“You’re awfully too sure about yourself” I tease, thoughts of Rowan completely gone.

“Not sure, just hopeful...so is that a yes?” I nod my head already feeling excited. I mean this time he is direct. There is no way he would say those words if he didn’t mean them, right?

“Okay, I’ll see you soon, beautiful... have a wonderful evening” he takes a step towards me and then places a kiss on my cheek.

The heat that spreads to my cheek is probably noticeable. This makes me blush more.

“You too Ethan” “Okay get in, I want to hear you lock the door before I leave” He pushes me towards my door. I unlock it, get in then lock it behind me. Leaning on the door, I hear his footsteps receding. Then seconds later, his car starts and he drives off.

I had nothing to do so I decide to just go to bed. My mind on my conflicting feelings concerning Rowan and Ethan The continuous ringing of my doorbell wakes me up from my not very peaceful sleep. I groan when I check the alarm clock only to find it reading seven twenty in the morning.

I wasn’t supposed to be up. Not until nine o’clock. Today was Sunday and I usually go to church. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not a staunch believer but church was a must when we were younger and I just adopted it as part of my routine.

Getting up in annoyance, I put my bathrobe on and storm down stairs. Whoever it was that disturbed me was going to get an earful.

I wrench my door open, ready to curse the person but I stop dead in my tracks. The last person I expected to see was currently standing on my doorstep.

“What do you want Emma?” I snap.

I wasn't awake enough to deal with her.

“I'm just here to warn you to stay away from Rowan. He is mine, I won't let you steal him from me again” she all but growls.

Her brows are pinched and there is fire burning behind her eyes.

I laugh tonelessly. “You came to my home at seven in the morning to warn me to stay away from Rowan? You're barking up the wrong tree Emma” I wasn't the naïve, stupid girl she left behind and I'll be damned if I let her walk all over me “Rowan is mine, Ava! He's always been mine. I lost nine fucking years with the love of my life because of you and I won't let you have your way again” “I'm not having any way with him! You can keep him for all I care. Just leave me the fuck alone” I can't believe that I was standing outside my house arguing about a man that didn't want me in the first place. Hasn't she noticed that the only tie Rowan and I have is Noah?

“I saw him looking at you yesterday, I also saw him following you to the bathroom” she accuses “And how's that my fault?” She looks like she wants nothing more than to hit me. Even when she's angry and looks like she's about to blow up, she's still beautiful. How can someone be this beautiful and perfect? Seriously.

what is her secret?

“You're trying to seduce him again” “We were married Emma, We've fucked more times than I can count, I don't need to seduce him.

you have all my permission to keep my sloppy seconds” I regret the words the moment they leave my mouth. I shouldn't have said that and it was uncalled for “And he would have been my husband if you had gotten over your obsession with him Now I have feel like the worst scum on earth She has no idea how much I regret what happened years ago. I know though, that she would never believe me.

“Emma..” “No. Just stay away from him. I mean look at you and look at me. I'm a lawyer and you're just an under paid teacher. You have nothing Ava, no wealth or status of your own. I fit as the perfect wife of Rowan woods, a business mogul and you don't. You never have and never will” With that she turns and struts away before getting into her red Tesla and driving off I sigh. To be honest, her words don't bother me. I'm used to hearing people say that Rowan and I didn't fit just because he was a billionaire and I was a simple teacher. That was their opinion and it had nothing to do with me. I loved my job and that was enough.

I get back into my house and finish grading my student's reports. At nine I start getting ready and after eating breakfast I head to church. Since my shoulder felt okay. I decided to drive instead of taking an Uber I couldn't concentrate on the service. I felt like my mind was fried to crisp. First with my encounter with Ethan and Rowan and then today with Emma.

The sermon ends in a blur and soon it was time to leave. I greet those church goers that I knew on my way out and head towards my car My phone vibrating brings me out of my stupor. I take it out and put it in my ear as I dig into my bag for my car keys.

"What the fuck did you tell Emma?" Rowan's cold and angry voice comes through the speaker Why am I not surprised that Emma went crying to him? And I'm sure she left out the part where she came to my house unannounced with uncalled for accusations.

"Rowan I press the unlock button on my car keys but I don't get the chance to continue my sentence or get into my car A booming sound is heard and a heat blast like no other hits me I'm thrown back before landing hard. The last thing I hear, is the ringing of my ears and peoples screaming in feat.

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 14

Alternate universe My head is throbbing. Actually scratch that. My entire body is in pain. I try opening my eyes but I can't. It felt like they were weighed down by stones I try calling out to Noah, to anyone, but no sound leaves my mouth.

I am moving. Or someone is moving me. Every movement jolts me and just makes the pain all the more excruciating. I wish they would go slowly. Or just stop all together.

"We need a doctor!" someone shouts.

I didn't understand what they were talking about or why they needed a doctor. Or what was going on. I tried staying conscious but darkness embraced me once more and I fell into it willingly.

When I came back to myself again, I'm not in pain but I still can't open my eyes. Nor can I move my body. I feel like my limbs were laden with cement. Like I was trapped inside my own body.

I can hear people talking but it all sounds so far away. As their words are submerged under water or something. Nothing made sense and I didn't understand why this was happening to me.

I was desperate to see Noah, to hear him. He must be so worried that I hadn't called him. Yet there was nothing I could do.

I fall back to the nothingness, unable to keep up with what was happening around me. My last thought is Noah and how sad he would be that I haven't called I wake up and the room is shrouded in light. The brightness of it makes me wince.

"You're awake" an unfamiliar female voice says, I try opening my eyes again but with the lights accosting them it's nearly impossible.

"I'm so sorry about this" she pauses and I hear movements. "You can now open your eyes, the light won't be a problem" True to her words, when I open my eyes, curtains are closed and the light are turned low. I turn to the woman who seems to be in her late thirties. She's wearing a nurse uniform and a quick survey of the room makes me conclude that I'm in a hospital.

"Thank you" I croak out, my voice feeling hoarse "Here, have this while I go call you doctor. Your family will be relieved to know you're okay" she hands me a glass of water before leaving.

I sip the water slowly, reveling in the cold water as it cooled my throat. I stare at the room I was in. It's full of flowers, balloons and teddy bears. There was also a bunch of cards on the table next to me.

I was about to pick one and open it when the door opens and Rowan walks in.

"You look like hell" I tell him, my voice almost back to its normal pitch.

His hair was disheveled, clothes were wrinkled and he looked tired. I have never seen Rowan like this. He is always impeccable and neat. His eyes are tortured and he seems he had been to hell and back.

"How are you feeling?" he asks sitting down next to my bed.

"Like I've been hit by a train...what are you doing here?" He surprises me when he takes my hand in his large one. I go to pull it away but he tightens his.

"Please don't" he pleads in a small voice. "I need this, I need to remind myself that you're alive, that I'm not dreaming" My brows pull together in confusion. Did I wake up in an alternate universe or something? Because things were just not adding up.

"Are you okay, Rowan, you didn't hit your head or something, right?" I ask, feeling his forehead with my other hand.

He doesn't get to answer because the door opens and a doctor walks in. He looked at my chart. before his eyes find me.

"Miss Sharp, so glad that you're up...we were worried for a minute there" he begins with a smile. Now, do you know where you are and what happened to you?" I nod my head. "The hospital... something forceful pushed me back when I unlocked my car. I hit my head from the

impact.” I’ve tried blocking out what happened to me since I woke up. Afraid of accepting the fact that I almost died.

“Yes, your car was bombed and the force of it blowing is what threw you back “he pauses. “And what year is it?” I tell him and he notes it down. Rowan squeezes my hand and I look at him briefly. Something passes in his eyes but it gone before I can interpret it.

I was in shock. Never would I have thought that my car would be bombed. With the stress of everything, I feel a headache coming on and pain sipping in “The fact that you know the year, you recognize your own name and you know who Mr. Wood is, is a good sign. We will have to perform more tests though, just to make sure you aren’t suffering from any type of amnesia” “Okay” I whisper.

“Now on to your injuries, you dislocated your shoulder so we had to set it right. You have three broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, traumatic brain injury which caused a buildup of fluid in your brain which we had to drain and also some swelling. The stitch from your shoulder wound reopened and we had to re–stitch it. Our main concern right now is you head injury, any questions?” My other hand goes to my head since Rowan has refused to let go of my right. The bandage I feel there just makes everything that happened more real.

“How long have I been here?” I ask him.

“This is your fourth day. We had to induce a coma because of the swelling....Some complications might arise with your type of head injury so we will keep you here for a few more days and rule them out. Okay?” I nod my head. I felt drained and I just wanted to go back to sleep. He writes something before looking up at me again.

“I’ll let you and your husband have a private moment. I’ll be back later” with that he walks out, closing the door softly behind him.

“Husband?” I ask Rowan with a raised eyebrow.

He looks at me sheepishly and I almost laugh. He looks cute.

“They wouldn’t let me see you otherwise” “How’s Noah? Please tell me no one has told him what happened, I don’t want him worrying” His name brings tears to my eyes. I can’t believe how close I had been to never seeing him again. It breaks my heart to know that the last memory he would have had of me if things had been worse, was me saying goodbye to him.

“Hey, it’s okay...you’re okay and so is Noah, he misses you a lot though.” Rowan comforts me, while wiping away my tears..

“You’re acting really weird” I cry–laugh, making him chuckle.

This is the Rowan I wish I had back when we were married. I know he's only behaving like this because of what happened. Once I'm better he'll probably go back to hating me. That thought weighs down on my heart, making me really sad.

I sigh when my eyes began to droop. I try to stay awake but my body refuses to obey, instead demanding sleep.

"Sleep, Ava...I promise not to leave you" I hear Rowan telling me right before I feel soft lips on my forehead.

I really must have woken up in an alternate universe because there is no way Rowan would be so soft towards me, right?

New development Rowan.

"How is she doing, Rowan?" Kate, Ava's mother asks.

The concern in her voice is genuine. You can hear how hard she's trying to stop herself from crying. It's been a very hard couple of days and I still can't over how we almost lost Ava "She woke up yesterday for a few minutes before going back to sleep and before you start worrying, the doctor said it's normal for patients with head injuries" I hear her sigh with relief. Kate has been different since the death of her husband She wants to get close to Ava only now Ava has decided she doesn't want anything to do with her family. In fact she doesn't want anything to do with all of us.

"Will she be okay? Will she make a full recovery?" "Yes, the doctors are confident, but they're not sure if she will be completely okay. It's still too early to tell but they say with this type of head injury there might be complications" That was one of the things I was fucking afraid of. In all honest I just wanted her to be okay.

"Don't worry though, Ava is strong I'm sure she'll pull through. I got to go but I'll call when she wakes up, the last time she did, she was asking about Noah" "Okay, Rowan, please keep me informed and make sure she's getting the best treatment" "I will" I hang up after that and watch her. She looks so peaceful and beautiful. Why have I never noticed how flawless her complexion is? Or how naturally long her eye lashes are? Or how full and red her lips are 'Because you never wanted to, you were so focused on hating and blaming her that you never noticed anything good about her' my inner voice whispers. *

I sigh because I know that it's the truth. I never wanted her so I went to great lengths to block her out and it had worked until now. This new version of Ava demands attention. Demands to be noticed.

I take her hand in mine. It's so small and so soft. I've been doing this a lot. Rubbing her wrist and feeling her pulse just to assure myself that she was still alive. That that bombing had not taken her from us Whenever I think of that Sunday, my heart squeezes and I feel like I'm fucking

dying. I had called her to warn her to stay away from Emma. Emma had come to me crying. She told me that Ava had to lay it on her.

The moment I heard the booming sound and people screaming my breath hitched. I'd been left calling Ava's name over the phone in panic.

My heart stopped when someone called me and told me that Ava's car had been bombed and that she was badly hurt. I can't explain how I fucking felt but I know that it went beyond fear, beyond anguish. Something that I didn't understand.

I shake myself from those thoughts and look at her room.

Some of the things her visitors brought had to be taken to her house because they couldn't fit here. Most of them were from her students. Those kids adored Ava, no one needed to be told twice. They visited her in groups each day and called her nurse to check up on her.

I never cared for her work. Thinking that she was probably a failure but seeing her students lavish her with love changed my perspective. They wouldn't do all that if she wasn't a great teacher. Her colleagues also had nothing but praise for her, which just made me realize how much of her life I didn't know. 7 "Rowan" her soft voice pulls me from my thoughts.

I turn to look at Emma. Standing next to her is Travis. Unlike Emma, he looked like hell.

"Has she woken up?" Travis asks. His voice soft.

The whole thing had shaken him. Not only him but everyone. He came close to losing his sister and I guess it's finally starting to sink in.

"No" I reply.

"You need to go home, Rowan" Emma says, "Go take a shower and change clothes then you can come back. You look like a zombie" "I'm not leaving, Emma" I argue.

I couldn't fucking leave. What if something happened and I wasn't around?

"You're no good to her or anyone if you fall down in exhaustion...just go home, I'm sure it won't take long for you to look presentable" Emma argues, Travis looks at me and chips in "Emma is right, Rowan, I promise we won't leave her even for a second" I look at Ava She was still asleep and it didn't seem like she would wake up anytime soon. Maybe I could go get a quick shower and then rush back.

"Okay then, but don't leave her side" I snarl She was attacked so who knew if those criminals would try to come back and finish the job.

Travis nods, his eyes on Ava. Emma just looks at me with her piercing blue eyes.

I stand up about to leave when Emma grabs my forearm and stops me.

“She’ll be okay...Ava is too stubborn to surrender to death” she says with her smile before pecking my lips. I nod and leave. This is the first time that has happened. Since we decided to try again it’s been pecks on the cheek, chin and forehead. Her lips on mine is a first and even though I’ve dreamed about this for nine years I can’t help but feel that it’s wrong.

Her lips are wrong, the feel of them is wrong and the kiss itself is fucking wrong. Why the fuck would I be feeling this when Emma is the woman I’ve been craving for nearly a decade?

I get to my house and take the quickest shower known to man. I was dressing when I received a text from Travis letting me know that Ava had still not woken up yet. Since I was feeling tired, I decide to take a power nap. I haven’t slept in days.

I wake up with a start. Shit! I was supposed to sleep for thirty minutes and according to the time on my phone, I slept for three hours.

I put on my shoes and rush out after reading a message from Travis. Ava woke up about an hour ago and I hate that I wasn’t there.

Breaking every speed limit, I get to the hospital in forty minutes. I was just about to enter her room when I spotted Emma and Travis sitting outside.

“I thought I told you not to leave her fucking side” I growl, feeling angry.

“She kicked us out” Emma answers emotionless.

“What do you mean ‘she kicked you out’” There was no way Ava would do that and despite what she feels towards her family she wouldn’t be cruel enough to kick them out in her time of need.

“Exactly that...she told the nurse that she didn’t want us in her room, so the nurse had no choice.

but to demand we leave” Travis spoke.

There was an emotion in his voice. He was trying so hard to hide it but it was there.

Just then I hear her laugh before it’s followed by a groan.

“Is there someone in there with her?” I ask Linma looks at me when she answers. Her eyes searching mine, for what, I have no damn clue “Yes, Ethan came a few minutes after we were kicked out. He hasn’t left her side since then” I feel my face harden and jaw lock. That fucking bastard, what the hell was he doing here?

Without another word, I turn and enter her room without knocking.

Ethan is seated on her right with a bunch of open cards. Ava is seated slightly upwards. Despite the bandage on her head, and the scratches on her face, she was smiling and it transformed her face.

She faces me and the smile slips from her face.

“Get out” she demands.

I guess she was back to being ice cold.

“Not gonna happen, Ava” I calmly tell her and take a seat on her left.

Her face is contorted in fury and her eyes are blazing. She was okay yesterday so what the hell happened? “I don’t want you here, so you could you just fucking leave, and take those two with you...I don’t need any of you here” I assume she was referring to Emma and Travis. Something happened. Yesterday she was cordial but today she was different. Maybe I shouldn’t have left her with Emma and Travis “You need to calm down, Ava, remember you’re not well and you shouldn’t be stressing yourself out” Ethan cuts in.

He takes her hand and gently squeezes it. She looks at their joined hands and then his face. Her eyes soften and she loses the angry heat that had consumed her.

I ball my fist. The need to wrench her hand from his almost consuming. Shouldn’t I be happy that she had gotten her clutches in another man? I should feel relieved that her obsession with me was finally over, so why wasn’t I happy seeing this? Why did it piss me off seeing that soft look.

directed at Ethan and not me?

Before I can get any answer to those question, the door opens and the chief of police enters the room.

Ethan lets go of Ava’s hands and stands up.

“Chief” he greets.

” “Good to see you Ethan” he claps him in the back before turning to us. “Miss Sharp, I was hoping to ask you some questions” Ava nods while Ethan sits down and takes her hand again.

“Do you remember anything strange about the day you were attacked?” he asks her, taking out a pen and note book “No, not really it was a pretty normal day I woke up, had breakfast and went to church” “What about the day before, did you notice anyone you didn’t recognize?” Ava shakes her head A frown marring her face. She tries to get into a comfortable position but Winces “Do you have enemies? Someone who might want you dead?” “I normally just keep to myself, I don’t know anyone who would want me dead” “You haven’t answered my question, do you have any enemies?” Ava begins rubbing her temples The frown on her face deepening.

“Look, I have people who don’t like me, my family for example but I doubt they would want me dead”² The chief looks at her for while then writes something down. Something about the way the chief was asking these questions wasn’t making sense?

“Seems like the bomb was installed when you were in church and was activated when you used your car keys....did you notice any strange sounds coming from your car before you unlocked it?” he asked her Ava shakes her head. “No, I was a bit distracted” I feel guilty. She had been distracted because of me. Because I had called to yell at her.

“Why are you asking her this? I thought her attack was related to the criminal gang” I ask him. There was something I was missing.³ “That’s what we originally thought with the first shoot out, but with what happened on Sunday, we have reason to believe that Miss Ava is being specifically targeted. What we aren’t sure is whether it is by the gang or someone else” he finishes speaking, leaving us completely shell shocked.

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 15

New development Rowan.

“How is she doing, Rowan?” Kate, Ava’s mother asks.

The concern in her voice is genuine. You can hear how hard she’s trying to stop herself from crying. It’s been a very hard couple of days and I still can’t over how we almost lost Ava “She woke up yesterday for a few minutes before going back to sleep and before you start worrying, the doctor said it’s normal for patients with head injuries” I hear her sigh with relief. Kate has been different since the death of her husband She wants to get close to Ava only now Ava has decided she doesn’t want anything to do with her family. In fact she doesn’t want anything to do with all of us.

“Will she be okay? Will she make a full recovery?” “Yes, the doctors are confident, but they’re not sure if she will be completely okay. It’s still too early to tell but they say with this type of head injury there might be complications” That was one of the things I was fucking afraid of. In all honest I just wanted her to be okay.

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