Ex Husband 157 Chapter 0157 "Sir?" she picks up on the first ring. "There is a new article about me and Ava circulating, I want it taken down" I growl, fueled by anger. "I see it, give me ten minutes" "Also let it be known that if anyone is caught writing articles about Ava's private life, they'll face bankruptcy" "Yes sir" I cut of the phone, still fuming. Ava has always been a private person. I was going to protect her privacy at all coast. It doesn't matter what it takes. "What's going on between you and Ava, Ro?" mom asks after her while. Her gaze piercing mine as if she was trying to find the answers by staring deep into my soul.

I was glad she didn't ask if the pregnancy rumor was true. That wasn't my secret to tell and I wouldn't

even have told her.

"I don't know" I answer her in frustration.
"Kate tells me that you've been distant with Emma. Emma told her that you broke things off and won't
even talk to her. Is this because of Ava?"
I think of lying to her, but what would be the use?
"Partly*
I hear her sharp intake of air. I don't look at her. Afraid of what I'll see in her eyes.
"Did you know that Ava wasn't Kate and James' daughter?" I ask when she doesn't say anything for a long
time. 1
"Yes"
"Is that the reason you hated her?"
"No" she says, surprising me. "I hated her because she took your happiness away. She took your light
away. You loved Emma so much and because of her obsession, you lost her. You don't know how painful
it was for me to watch my son living like a zombie. It was like when you lost Emma you died, Rowan. We
shake my head. I don't want to remember how I was drowning back then. I was basically a dead man iving. It was the worst period of my fucking life.

You hated her back then, but I see that has changed. I spent almost thirty minutes looking at the pictures of you two standing outside that store. You stared at her in awe. You looked at her like she was your world. You looked at her like you were in love with her"

I face my mother, Staring at her in shock. She had to be wrong somehow.

"Gabe found out she didn't lie when she said she was drunk. He was able to get the footages of that night" I whisper, trying to change the subject.

It still sits heavily in my heart knowing what I did to Ava. All the fucking pain I caused her. She took it all until she couldn't anymore. Until she finally had enough and kicked us out of her life.

"Then I need to apologize to her for my part in shunning and hating her" her tone is somber and I know it's already killing her to know she had been wrong about Ava too.

We're quiet for a moment. Each of us lost in our own thoughts. That's until she speaks up.

"You have to tell her Rowan. You have to tell Ava you love her. Nine years have already been wasted. Nine years where you would have been happy with her. You have to tell her before it's too late"

"But how can I tell her?" I run my hand down my face. "How can I tell her when I'm not even sure what feel? She has me in knots and I don't really know what it is I feel towards her. It's all so fucking confusing"

And that is the bane of my existence. The fact that I don't know how to describe what I feel for Ava.

"Language!" she admonishes before sighing. "I think you spent so much time hating and resenting her that those ugly feelings are now fighting against the feelings that are coming up and the developing ones. That is why you're confused. Because you are trying to reset feelings that have been dominant for years"

She continues. "Just take your time and don't rush it. As for Ava, I saw how she looked at you. The love and she once had is either gone or buried deep inside. My advice, don't push her too much or she'll snap
completely cut you off"
I nod my head as I accept her advice. After spending a few more minutes with her, I leave.
I was more relaxed than I had been when I arrived, but the tension was still there.
It was as I was driving to my office that I accepted the truth.
I did have feelings for Ava. Strong ones at that. I just didn't know how deep they went, or what exactly

they were. It was time I find that out.