

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 121

Posted by



By

Chapter 0247

Ethan.

muh

When I got the news from one of the inmates that Ava had been shot, I felt like my heart had been split wide open by a sledgehammer. Everything in me died when he told me that there was no further news, but the grapevine believed that she was dead because no one could survive that shooting. That, and the

fact that her family kept quiet about it and there was no official report that was released,

I love Ava, and I love my baby even more. Knowing that they both hadn't made it almost drove me to

insanity.

I waited the whole time with my heart in my throat. I waited for my parents to reach out and give me the bad news. When night arrived without a word from them, I was convinced that the rumors must be true. somehow. Otherwise, why would they take so long to make contact?

I barely slept an inch the whole night. Worry and anxiety were constant companions, driving me to the edge of insanity and filling my head with painful thoughts.

At one point, I cried to God. Praying that he could somehow do a fucking miracle. I didn't believe in

any deity, but at that point, I was willing to believe in anyone who would tell me that they were both alive and okay.

My cellmate, the guards, and other inmates gave me pitying looks. I felt horrible, I looked horrible, and I was pretty sure that I was fucking dying inside.

When morning came, I could barely keep my breakfast down. The images of one adult-size casket and another tiny one kept wreaking havoc inside my head. It's all I could think about. It's all I saw.

My heart skipped a beat when I was called into the warden's office. I didn't say anything when I saw my parent's lawyer.

When he told me that I had been pardoned for a few hours, a ray of hope started rising inside me. On our way to the hospital, that small ray bloomed into something bigger when Christopher, the family lawyer, told me that Ava and the baby were alive but in the ICU.

I thanked whatever power that had done it. They were alive, and that's what mattered the most.

Ethan, are you okay?" Mom's voice brings me back to the present.

I stare at her, wondering how the fuck I got so lucky. Most women in her position would have kicked me out of their lives, but she didn't. Neither did my father.

My eyes search for him. They finally land on him. He was a few feet away from me, and he had his hand clamped on Rowan's shoulder.

Rowan looked ready to kill me as his eyes seared me with hate. I didn't mind at all. The feeling was fucking mutual, given how he treated Ava in the past.

I watch as he turns around with Noah, and they follow a nurse.

"I'm just relieved, Mom," I tell her as my eyes tear up.

I was so happy. I hadn't lost them. There was still hope for them.

"I love you, Ethan," she says as tears fall down her face.

I hate watching her cry. I hate seeing her heart break. I can see it in her eyes. The possibility of losing Aval

was killing her.

I pull her into my arms since they had removed my cuffs.

“I love you too, mom,” I breathe. “And don’t worry. Ava and the baby are going to be just fine. You’ll see”

“You have a daughter,” dad says, and mom and I let each other go.

“What?” I stammer.

They both give me a radiant smile. “You have a baby girl. Her name is Iris.”

The tears I was holding back? Yeah, I couldn’t hold them back any more, so they fell freely down my face.

“Who named her?” It was a beautiful name, but I was afraid Ava would be pissed that they named our baby without consent.

“Noah,” mom answers. “Apparently they were discussing names one day and they settled on Iris if she was a girl and Kaden if he was a boy.”

My breath gets caught in my lungs, and my parents notice this.

“What’s wrong? Aren’t you happy with the name?” dad asks.

“It’s not that. Iris is a beautiful name. It’s just that I once mentioned to her that I loved the name Kaden.”

Mom gives me a watery smile, and Dad gives me a side bun

We were in bed that day. I just happened to mention it to Ava. I told her if I ever had a son, he would be named Kaden. The fact that she took me into consideration and decided to give the baby a name I loved in case it was a boy meant the fucking world to me.

Before any of us can say anything, a nurse calls for me.

“We arranged it. You’re her father; you deserve to see her,” mom says.

I nod at her and follow the nurse. After they’ve dressed me up, she leads me into a room and straight to

my daughter.

Seeing her so small with tubes attached to her brings me to my knees.

“Is she going to be okay?” I choke out.

I didn’t know I could ever love someone so much that it felt all-consuming, but I was wrong. Right there, Iris becomes my world. I doubt anyone could ever be as important to me as she will ever be.

“Yes. She’s doing well so far, and we’re confident that she’ll be okay,” she answers with a kind smile.

I know every father probably thinks the same, but damn, Iris was really beautiful.

I touch her tiny face, unable to believe that Ava made such a perfect being. She was everything to me and she now owned my heart.

I thank Ava because if she hadn’t convinced me when she told me she was pregnant, then I would have given up on the best gift anyone could ever give me.

I might be in prison for the next few years, but I will do everything I can to protect her, and because of her, I will be on my best behavior just so I can be granted parole.

I spend a few more minutes with her before Mary, as she introduced herself, tells me it’s time for me to leave.

I feel fucking heartbroken to leave my daughter, but I have no other choice. The few minutes I got to spend with her were the best moments of my life.

Next, I get to see Ava. Fuck, I love her so much. Seeing her like this hurts me in ways I can’t explain. I will forever regret ruining my chance with her, but I’ve come to realize that everything happens for a reason. It may not make sense, and maybe it never will, but there is a reason behind it.

I was holding her hand when mom came and told me that my time is up. I sigh, but nod.

“I’ll always love you, Ava. I hope you know that.” I tell her still form before

It takes everything for me to leave, but I remember that I promised Iris to get out of prison early.

Leaving her room, I go and hug my parents. The guards were just about to cuff me when Letty's voice

spoke from behind.

"Ethan?"

I turn around and face her. We'd become friends during my time with Ava. She was like the sister I never

had.

"I'm still pissed at you, but I'm glad that you're okay. I'm sorry I haven't come to see you"

"It's okay Letty I understand."

"Can I hug you? I've missed my friend."

I nod my head, and she launches herself at me. I hug her close to me, feeling almost whole, but not quite.

"Take care of yourself," I whisper.

"You too, Ethan," she whispers back. "I'll come see you once things settle."

"I'm looking forward to that."

I release her only to find Travis glaring at him. I glare back. I also hated him for the way he treated Ava. I just never understood why Letty was still with him.

I hug my parents one last time before letting the guards cuff me.

As they lead me back to prison, I pray for another miracle. One that entailed Ava waking up from her coma and Iris surviving.

I just wanted to thank you all for your love and support for this book. I couldn't have done this without you, my loves so I decided to show my appreciation by giving you a free chapter. Thank you, also, for your understanding. You've all been so patient with me, despite my irregular updates. Take care, and stay safe.

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0249

I stare at her, not really knowing what to do. “You can’t do that. Her mother hasn’t woken up yet.”

“I know, but those are the rules of the hospital. One of you has to take her home whether Ava wakes up or

not”

Fuck. I run my hands through my messy hair. “Can’t she stay for just a little bit?”

“I’m sorry, but no. We can only allow her to stay until tomorrow, but that’s it”

I nod my head. “Okay. I’ll discuss it with her grandparents.”

Without waiting, I walk out of the nursery and head straight towards Ava’s room. I was about to enter,

when the door opens. Nora and Theo come out of the room:

“Just the people I wanted to see” the doctor’s voice makes all three of us turn to face him.

“Is there a problem?” Theo asks, concern marring his face.

“Yes. I want you to consider a certain option for Ava. Usually patients wake up from the coma within a

month, the fact Ava hasn’t concerns us and we are afraid that she won’t be able to”

I feel dread rising in my back. I don’t want to jump to conclusions, but I don’t fucking like where this

conversation is going.

“But you told us she might recover,” Nora points out.

“Yes, might, but now I’m not too confident. Not when there is little brain activity” he takes a deep breath.

suggest you consider stopping her treatment”

The sounds that comes of my mouth can only be described as a snarl. “In other words, you’re asking us to end her life. To kill her”

“I’m sorry, but yes. She hasn’t responded to treatment and I fear that she may never will. At this point, it would take a miracle for her to wake”

Feeling tired of hearing his nonsense I turn.

“Then that is what we will wait for. A fucking miracle, cause there is no fucking way we’re going to do what you’re suggesting.

don’t wait to hear his response or those of Nora and Theo. I walk away and enter Ava’s room.

“Please, Ava. Come back. We can’t do without you. Noah misses you so much, and so do I. Iris also needs you, now more than ever. They want to release her from the hospital. Please. Please wake up,” I

beg.

There is nothing from her side. She doesn’t move. She doesn’t open her eyes. She doesn’t speak.

“They want us to consider ending your life. Please don’t make me do that. Don’t make me watch while they kill you. You need to open those fucking beautiful eyes.”

I place my head on my hand and just lean into her. For the first time since her shooting, I let my tears fall. I can’t stop them even if I want to, so I just let them fucking flow.

I let the sorrow and heartache that I’ve been holding in wash over me. I was supposed to be strong for Noah, Iris, and her, but now I feel like the weakest fucker to ever walk the earth.

I continue silently crying. Begging God for a miracle and begging Ava to wake up I don't know how long I was bent over when I felt soft, trembling fingers running down my face.

I

At first, I thought it was just my imagination until a voice called my name. It's hoarse, but it's

unmistakable.

"Rowan"

I take a deep breath before rising my head, so afraid that it was all a dream, but it wasn't. My eyes clash

with her confused ones.

Holy fuck. Ava was awake.

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Chapter 0250

I stare at her, not really sure if this was a dream or not. Her eyes were unfocused as she surveyed the room before they finally landed on me.

I probably looked like an idiot, gaping at her with my mouth wide open. I know that I've been praying for a

miracle. Begging her to wake up. Now that it had finally happened, it all felt surreal.

"Rowan? What's wrong?" She asks, her voice filled with confusion.

'Fuck, Ava. You're awake!' I yell in happiness, startling her in the process.

I grab her and hug her to my chest. It felt so good. So damn good seeing her with her eyes open.

Everything in me screamed in fucking joy. I was happy. I was amazed. I was mesmerized.

“Why wouldn’t I be?” Her voice comes out smothered.

I pull her away from me and just look at her. I couldn’t believe my eyes. I couldn’t believe the miracle that

had taken place.

Just a few minutes ago, I reached the end of my fucking limit. Her doctor had told us to consider the option of letting her go, and here she is. Breathing, eyes opened, and fully awake. It was a fucking miracle.

I hug her again, just to feel grounded. I wanted to treasure this moment for the blessing that it was. Tears.

cloud my eyes, and I let them fall. Fuck. Noah was going to be so fucking happy.

Hell, everybody was going to be. We’ve waited for this moment for three fucking months. Prayed every

single day that she would wake up.

Life without her has been gloomy. It was as if all of us were drowned in our sorrows and there was no ray.

Now she was awake, everything could finally fall back into place. I didn’t have to worry about Noah or Iris because now they have their mother back. No one could take care of them or love them better than Ava could.

“You’re scaring me, Rowan” she whispers.

kiss her cheek and wipe away the damn tears. I’m just glad that you’re back. That you came back to me. That you came back to us

gar down her soft cheeks. It’s been three months, so her wounds were healed. The place

ved her head to stitch her skull had even grown hair. No one could ever tell that she h

“Are you okay? You’re acting uncharacteristically,” she asks as she feels my head for what I’m sure is a

fever.

I laugh a full-body laugh. I haven’t laughed in weeks. It was good to have her back.

“I’m damn fine now that those beautiful eyes are open.” I can’t help myself, so I kiss her again.

She stares at me as if she’s trying to figure something out. Her eyes drop from mine to my lips, then back

up again. She then shakes her head as if trying to clear some cobwebs. She looks at me like she has

never seen me before.

That should have been the sign that something was so fucking wrong, but I was so excited that I didn’t pay that much attention.

I squeeze her hand and then grin. “Let me just get the doctor.”

“Wait!” she shouts before I can leave.

She moves close to the edge of the bed and tries to take the pitcher that was on the side table. I take the

few strides to her bed and help her when I see her hands shaking.

Pouring some water into a glass, I help her drink. I hadn’t even thought that she must be parched after

waking up from a coma and not speaking for months.

After she finishes her water, she faces me. Her brows are furrowed and her mouth is turned down.

“What is happening, Rowan?” she asks in a small voice. “Why am I in the hospital?”

“You were shot; do you remember that?” I take her hand in mine, reveling in their warmth.

She shakes her head. “No”

I sigh. I’ve read a few things about brain injuries. One article said that it’s to be expected when a patient doesn’t remember exactly what happened to them.

Kissing her hand, I stand up.

She looks at me suspiciously. Like she can’t figure out why I kissed her or why I was being nice to her. That should have been the second sign that something was seriously wrong.

Let me just get the doctor, and he can explain everything, okay?”

She nods her head. I turn around, and I almost bump into Rosa, her nurse.

was just about to go look for the doctor” I tell her happily. “Ava is a wake.”

the looks at me like I’m insane before looking behind me. The moment she sees Ava, her eyes glUW

Oh my gosh, let me just get Doctor Charles.” Before I can ask anything, she rushes out of the door.

Turning around, I head towards Ava and take the empty seat next to her. I still can’t believe that she is

awake.

“Why did the nurse look shocked to see me up?” She asks after a while.

“Because you were in a coma.”

“What? Seriously?” Now she’s the one shocked. I guess she didn’t expect that.

“Seriously. You’ve been unconscious for three months.”

Her

eyes get even wider if that's possible, and her mouth drops open. I would have laughed at how fucking comical it was if it weren't for the fact that it's serious.

Her mouth opens and closes as if she's trying to form words. Words that she's having a hard time saying

and expressing.

"How's that even possible?" Panic was now laced in her tone. "I don't remember being shot. So how am I suddenly waking up in the hospital only for you to tell me that I have been in a fucking coma for three whole fucking months?"

The last part is yelled.

Her chest moves up and down rapidly. Her trembling gets worse, and her face contorts into what I'm

fucking sure is anxiety.

Take a deep breath, Ava," I calmly tell her, and she does. "What's the last thing you remember?"

Before she can answer, the door bursts open. Nora, Theo, Rosa and Doctor Charles walk in.

Nora's eyes fill with tears, and before anyone can stop her, she launches herself at Ava.

The panic that had dissipated has become full-blown. I know shit has hit the fan when Ava scowls right before she pushes her mother away.

"Who the fuck are you?" she screeches while looking at Nora.

Fuck Something was definitely wrong.

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0251

“What the hell, Ava?” Theo shouts back while helping Nora straighten. “Why would you push her like that?”

Ava doesn't say anything. She just grabs her head and begins to slowly shake it. I get a bad feeling about this. Something wasn't adding up. Why the hell wasn't she happy to see her parents?

I feel the answer deep inside me, but I block it. Refusing to acknowledge it. Call me delusional, or whatever the fuck you want, but I refuse to accept it. Ava was whole and well. That was the only truth I

was going to accept.

“Let's all just calm down,” the doctor begins. “I'm sure there's a perfectly good explanation for why Ava

reacted the way she did. It's not good to agitate her.”

Ava looks up. Emotions war inside of her. Her eyes are tearing up, and that's when I realize that she

doesn't understand what the hell is going on. She is confused and on edge.

“No.” Theo growls. “I get she just woke up from a coma, but I want to know why the fuck she's being such

a brat.”

Ava, hearing the words, cowers. Cursing, I get up, sit on the bed, and bring her into my arms. She grabs onto me and holds on as if her life truly depended on it.

She faces Theo and Nora, tears running down her face. “I'm sorry. So sorry. But she came at me, and I didn't know who she was. She scared me.”

My arms tighten around her as we stare at her in shock. God. Please let it be that I heard her wrong. That my fucking ears, for some unknown reason, weren't functioning well.

"Ava, dear," the nurse calls. "You know this two."

She shakes her head vigorously before wincing in pain.

"No, I don't, I don't know who they are," she cries. "Why does everyone think I know them? Should I know them?"

let go of her and ran a hand through my hair. Fuck. This wasn't what I was expecting when she woke up. thought things would fall into place, but this? None of us even thought that this would happen.

the sums to me. Who are they, Rowan?"

mpers me, yet she doesn't remember her parents. When she woke up and called my name

remembered me. Fuck, was I wrong.

"They're your parents," I whisper as I look at her face for reactions.

"What?" she all but screams. "No, they're not, Kate and James Sharp are my parents. You know this, Rowan; why are you saying otherwise?"

"He's not lying. You're our daughter, I'm Nora and this is Theo." Tears fall down Nora's face, and her voice

catches

Ava just shakes her head. "No, you're not. I would know. I would remember something like that."

Doctor Charles cuts in. "Clearly something is wrong, so let's do a few tests."

He comes straight to her and takes out a flash. He shines it in her eyes before switching it off. Next, he

asks her to open her mouth wide, and he checks her tongue.

“So far, everything seems pretty normal, so that’s good,” he tells us before focusing on Ava. “Do you

remember what happened to you?”

“No”

“Can you tell me what the last thing you remember is?”

She seemed hesitant at first. As if she is embarrassed or something. Finally, after a while, she speaks.

“I remember going to sleep. It was mine and Rowan’s anniversary, and he didn’t show up.”

Damn it. I missed all of our anniversaries just to spite her. She is a romantic at heart, so anniversaries were important. I knew this. That’s why I made sure to miss each one of them.

“Okay, and what day was that?”

“August, ninth, two thousand and nineteen,” she replies, as if it should be normal, but everyone else except her knows that it’s not

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0252

Nora and the nurse gasp. While the rest of us just look at her in shock. I knew that things were bad, but I didn’t think that they would be this bad.

Her eyes scan our faces. “Why do I feel like that’s not the answer you were expecting?”

“Ava, we are in twenty, twenty–three” I gently tell her.

“Holy shit”

Exactly. Meaning that Ava didn’t remember the last four years of her life.

The doctor takes a note book and scribbles something on it. “I need to arrange some things. We need to do some scans. These kind of things happen, but we have to get our diagnosis right.

He rushes out of the room. Rosa follows

We are left staring at each other. No one knows how to react or what to think. This is something that

none of us were prepared for. We also didn’t see this coming. It is a shock.

“So you really don’t remember us?” Nora asks after a while.

I feel so fucking sorry for them. They have been through enough without adding this to their list.

“I’m sorry, but no, the last thing I remember is crying myself to sleep.”

Theo hugs his wife. I see how this hurts them. It’s painful for them to know that Ava doesn’t remember

them.

We stay in silence until the nurse comes back with a wheel chair. Nora and Theo decide to stay and make calls to deliver the news. I chose to go with Ava and Rosa.

We go to a bunch of rooms mostly seeing specialist. They conduct a bunch of tests including scans. By the time we are done, Ava looks exhausted. I wheel her back to her room. The doctor is supposed to come and see us once they have a clear diagnosis.

We get into her room and find it crowded. Everyone, except for my parents, Kate, Travis, and Emma, are there. Surprisingly, Noah is present too.

asked Letty to get him from school. School Isn't over yet, but I think he deserves to be here right now, Thep tells me when he sees me looking at Noah.

we will never be buddies, but we put our differences aside for Ava's and the children's sake.

Ava looks overwhelmed as she stares at those in the room. Damn it. She doesn't remember them of

course she would be nervous.

"Mom, you're awake!" Noah screams in happiness.

Her eyes turn to him and widen. "Oh my god, Noah?"

I help her on the bed. Once she's settled, Noah gives her a hug that lasts a couple of minutes.

I've missed you so much, mom."

Man you're grown. I

"I've missed you too" she pulls away a little and stares at him with wide eyes. in are you this tall? The last time I saw you, you weren't this big"

Letty, Calvin and Corrine give each other weird looks. I guess no one had told them of the new

development.

"You last saw me three months ago. I haven't changed much" he laughs. "Anyway, have you seen Iris yet?"

Shit. I completely forgot about Iris.

"Who's Iris?"

"Are you trying to be funny, Mom?" Noah chuckles. "Iris is my sister. We named her together."

Her shocked eyes turned to me. "Holy shit! We have a daughter?"

She's so surprised that she doesn't even realize that she cursed in front of Noah. Noah looks at her funny

while I try to come up with an answer.

How the hell am I supposed to tell her that Iris wasn't mine, but Ethan's, when she doesn't even remember

him?

Before I can say anything, the door opens and the specialist walks in.

"I've got the results of the tests back, and I'm sorry to say it isn't all good news," he begins.

My heart thumps in my chest, afraid of their findings. I already knew what's wrong with her; I was just fucking scared of it being voiced out.

I'm sorry, but Ava seems to have selective amnesia."

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0253

I've read about selective amnesia. I came across it when I was researching brain injuries. I just never thought that it would affect Ava.

"Selective amnesia means that Ava has forgotten some events of her life, and that is the last four years. In some cases, she may remember all her memories, or some of them, or she won't ever remember at all and will remain with an empty gap for the rest of her life," he explains.

I watch everyone's reaction. Noah and I were the only lucky ones. She remembered us but didn't

remember them.

“So you’re telling us that she might never remember us?” Letty asks in a shaky voice.

She runs her hand through her hair, but it’s trembling a bit. I know how hard this must have hit her. They were best friends, yet Doctor Charles was telling her that Ava might not ever remember all the memories

they shared together.

“Is this why mom doesn’t know who Iris is?” His voice comes out confident and assured.

He was in a room full of adults and a doctor, yet he didn’t have trouble asking about his concerns. Noah

is shaping up to be a great CEO. While most kids would have trouble speaking their thoughts, Noah doesn’t. He’s my son, yet his confidence surprises me.

“Yes, Noah. That’s the reason.” The doctor faces him before turning to us. “We also noticed that she’s having trouble with some letters and numbers, given she’s a teacher, it’s advisable that she doesn’t return to work immediately.”

“But I love teaching.” Ava complains, sadness coating her voice.

“For now, it’s for the best. We have to figure out this is permanent or it’s fixable.”

She doesn’t like it, but she agrees.

When will she be discharged?” I ask the doctor, eager to know his answer.

“I’d like to keep her overnight, but you can take her home tomorrow.”

Noah celebrates hearing this. It’s not a surprise given how much he has missed his mom. His joy at having her with him is immeasurable. He still hasn’t even let her go. I don’t think he’ll be doing that any Time soon anyway.

“Can I have a private moment with all of you?” Charles asks us. “Noah can remain with his mom.”

He leaves, and we follow him. I get nervous. Is there something else that's wrong? Something he wasn't comfortable sharing with Ava.

"I'm going to ask you to refrain from trying to make her remember things from the past. This is common with families. They try to force the memories back. Doing this could lead to serious migraines or, worse, seizures."

H

"So, what are we supposed to do?" Theo sounds like he's at a loss for words.

Charles turns to me. "I believe the two of you are divorced, right?"

I nod my head.

"She still thinks you are married, so you'll have to carry on like you are. You'll take her back to the house. you shared when you were together. Right now, it's important to surround her with things and people she

is used to and comfortable around."

I don't have a problem with that, but I feel like this will all blow up in my face. I can't go back to how

things were between us during our marriage. I can't act like I don't have feelings for her.

And what happens when she gets her memories back? When she realizes we didn't tell her the truth.

"Won't that be lying to her? A lot of things have changed," Corrine asks.

I know you may feel that way, but this is the best course of action. The last thing we need is to overload

her brain. It might lead to some serious consequences for her."

I get what he was saying. I don't agree with lying to her, but I get that we have to reduce her stress levels. as much as we can. Overloading her with four years worth of information might just be too much for her to handle.

“And what are we supposed to do? Stay away from her?” Nora asks with pain lacing her voice.

“Build new memories with her. Don’t try to make her remember you, but let her get to know you all over again.” Sympathy is written all over his face as he addresses the five of them. “Now, if you’ll excuse me, I need to see my other patients.

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0254

Once he leaves, the rest go back to Ava’s room while I stay back for a little bit. I just needed time to breathe. Everything was happening so fast and so differently. I was having a hard time catching up.

I get back to her room after I’m sure that I’m more in control. I find Letty, Corrine, and Calvin introducing

themselves.

“You’re nerdy Cal,” Ava says with a smile. He gives her a glare, but there isn’t any heat behind it. “It’s such

a small world that our sons are now best friends.”

“it is,” he simply says.

No one mentions that Gunner is also Emma’s son.

“So, mom, when are you going to see Iris?” Noah asks after the introductions are over.

“Can they bring her to me? I’m eager to see her.” her smile is radiant and beautiful. Something that I

haven’t seen in a long time. “I still can’t believe we have a daughter”

Damn it. How am I supposed to break this to her?

Seeing my dilemma, Nora picks up the phone from the side table and calls the nurse station. Requesting

for Nora to be brought.

It doesn't take long before Mary arrives with the precious bundle.

"It's good to see you up Ava, there's someone who has waited long enough to see her mother" she smiles at her and places Iris in Ava's arms.

She then leaves, and promises to come back later to pick her up.

"Oh dear Lord" Ava breathes. "She's so beautiful"

"She looks just like you, mom" Noah, adds.

Iris didn't fuss or anything like that. Probably because she was asleep. We all watch in awe as Ava falls in love with Iris. A daughter she doesn't remember conceiving.

When Noah complains of hunger, Corrine and Letty offer to take him to buy something to eat while buying for the rest of us. Cal excuses himself. He had to go pick up Gunner from school.

Where is the rest of the family? Do they really don't care about me?"

hed completely forgotten about them. They thought that Ava wouldn't them here now that she was

They'll be here soon enough, but there is something you have to be prepared for" I tell her.

There were things that were just too big and too fucking important to hide. I was about to tell her about James being dead when a gasp leaves her mouth.

I turn her worriedly only to find her staring at Iris with shock and confusion.

What is it, Ava"

“Why are her eyes blue? No one in your family has blue eyes and if what you’re telling me it’s true and mother and father are not my parents, then she shouldn’t have blue eyes

This is the other thing I wasn’t willing to lie to Ava about. Iris’s real father. My eyes slide to her parents, but they also looked panicked. Looks like they won’t be of any help.

“She got them from her dad” I take a deep breath.

“You’re her dad”

“No, I’m not”

“Oh my God. Did I cheat you? Is that what happened?” she asks in panic while frantically trying to soothe

Iris who was now screaming her little lungs out.

I don’t know if it’s because Ava’s panic spooked her, or because Ava was basically a stranger to her.

Taking Iris from her arms, I hold her close to me before kissing her cheek. She immediately settles down and goes back to sleep.

“It’s a long story and I’ll tell you one of these days, but you didn’t cheat on me”

You better”

Maybe by the time she demands answers, I will have come up with a reasonable explanation for her, as to why Iris had a different father without making her think that she cheated.

“So when am I going home” she’s a bit more calm as she asks.

Tomorrow

Sereat, I can’t wait to be back home.”

stare at her as a small smile forms on my lips. I know I wasn’t willing to lie to her when the doctor

ested we hide the truth, but maybe this is my second chance with her. This is my chance to bring her love for me because I can't fucking live with

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By

Chapter 0255

Ava.

I didn't sleep at all. My mind was all over the place. Everything still seems to be so unreal. I've heard about amnesia. I know about amnesia. I just never thought I would be one of the people suffering from it.

It feels so weird that there is this huge gap in my memory. I remember nothing after I woke up. Nothing of

the people who claim to be my parents. Nothing of the people who claim to be my friends. I remember

nothing of Iris or the man who got me pregnant.

Also, why would I sleep with another man? And why did it seem like Rowan had no problem with it? Scratch that; he isn't mad because he doesn't care. But why are we still married if I slept with someone else and even got pregnant? And where the hell is my wedding ring?

I feel like I have missed out a lot. In my memory, Noah is five. Yet the reality is that he's way past that. It feels like I've missed him growing up. He shared all these memories he has with me, but they don't ring a bell to me at all.

Looking out the window, I continue to brush my hair mindlessly. It was now evening, and I was waiting for Rowan and Noah to come and pick me and Iris up.

That's the other thing that concerns me. Rowan is so different from how I know him. He's behaving so differently that I keep wondering if I woke up in a

different universe, because damn it, it's like an alien has taken over his body or something.

The hugs. The kisses. The holding my hand all the freaking time. It is just something that I'm not used to. The last we time we talked, he told me that he hated me and that he would never forgive me.

Could something have changed in the course of time?

I finish up, just as Mary walks into the door with Iris in her arms.

"Are you ready to try again with Iris?" Mary asks as she puts my daughter in my arms.

Yesterday, we tried getting Iris to latch on, but it was difficult. It's like she was so used to the bottle that she found the idea of my breast foreign. To be honest, I am just glad that I had milk, I didn't mind trying until she got used to me.

Yes, please

Releasing my boob, I try to get her to latch. I sigh in relief when she finally does and begins to suck.

kat her. She looks like look Week

It feels so nice to have her feed from me. I know that I've only known her for a day, but I already feel my bond with her. The same bond I have with Noah. My mind may not remember when I carried her in my womb, but my heart knows she's mine.

"Are you excited about going home?" she asks as she packs Iris's stuff.

Yesterday she filled me on everything concerning Iris. I am so grateful that she survived despite being a premature baby. So glad that they took good care of her.

"I am." I chuckle a little. "Like I said, I'm dying to sleep on my bed. It's way more comfortable"

She laughs, but otherwise remains quiet. When she finishes, she excuses herself. Iris had fallen asleep, but I continue holding her. It's insane how much I don't want to be separated from her or Noah.

I almost died according to everyone. Actually, I fucking died because my heart stopped twice for a few

seconds. It's sad to know that I would have been separated from my kids.

I push those thoughts away just as Rowan and Noah walk into my room.

"Hi mom" Noah comes straight to me and gives me a hug.

"Hey, my love" I kiss his cheeks, feeling happy and joyous.

Rowan waits until we are done before he approaches me.

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Chapter 0256

Rowan smile at me. "Flowers for a beautiful lady"

He then surprises me when he bends down and kisses my cheek. I stare at his throat in shock. See what I mean when I say he's different?

The Rowan I know, wouldn't be caught dead kissing me even if it's just a peck on the cheek. So this was at new development. One I wasn't sure I was ready.

"Thank you," I shake my head to clear out the confusion.

"Are you ready to leave?"

Noah gently takes Iris from my hands. He stares at her so adoringly. Like she lit up his world. While he whispers sweet nothings, Iris wakes up. Surprisingly, she doesn't cry. Just stares at her brother in

fascination. I guess she is used to him.

"Yes. Everything's packed"

“Great, we’ll make it home in time for dinner”

He helps me out of the bed. Then he picks up our bags and we leave the room that has been my home for

the past three months.

Before leaving, I say goodbye to the doctors and nurses. Most of them were so teary. It touched my heart. to see them happy because I was finally leaving. They’d thought I wouldn’t wake up. For them, this is a

freaking miracle.

“What about the bills? I pull Rowan’s sleeves to catch his attention.

“Don’t worry about that. It’s already been taken care of that”

He then takes my hand and we follow Noah who was walking ahead of us. I stare at our joined hands,

completely mesmerized.

Maybe this is all a dream. Because what in the twilight zone is this? Why does he keep holding my hand?

Before I can think of pulling my hand from his, we get outside to the parking lot. The car wasn’t that far. Noah gets in while still talking to his sister. Her eyes were fixed on him. It is as if she is actually listening

to him.

Where did Herbert go?” I ask Rowan after noticing the new driver.

“He took an early retirement, so we got someone else” he answers as he ushers me into the car.

The moment we get in, the driver begins driving.

The drive is silent. Well except for Noah who was still talking to his Iris. It’s like we don’t exist in his and Iris’s world as he told her stories of all the things he has done and all they will do together once she’s old

enough.

I'm lost in thought as the drive flies by. Without even realizing it, we get home. It takes Rowan nudging me, for me to come back to myself.

"We're here" he says as he opens the door.

Iris chooses that moment to start screaming her lungs out. I take her from Noah, but she still doesn't

keep stop.

"Maybe she's hungry" I tell no one in particular.

"Just go on inside. I'll bring in the bags"

I nod my head and step outside the door. I slowly start walking towards the huge mansion. It looks the same as always, but I can't help feeling like this wasn't my home anymore.

I don't understand why I felt that way all over a sudden.

When I get inside, things are different. The painting. The décor. Everything. I stop dead in my tracks. As

survey the entire place. Something feels different, and not just because the house looks unrecognizable.

It lacked a certain warmth. A kind of warmth that it had yesterday (or what my brain now considers to be

yesterday)

I continue taking hesitant steps. The feeling of being somewhere foreign intensifies. My mind told me this is my home though it's different, but my heart and soul didn't recognize it.

Another bout of screaming from Iris pulls me from the weirdness I felt. I walk quickly till I get to the extra bedroom that was downstairs.

What matters right now is feeding Iris. I can always figure out why something feels wrong later on.

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Posted by



By

Chapter 0257

"There is something I want to show you," Rowan tells me as he walks into the guest bedroom.

I

I was already done feeding Iris, and now she was fast asleep. Quickly but gently, I pull my nipple from her

mouth and cover up. Rowan is my husband. He has seen me naked hundreds of times, yet this felt

different for some reason, especially with his eyes trained on my breast.

"They're darker than I remember," he mumbles, almost to himself.

"What?"

"You're nipples"

I chuckle nervously, but don't say a word. This is the first time Rowan has ever said anything about my body. I don't know what to say or how to react to that.

Even on the rare occasion when we had sex, he managed to detach himself completely from the process. You see in the romance novels where the male lead worships the female lead's body? Or where he is

really verbal about how sexy her body is? I never got that after Rowan and I got married.

It wasn't bad, and at least I got off, even if it wasn't earth-shattering, but I just always wanted more, you know? With Rowan, it is more like 'wham bam, thank you, ma'am. As if that wasn't bad enough, he would

jump in the shower the minute he pulled out of me. It's like he couldn't wait to get my scent from his skin. After the shower, he would either go to the office to work or leave the house entirely.

There were no cuddles. No kisses. No soft touches or caresses. No sweet or dirty talk. Our sex was just

that: sex. Swift, formulaic, and completely unromantic.

The only time I got what novels always talk about was when we first slept together and he thought I was

I

Emma. That was a long time ago. And over the years, he has proven that he isn't a bad sexual partner; it's

just me he didn't want.

"Are you ready to see what I have to show?" he asks.

I shake my head, pulling myself away from the memories. I mean, it's probably been months since we last slept together.

"Yes, sure"

I

I didn't want to leave Iris in the guest room, so I carry her with me.

He leads us out of the room and towards the stairs.

wanted to ask where my ring is." I ask.

It was cheap, but it was still mine. When we got married, there weren't any rings. Rowan didn't see a reason for them. I did though. I was a married woman and people needed to know that. I got myself a cheap one from a store and wore it since. Rowan never wanted one so he didn't wear one.

"They took it off when you arrived at the hospital, but it got lost somewhere in their storage."

I don't say a thing. I mean, it's a normal occurrence. I will just get another one later.

"Here we are," he says, stopping outside one of the many bedrooms.

He slowly opens the room, and I gasp.

"I know you would probably prefer if Iris sleeps in the master bedroom, but I thought it wouldn't hurt to

have one of her own."

It was a baby girl's haven. The room was adorned with soft shades of pink and lilac. The walls were at

gentle pink blush, and different Disney princesses adorned them. Delicate lilac curtains swayed in the

evening breeze, and plush, rosy carpet covered the floor.

The crib sat in the middle and was draped in pastel bedding in hues of lavender, with a charming ceiling

mobile dangling above. Next to it was a comfortable-looking rocking chair. To the far left was a white

changing table with different animated cartoons drawn on it, and next to it was a baby pink wardrobe.

There were also shelves adorned with adorable stuffed animals and storybooks, and on the floor were all

manner of toys.

"Do you like it?"

"Oh my god, this is so beautiful. Thank you so much"

I

Mindful of Iris, and without really thinking, I hug him. I expected him to push me away like he normally would, but I'm surprised when he reciprocates the hug.

I don't know how and why he would do all this for another man's child when he hated me so much, but I am thankfully none the less.

I let go of him and step away. "When did you arrange this?"

"A few weeks ago. I wanted to help Noah take his mind off you and Iris being in the hospital, so I came up with the idea to prepare a room for Iris."

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