

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 41

Something's changed Ava I was dead on my feet and I wanted nothing more than to soak in a bathtub before going to sleep.

We had been planning this banquet for weeks. At first I wasn't supposed to come. It was supposed to be like always where Mary represented me. After my breakdown in the kitchen that day, I decided it was time to stop hiding.

Mary was excited when I told her that I would be attending the dinner party. For five years my identity had remained a secret. Not because I was afraid of anyone finding out but because I just wanted to live my life in peace.

I didn't want to be in the limelight. I didn't want people all of a sudden sucking up to me because they realized I was rich. Now, though I could come out of the shadows. I knew those that are genuine and those that are not.

I mean fuck, there are already people here tonight who were trying to get on my good graces. Men and women who had looked down on me and treated me like shit before, simply because I didn't have a high paying job and according to them. Because they believed I didn't have a dime to my name.

It was fucking frustrating. I just wanted to be away from them all.

"I still can't believe that you're the founder of Hope Foundation" Letty says awe in her voice. "Why didn't you tell me?" It was hours after my talk with Rowan. I stood next to him and told him my mind. Told him how things were going to be like and I felt nothing.

There's just something so rejuvenating about letting the past go. I wasn't fully healed, but my heart didn't hurt every freaking second like it used to. Iteel nothing towards Rowan and my so called family. No anger. No bitterness. No hatred. I was sort of numb and I liked that I liked that I could now breathe easily without the constant feeling of drowning "Ava?" I turn to Letty "Yes?" "You haven't answered my question" Letty says with a pout "I didn't tell you because no one else knew except for those who work at Hope foundation, the children and Noah I had requested them to keep it a secret till I was ready for my identity to be made public" She nods her head in understanding Then she grows quiet. Her eyes shift to Rowan's table Landing on Travis and staying there for a while before she pulls them away Since Rowan was our biggest donor, our tables were close to each. I heard everything that was said earlier From Christine and Emma mocking me to Letty defending me and calling out their childish behavior When Travis told her to leave, I knew I couldn't let her I asked Mary to tell the bodyguard to stop her and bring her to our table. As for Christine, it was just a little payback for all those times she was cruel to me. It was so satisfying seeing her leave with her tail tucked between her legs.

"You can go to him Letty it's okay. I don't mind I tell her nodding my head towards Travis direction He also threw glances at Letty once in a while She didn't notice it, but I did.

*I can't. Not after his abominable behavior. He says he wants you to be forgiven by you and yet he lows Emma and Christine trash talk you" her anger lises just a little, showing just how mach in still passed her off a "I'm thankful that you stood up to me, but as you can see I don't need anyone fighting my battles I give her a soft smile "You love Travis, I see that You're my friend Letty My bestled if I was being howest and that means i want the best for you I want you happy and if Travis makes you Sappy then I can accept that She stares at the, before her eyes grows big "Something has changed" What do you mean?" I ask trying to hide my smile There is just something different about you, now that I'm looking at you what is whats I dont know Head be that I just got thed of living in bitterness of could be that that sex with it 1 san ? Tot my chip in thought "It's definitely the cer "What cerns, making some people tom taus I I laugh at how comical she looked.

"You had sex with Ethan?" she repeats as if she just couldn't comprehend what I was telling her.

"Yes" I smirk remembering it. "Multiples times actually" (1 "When you say multiples times, do you mean in one night or more than one night?" I can't help the grin that takes over my face "I mean multiple times a night for several days" Her jaw drops open before her mouth curves and she grins at me like an idiot.

"Damn woman! I mean if him sexing you is what is bringing that goofy grin on your face then continue doing you babe. You deserve to have great sex and be happy" 2 This is one of the reasons why I love Letty. She didn't judge and she was so supportive.

I throw my hands around her and bring her in for a hug. "Thank you Letty, for just being you" She's caught off guard for a while, but then she recovers and hugs me back.

"Now, go and talk to Travis. I know you want to" I tell her.

This time she doesn't wait around. She excuses herself and leaves our table just as Ethan comes back. He takes his seat before turning and kissing my lips "You're truly addictive" he whispers in my ear.

I swallow as his warm breath and words ignite a new kind of heat inside me.

"Ethan..." the words come out as a breathy moan.

"Your dress leaves nothing to the imagination, Ava...I want nothing more than to have those beautiful legs wrapped around my waist as I bury my cock so deep inside you, you'll be feeling me for days">

I clench my legs at the image he painted.

It was safe to say I was truly fucked when it comes to Ethan. He has taught me so much about myself and my desires. My likes and dislikes in bed. I didn't even know there was so many ways of bringing someone pleasure.

With Ethan, I was slowly rising from slumber. I was finally accepting my sexuality I came to the realization that I loved sex a lot. Ethan taught me to accept that. He taught me to never be ashamed of that. To never be ashamed of asking and to never be ashamed of initiating it.

With Rowan, I tried pushing my needs down because deep down I knew he was sleeping with me out of need not because he wanted to. He's the one that always initiated sex. I never once did for fear of being turned down. So even when the need arose, I used to push it down until he came to me.

I was just about to ask Ethan if it was possible to find a private place when my phone rings.

I see mother's name flashing, the mood was instantly killed.

"Excuse me, I have to take this" I tell him.

Having seen the calls several times and knowing they were Noah, he nods his head with a smile.

I walk out to the garden and answer.

"Hey mommy" my sweet boy greets.

"Hello, my love...how are you today?" "Bored" he grumbles. "How's the party? I feel so bad I couldn't come" I did want him to attend, but I was afraid of putting him in danger. The chief officer called me earlier today and told me that the man who had attacked me was killed.

He also told me not to let my guard down. He said that just because the guy was dead, it didn't mean that there wasn't any more danger.

"I know honey. It is a wonderful party and I will send you pictures." I pause. "Your friends also told me to say hi to you" We used to go with Noah to the foundation houses on Saturdays. He hit it off with the kids there, even the older ones. They all loved him and even asked for him today.

"Is Kingstone there?" he asks in excitement.

"Yes he is...I gave him your grandmother's number, he said he will call you soon" Caleb and Noah had a relationship like I had never seen before. Caleb viewed Noah as his baby brother and vice versa. Even though they had a huge age gap between them, they were close Those two could fall for bound "Yes" he screams through the phone. "I've missed him so much." "And he has missed you too" I smile even though he can't see it.

"Alright mommy, it's time for me to sleep...I just wanted to hear your voice before I do" he tells me sweetly and my heart warms at that.

It was now night. The children had already gone back to Hope House a couple of hours back. Just like with any other house with children. Hope House had curfew "It's okay. Goodnight and

remember that I love you so much” I felt my eyes moisten. Damn it, I miss him so much. It’s been months and I just want him with me.

“I love you too, mommy. Goodnight” It’s after I hang up the phone that I feel eyes watching me. I look around, but I see nothing. I hadn’t realized that I’d walked a bit far away from the hall. That I had gone deeper into the darkened garden, where there were no people around.

I start moving.

I could still feel those eyes burning at my back. Picking up the hem of my dress, I increase my speed. The moment I do, I start to feel heavy footsteps behind me.

My heart starts racing and I start running. Shit, how could I have been so stupid? There was still a target on my back and yet I walked to a secluded place.

Whoever the person is, increases their pace also. I wanted to look behind me, but I knew that would be a mistake. I was running in heels. The possibility of tripping was great and that’s the last thing I wanted.

I start panicking when I feel them gaining on me. The air was filled with something dark and sinister. Something dangerous. I knew I was good as dead if I don’t get to the hall quickly.

I push myself to run faster. The person was right on my tail when I crossed into the glittering lights illuminated by the hall.

The moment I do, I feel the suffocating presence recede. I stop and breathe heavily. When I don’t see anyone after surveying the place, I turn and quickly walk towards the hall.

I was thankful but confused The person could have easily killed me. Even when I was running All it would have taken was a bullet to the baali- Deep in thought, I wasn’t focused on where I was going.

“Sorry” I mutter after bumping into another person.

I look up after steadying myself. My whole body freezes. I had bumped into Emma.

She the last person I wanted to be around right now. I wanted to ignore her but the look on her face told me she wasn’t about to let me go. She was out for blood and it was mine she was desperate to spill.

We’re done Rowan I watch as Emma excuses herself and stands up. I wouldn’t have bothered with her if it wasn’t for the fact that she walks out minutes after Ava.

My gut was telling me to follow her. I couldn’t get over the words Ava spoke to me about Emma. It was fucking with my head and I needed answers. Especially after how Emma has been behaving.

The excitement she had about coming here was now gone. I bet my fucking company it's because we learned that the function was hosted by Ava. That Ava wasn't a loser as she had thought.

None of the others had a problem except for her. Gabe had even asked a couple of ladies for a fucking dance. As for Travis despite the mournful looks he gave Letty, he seemed fine being here.

Especially after Letty joined us at our table.

Slowly I stand up. I don't say anything even when the others give me weird looks.

I walk outside to find Ava and Emma standing face to face.

They were so focused on each other that I don't think they even noticed me.

"Do you think that just because you're the founder of Hope foundation you're now something?" Emma asks Ava.

I hear as Ava sighs tiredly. "I don't have the time or energy to deal with you, Emma so could you step aside?" As I watched both of them something told me that I've been wrong all this time. That everything I believed has been nothing but a fucking lie.

"You're nothing Ava. I keep telling you and nothing will change that. Having money won't change the fact that we all hate you Rowan especially" Emma sneers but Ava isn't affected.

"Are you done? Because all I hear is the same bullshit you've been spouting since you came back she pauses before continuing. "Now if you'll excuse me, I'm done with your nonsense She goes to bypass her but Emma grabs her hand in a not so gentle manner. I was sure that it would leave a damn bruise. I go to move but Ava rips her arm from Emma's "Rowan is mine, Ava stay the fuck away from him, Don't start thinking that you're now his equal I couldn't see Emma's face since her back was turned to me. I could see Ava's though and she was starting to get pissed.

She throws her hand up in the air. "How many times do I have to tell you I'm not after Rowan? What will it take to get it through your thick skull that I'm over him? You can keep him for all I care. I don't fucking want him" At her words, something uncomfortable settles inside me.

"I don't believe you! I saw him follow you to the balcony. You ruined my relationship with him. once, I won't let it happen again. I'll do everything in my power to make sure you dont succeed" Emma's voice was hard as she spoke.

"Is that the reason why you lied to him? Why you continue pretending you're the victim and I'm the villain? Did you even tell him that both times you accused me of hurting you, you're the one that brought drama to my house?" My hands fist. I didn't know that. Emma had told me that Ava is the one that sought her out and like the fool I'm starting to believe I am, I believed her.

“It doesn’t matter. He only needed to know what I told him. Can’t you see, Ava? Rowan will always take my side against you. He will always believe me over you because he loves me while you mean nothing to him” she answers with pride in her voice.

I close my eyes against the truth. I wanted Ava to be wrong but she wasn’t. How many times have I believed others over her? How many times have I punished her for something someone lied about?

The weight of just how unfair I might have been starts to set in. I hated that there was that possibility.

Ava snorts, making me open my eyes. “It’s sad really. That you have to stoop so low just to keep him. You say you love him yet you’re manipulating him, lying to him. What kind of love is that? His love for you may be genuine but I doubt yours is. If it were then you wouldn’t be using such dirty tricks on him” Before Emma can say anything, Ava continues.

What do you think will happen when Rowan finds out you lied to him? When he finds out the things you said about Noah?” My entire body freezes at the mention of my son’s name. I wanted to know what was said, because if there is one thing I will never tolerate, it’s anyone bad mouthing Noah.

“He’ll never find out, you know why? Because he’ll believe whatever I tell him. That’s how much he trusts me” “A trust you’ve broken countless of times.” Ava lets out a breath. “Rowan is my least favorite person and I would gladly push him off a cliff for what he has put me through, but he doesn’t deserve to be blindsided by the woman he loves. The woman he has faithfully loved for years. It’s unfair to him” I With that she again goes to step around Emma but she grabs her hand again.

“Let me go or I swear I’ll have my men kick you out like I did with Christine and Brenda” Ava wags, a dangerous tone in her voice.

I step out of the shadows. It was time for Emma and I to have a little chat.

“That won’t be necessary. I promise I will deal with her” They both turn to me. Ava gets out of Emma’s hold and leaves without giving us a second glance. Emma is frozen. Looking like a deer caught in headlights.

“How long have you been standing there?” she asks, her voice trembling.

“Long enough to know that you’ve been lying to me” I snarl, completely pissed off. “Now I want you to tell me the truth right now, dare lie to me Emma and I fucking swear you won’t like it” She swallows before hesitantly nodding.

“Did Ava slap you two weeks ago?” I ask, my jaw clenched.

“Yes?” “Why?” She doesn’t say anything. Just stares at the ground. It’s fucking funny how she had a lot to say to Ava, but now she was all of a sudden mute.

“Fucking answer me Emma!” I boom, startling.

She had to realize I wasn’t a boy anymore I wasn’t the same guy that would ignore her flaws because he loved her.

“B—because…” she doesn’t finish the sentence. Her mouth clamps shut and she looks at me with tears filling her eyes.

“I don’t like to waiting. It’s either you answer me or I go find out the truth from Ava and trust me you don’t want that. I want to hear the truth from your fucking mouth” I see her throat move as she swallows hard. She was now cowering, but it didnt faze me “I—I told her to keep Noah on a leash. That I won’t let him destroy my relationship with and if I had to I would make you ship the brat off to a boarding school just so he’s away from us” she was shaking as the words poured out of her.

Stumbling, I try taking a steadying breath. Unable to believe what I was hearing. I believed her. I supported her. I even went to Ava’s house and spewed all that shit because I was angry on her behalf, when in truth she had lied to me.

The only truth she told was about the slap and even that she manipulated me in order to have her. I now see why Ava slapped her. She was just as protective over Noah as I was.

Where the fuck did things go wrong? Emma has always been nice. She was the most kindhearted girl I ever met. She didn’t have a mean bone in her body. That’s why everybody loved her.

The woman standing before me was the complete opposite of the girl I knew and loved. She’s malicious, envious and bitter. Characters I would have never associated with Emma.

“We’re done” I manage to say through my clenched jaw.

“W—what?” she stammers, disbelief in her voice.

“It’s only because of the history we shared that I won’t make you pay, but no one and I mean no one gets away with fucking with my son.” 2 “Please don’t do this, Rowan” she cries trying to grab me. “This is supposed to be our second. chance” She throws herself at me but I gently entangle her from my body.

“Maybe and maybe not” I tell her before walking away.

I hear her crying and calling my name but I don’t turn back This time her tears don’t move me This was the best decision for us. Not only because of what she did, but also because my head was a fucking mess I didn’t want to hurt her but I also knew that would be inevitable with my current mental state. I couldn’t claim I loved her while thoughts of my ex—wife occupied my

entire head. I couldn't claim I wanted to be with her when the thought of Ava with someone else manages to push me over the edge. I thought I didn't have any feelings for Ava, but what if I was fucking wrong this whole time?

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 42

We're done Rowan I watch as Emma excuses herself and stands up. I wouldn't have bothered with her if it wasn't for the fact that she walks out minutes after Ava.

My gut was telling me to follow her. I couldn't get over the words Ava spoke to me about Emma. It was fucking with my head and I needed answers. Especially after how Emma has been behaving.

The excitement she had about coming here was now gone. I bet my fucking company it's because we learned that the function was hosted by Ava. That Ava wasn't a loser as she had thought.

None of the others had a problem except for her. Gabe had even asked a couple of ladies for a fucking dance. As for Travis despite the mournful looks he gave Letty, he seemed fine being here.

Especially after Letty joined us at our table.

Slowly I stand up. I don't say anything even when the others give me weird looks.

I walk outside to find Ava and Emma standing face to face.

They were so focused on each other that I don't think they even noticed me.

"Do you think that just because you're the founder of Hope foundation you're now something?" Emma asks Ava.

I hear as Ava sighs tiredly. "I don't have the time or energy to deal with you, Emma so could you step aside?" As I watched both of them something told me that I've been wrong all this time. That everything I believed has been nothing but a fucking lie.

"You're nothing Ava. I keep telling you and nothing will change that. Having money won't change the fact that we all hate you Rowan especially" Emma sneers but Ava isn't affected.

"Are you done? Because all I hear is the same bullshit you've been spouting since you came back she pauses before continuing. "Now if you'll excuse me, I'm done with your nonsense She goes to bypass her but Emma grabs her hand in a not so gentle manner. I was sure that it would leave a damn bruise. I go to move but Ava rips her arm from Emma's "Rowan is mine, Ava stay the fuck away from him, Don't start thinking that you're now his equal I couldn't see Emma's

face since her back was turned to me. I could see Ava's though and she was starting to get pissed.

She throws her hand up in the air. "How many times do I have to tell you I'm not after Rowan? What will it take to get it through your thick skull that I'm over him? You can keep him for all I care. I don't fucking want him" At her words, something uncomfortable settles inside me.

"I don't believe you! I saw him follow you to the balcony. You ruined my relationship with him. once, I won't let it happen again. I'll do everything in my power to make sure you dont succeed" Emma's voice was hard as she spoke.

"Is that the reason why you lied to him? Why you continue pretending you're the victim and I'm the villain? Did you even tell him that both times you accused me of hurting you, you're the one that brought drama to my house?" My hands fist. I didn't know that. Emma had told me that Ava is the one that sought her out and like the fool I'm starting to believe I am, I believed her.

"It doesn't matter. He only needed to know what I told him. Can't you see, Ava? Rowan will always take my side against you. He will always believe me over you because he loves me while you mean nothing to him" she answers with pride in her voice.

I close my eyes against the truth. I wanted Ava to be wrong but she wasn't. How many times have I believed others over her? How many times have I punished her for something someone lied about?

The weight of just how unfair I might have been starts to set in. I hated that there was that possibilty.

Ava snorts, making me open my eyes. "It's sad really. That you have to stoop so low just to keep him You say you love him yet you're manipulating him, lying to him What kind of love is that? His love for you may be genuine but I doubt yours is. If it were then you wouldn't be using such dirty tricks on him" Before Emma can say anything, Ava continues.

What do you think will happen when Rowan find out you lied to him? When he finds out the things you said about Noah?" My entire body freezes at the mention of my son's name. I wanted to know what was said, because if there is one thing I will never tolerate, it's anyone bad mouthing Noah.

"He'll never find out, you know why? Because he'll believe whatever I tell him. That's how much he trusts me" "A trust you've broken countless of times." Ava lets out a breath. "Rowan is my least favorite person and I would gladly push him off a cliff for what he has put me through, but he doesn't deserve to be blindsided by the woman he loves. The woman he has faithfully loved for years. It's unfair to him" 1 With that she again goes to step around Emma but she grabs her hand again.

"Let me go or I swear I'll have my men kick you out like I did with Christine and Brenda" Ava wams, a dangerous tone in her voice.

I step out of the shadows. It was time for Emma and I to have a little chat.

“That won’t be necessary. I promise I will deal with her” They both turn to me. Ava gets out of Emma’s hold and leaves without giving us a second glance. Emma is frozen. Looking like a deer caught in headlights.

“How long have you been standing there?” she asks, her voice trembling.

“Long enough to know that you’ve been lying to me” I snarl, completely pissed off. “Now I want you to tell me the truth right now, dare lie to me Emma and I fucking swear you won’t like it” She swallows before hesitantly nodding.

“Did Ava slap you two weeks ago?” I ask, my jaw clenched.

“Yes?” “Why?” She doesn’t say anything. Just stares at the ground. It’s fucking funny how she had a lot to say to Ava, but now she was all of a sudden mute.

“Fucking answer me Emma!” I boom, startling.

She had to realize I wasn’t a boy anymore I wasn’t the same guy that would ignore her flaws because he loved her.

“B–because...” she doesn’t finish the sentence. Her mouth clamps shut and she looks at me with tears filling her eyes.

“I don’t like to waiting. It’s either you answer me or I go find out the truth from Ava and trust me you don’t want that. I want to hear the truth from your fucking mouth” I see her throat move as she swallows hard. She was now cowering, but it didnt faze me “I–I told her to keep Noah on a leash. That I won’t let him destroy my relationship with and if I had to I would make you ship the brat off to a boarding school just so he’s away from us” she was shaking as the words poured out of her.

Stumbling, I try taking a steadying breath. Unable to believe what I was hearing. I believed her. I supported her. I even went to Ava’s house and spewed all that shit because I was angry on her behalf, when in truth she had lied to me.

The only truth she told was about the slap and even that she manipulated me in order to have her. I now see why Ava slapped her. She was just as protective over Noah as I was.

Where the fuck did things go wrong? Emma has always been nice. She was the most kindhearted girl I ever met. She didn’t have a mean bone in her body. That’s why everybody loved her.

The woman standing before me was the complete opposite of the girl I knew and loved. She’s malicious, envious and bitter. Characters I would have never associated with Emma.

“We’re done” I manage to say through my clenched jaw.

“W–what?” she stammers, disbelief in her voice.

“It’s only because of the history we shared that I won’t make you pay, but no one and I mean no one gets away with fucking with my son.” 2 “Please don’t do this, Rowan” she cries trying to grab me. “This is supposed to be our second. chance” She throws herself at me but I gently entangle her from my body.

“Maybe and maybe not” I tell her before walking away.

I hear her crying and calling my name but I don’t turn back This time her tears don’t move me This was the best decision for us. Not only because of what she did, but also because my head was a fucking mess I didn’t want to hurt her but I also knew that would be inevitable with my current mental state. I couldn’t claim I loved her while thoughts of my ex–wife occupied my entire head. I couldn’t claim I wanted to be with her when the thought of Ava with someone else manages to push me over the edge. 1 I thought I didn’t have any feelings for Ava, but what if I was fucking wrong this whole time?

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 43

Hope house Ava It was Saturday. A day after the dinner party. Yesterday had been hectic but I was happy that it had been a success none the less.

I get out of bed and go to my bathroom for my morning routine. Even though Ethan had come back to my house with me, he didn’t sleep over. He had an early start today and he didn’t want to interrupt my sleep when he it was time for him to leave.

I brush my teeth as I think about all that happened yesterday.

When Emma cornered me I had been ready for a showdown. I knew the moment Rowan walked out and found me and Emma having a face off.

I find it surprising that I could sense his presence when Emma couldn’t. I wanted to get back at Emma for all the lies she spouted. I wanted Rowan to see the kind of woman he was madly in love.

I meant every single word I told her, but it was time for his eyes to be opened.

Everyone held Emma in high regards. They thought that she was perfect. That she wasn’t capable of anything bad. While that is true for the girl she used to be, it isn’t for the woman she had become.

Maybe the pain of losing Rowan all those years back had changed her. Maybe being a lawyer had cracked her interior and made her ruthless. I'll never know. The truth still stands that she has changed a lot and not for the better.

After I finish brushing my teeth, I step into the shower. It doesn't take me long to be done.

Walking into my bedroom, I pick up my outfit for the day and put it on. Just like always I'm comfortable in jeans, t-shirt and flat shoes.

I move downstairs and start preparing breakfast for myself. I had a meeting with Mary at The Hope House at nine. It was a normal procedure that happens everytime we hold an event.

My phone vibrates with an incoming text while I was eating, interrupting my thoughts.

(Morning beautiful)

I smile at the message from Ethan. It felt so good to be wanted and desired. This is how I'd wanted things to be with Rowan but he held back. We could have had a wonderful relationship but he'd It was his loss.

I was now with a man that treasured me and that's all I could hope for.

[Morning too] I end it with smiley emoji.

[What plans do you have for today?] [Nothing much....I just have to stop by Hope House then I'll be meeting Letty later on in the evening] [Sounds good...I miss you already] [Really? You miss me exactly or my pussy?] I playfully reply to him.

I bite my lips as I wait for his reply. I've never been this bold and it both terrified and excited me.

[Both? Fuck, I'm hard from just thinking about how good you feel.] [You are?] I loved that he was aroused because of me. Just from thinking of me. I used to think that I aroused Rowan, but after what he said I'm not so sure. He might have gotten aroused because he imagined it was Emma he was fucking.

[YES... Which is embarrassing given I'm in a squad car and I'm sure my partner noticed my hard dick] I laugh at that. Unable to contain my happiness. Ethan was good at making me feel special. He made me feel like a queen, unlike Rowan who had always made me feel like I was unwanted and unloved.

[You poor baby, maybe I can make you feel better later on] You're up for that? I was rough last night, are you sure you aren't sore] he texts back.

I answer with another smiley face. [I'm sure..don't worry about it!

His reply comes back a few minutes later.

(I guess I need to up my game...the goal was to make sure you remembered each and every thrust with every step you took] Finishing my breakfast, I place the dishes on the sink. Making a mental note to wash them later.

[You can make it up to me later] When he doesn't reply for a while, I decide it was time for me to leave. I take what I need, close my house and get into my car.

I was feeling giddy as I drove to my destination. For once in a long time, I feel like things were falling into place. It doesn't take me long to get to Hope House.

Hope House is a masterpiece, boasting of a sleek and contemporary design. It features clean lines and large glass window. The exterior is painted in soft inviting color palettes that blends in with the lush green surrounding.

As you approach the house, a long tree lined driveway welcomes you, leading up to an impressive entrance adorned with a grand double-height glass door flanked by tall ornamental columns.

When you step inside, you are greeted by a breathtaking foyer with a soaring ceiling and an exquisite chandelier that sparkles like a thousand diamonds.

The interior of the house is designed with both beauty and functionality. The living room is flooded with natural light and it features plush and comfortable sofas arranged in a way that creates a cozy gathering.

The kitchen is a chef's dream with a state of the art appliances, marble countertops and a large island with barstool seating.

Hope House includes numerous spacious bedroom, each uniquely decorated according to each child's preference, ensuring that each one of them has a personalized and comfortable place to call their own.

It also has recreational areas like a game room, home theatre, library, gym, an indoor swimming pool and a playground with swings and slides.

All Hope Houses are built on acres of land and with the same design. We pride ourselves in offering the best to these kids, When I asked my architect to come up with the design, I wanted these kids to have a place they would be proud to call home, A part from Noah, Hope Foundation was my other pride and joy. It always makes me happy that Tut able to change their lives.

I'm greeted by the little kids when I get to the living room. Today was a lazy day. Where they all got to relax and just chill.

I hug as many as I can before moving forward.

“Hi Ava” the older ones who were relaxing in the sofas greet me in unison.

I smile at them and then greet them back.

“Does anyone know where Mary is?” I ask them.

“She’s in the office” Kira, a seventeen year old who was kicked out by her parents after getting pregnant answers.

She got pregnant at fifteen and she has been with us for two years. She decided to keep her baby and we accepted her decision. Monica, her baby girl was a breath of fresh. She was the liveliest baby I’ve ever met and everyone just adores her.

I thank her and walk to the office. I get more greetings from the other kids and the staff.

I find Mary seated at the desk with a magazine. She looks up and smiles.

“Your face is plastered all over the magazines” she says as she hands me the one she was reading.

The front page is a picture of me giving my speech yesterday.

AVA SHARP TURNS OUT TO BE THE MYSTERIOUS FOUNDER OF HOPE FOUNDATION, THE LARGEST MOST SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION IN THE COUNTRY.

I read the caption and snort before dropping the magazine.

“There are several more magazines with more or less the same title” she says spreading the magazines across the tables. “Some of the things written and speculated are hilarious, you should read them” I shake my head “No, I really don’t care what they have to say...can we just focus on work?” “Sure” she answers pushing the magazines aside.

“Give me the report so far” “Everything is good. The party was a success and as of yesterday the donations have doubled” She hands me some papers and I go through them. I was impressed with their progress. I know donate to be seen, but I don’t care. Provided the money was helping these kids then I didn’t care what their reasons for donating was.

“If you look here” she points at an amount in the reports, “You’ll see that your ex-husband donated ten million dollars yesterday night” I stare at her in shock. Rowan is our biggest donor but he has never donated that much money in one sitting before.

“Impressive, right?” she asks smiling.

I nod my head as my eyes go back to the paper. So far, since Hope foundation started, Rowan has donated every single month and has donated close to seventy million in total.

My phone vibrates and I take it out. I find a message from Ethan.

[Sorry beautiful, I got busy and didn't get a chance to reply] I was about to reply when Mary panicked voice calling out my name makes me look up.

Her face was shrouded in fear and terror.

“What is it, Mary? I ask feeling my anxiety spike.

“Y–Your...” she stammers “Spit it out” I command her, she was going to give me a heart attack with the way she was making me panic.

Everything inside me stills when the words finally escape her mouth.

“Your house has been torched”

“You’re kidding me, right?” I ask her, hoping that she was just joking.

She shakes her head sadly before handing over her phone.

AVA SHARP’S HOUSE BURNS DOWN HOURS AFTER SHE REVEALS HER IDENTITY AS HOPE FOUNDATION’S FOUNDER.

I read and re-read the title of the news, hoping that this was one big joke. I’m proven wrong when I scroll down and see the video of a burning house.

As much as I didn’t want to believe it, there was no way to deny that it was indeed my house burning.

With my heart in my throat, I place Mary’s phone down and stand up quickly. My movements are jerky as I rushed out of the room.

“Ava, wait” She calls me but her words fall on deaf ears.

Faces blur as I move at a speed that would put vampires to shame. Nothing registers in my mind as I get outside.

Getting into my car, I peel out of the parking lot just as Mary burst through the door. She waves.

her hand. Trying to make me stop. I ignore her and keep driving.

My head was in turmoil. Anger and panic wage war inside me.

Did I forget to turn off my stove and that’s what caused the fire? I had no answer because I couldn’t remember if I had turned it off or not.

My phone rings with an incoming call from Rowan. I ignore it. I wasn't in the right frame of mind to deal with him.

I get more calls from Ethan, Letty and even Travis and mother. Just like with Rowan's call, I ignore theirs too. I just wanted to get to my house and see how much damaged they caused.

"Fucking bitch, watch where you're going" a man screams and gives me the middle finger.

In my rush to get home, I almost ran him over.

"Sorry" I shout out the window, but he doesn't listen. He instead continues to curse me and I Twenty minutes later, I'm pulling into my neighborhood.

I drive slowly as there are civilians, cops, police cars and a fire truck. I bring my car to a stop and walk a short distance to where my house was burning.

I watch in horror, unable to believe that it was true. Firefighters were trying to extinguish the fire, but even I knew that by the time they're done there won't be anything left.

I feel my heart break as I watch the fire consume my house. It may not be grand but it was mine and Noah's home for the past few months. I loved it and I had so many good memories there. I Tears threaten to fall. Why was this happenifng to me? Haven't I been through enough?

"Ava" his deep voice brings me back from to the present.

I turn to find Rowan behind me. He looked at me with sympathy and I hated that more than anything.

"What are you doing here?" I ask as I wipe away my tears.

The only good thing was that no other house had caught fire. I don't know what I would have done if others suffered because of me.

"You weren't picking up your phone, I was worried" he answers stepping forward.

I wanted a hug so badly, but I knew I wouldn't get it from him. Couldn't get it from him.

"I'm fine" I give my house one final looking before turning and walking away. There wasn't anything I could do anyway.

I increase my steps when I hear his footsteps behind me. I was out of a home so I needed to get that shit sorted out first.

Getting into my car, I think I've lost Rowan, only to be surprised when he opens the passenger door and plants his large body in my car.

“What the hell are you doing?” I shriek in disbelief.

“You’re upset, there is no fucking way am I allowing you to be on your own he puts his seatbelt on as he replies.

“Get out I snap.

He ignores.

“Get out of my fucking car, Rowan” He levels me with a cold look. “It’s either you start driving or we sit for however long it takes....your choice” I glare at him, but he doesn’t budge. We have a stare down for a couple of minutes. Eventually, I give up when I realize he wasn’t going to leave.

“What about your car?” I ask as I start mine.

I knew that he must have driven here or had his driver drive him. Rowan wasn’t the kind of man who takes cabs.

“Dennis can drive my car back home....I’ll call him when I need him” he mutters just as I reverse mine and then drive off.

“Home...I no longer have that” I whisper sadly.

“It’s going to be okay” “Is it?” I ask sadly.

For some reason I felt that it wasn’t going to be okay. That the worst was yet to come.

Taking out my phone I call my real-estate agent. He picks up on the first ring.

“I’m so sorry, Ava. I saw what happened to your house” he says in a high pitched voice.

“It’s okay” I pause. “Please tell me you have something for me, anything really, given I’m now homeless” I didn’t like the idea of staying in a hotel for whatever period of time. I don’t know what I will do if he tells me he has no house on offer.

“I have one and it’s perfect for you. I’m sure you’ll love it” he says and I sigh in relief.

“Okay, good please send me the address now, I want to check it out. If I like it then I’ll take it.” He agrees before I hanging up “So you’re getting a new house? You know I have properties which you’re entitled to. You could have just picked one and I would have given it you” Rowan says startling me a bit.

He’d been so quiet and I had been so focused on getting a house that I had completely forgotten that he was with me in the car.

“No thanks... I can buy myself a damn new house and that is exactly what I will do. I don't need or want your help” I snap.

He mutters something under his breath, but it's too low for me to hear.

We're quiet for a while. The atmosphere in the car awkward.

“I've been wondering how you got wealthy. The last time I checked, your father cut you off from his will” he asks breaking the silence.

At first I thought of ignoring him, but then I realized what he was doing. As much as he was probably curious, he also wanted to distract me from my thoughts. To distract me from the fact that I had lost completely everything in the fire.

“I somehow knew our marriage wouldn't last. It was given either I would give up and ask for a divorce or you would. Personally I thought it would be you. I knew it was only a matter time before Emma came back and you left me” He takes a deep breath at her name.

I didn't know what happened between them yesterday after I left, but I didn't care. It was after all, none of my business..

“I also knew I didn't want a single dime from you except what was Noah's. I wanted to continue providing Noah a life he was used to and I couldn't do that on my teacher's salary, so about four years into our marriage I took all my money and invested it in a new company” I pause before continuing.

“The bank told me that it was risky, that the probability of that company succeeding was small. They were sure that I would lose my money in the end. Tom's logistics proved them wrong and flourished” I smile at the memory. Tom's logistics was a big company and very successful in its field. I was still a share hold but a silent one.

“I started earning from my shares and it felt great. I took a part-time business course, just to know the ins and outs of managing a business. From there, I started investing in startup companies. Those who needed capital and couldn't get them from the bank, came to me. I went through their business proposals and if it had potential then I invested.” So far, I have not made a bad investment. After the companies grow, they either buy me out or I remain as a member of the board.

I give him a side way glance, just to gage his reaction. He looked impressed.

“And this has been going on for more than five years?” he asks quietly.

“Yes...when I made my first million, I was so excited to tell you, I wanted you to be proud of me. To see that I wasn't just a loser” my mind goes back to that day. “I remember I waited for you to come home, but you didn't so I kept the news till morning, still excited to tell you. When I

saw you in the kitchen the next day I sat down next to you and told you that I had something to tell you” I pause to swallow and take a deep breath. The memory was burned into my brain.

“Instead of listening you turned and looked at me coldly and told me that you didn’t care what I had to say. That you didn’t care about my life or what I was doing. You cruelly then told me that I could drop dead right then and there and even then you wouldn’t care, so instead of wasting your time and ruining your morning why don’t I just go and pester someone else” “Ava...” he begins gruffly but I cut him off.

“So, I never said anything after that morning and since you made it clear you weren’t interested in anything I did, I kept quiet about anything and everything that concerned my life” The memory still hurts, but just like with everything that happened with Rowan, I’m learning to live with it. One day I know it won’t hurt so badly.

We fall into silence again. When I couldn’t take it anymore I move to put on the radio just as his phone rings. He picks it up.

“Yes, I’m with her right now” he says.

He listens before answering. “Sure, we’ll be right there” He then hangs up the phone and turns to me. “The chief wants to see you at the police station” “Why?” “Because of the fire he wanted to see us before he leaves for an important meeting, so you’ll have to reschedule viewing of the house” I don’t even think when I turn my car around and head in the direction of the station.

“Why did he call you?” “Because I have a personal interest in this particular case” that’s all he says.

“I told you I don’t want or need your help. I would prefer if you stay out of my life” I groan in annoyance.

What was so difficult to understand? We were done so he shouldn’t be up in my business.

“You’re the mother of my son, Ava. There is no fucking way I’m going to sit back when someone is targeting you” 3 Since the station wasn’t that far, we get there quickly. I don’t have the time to answer before he’s jumping out of the car.

I quickly follow him and catch up to him just as he is entering the station. We head straight to chief’s office. 1 “Take a seat” he says once we’re inside.

“What do you have for us?” Rowan immediately asks, his eyes fixed on Brian.

“There’s no way to say this, but we are treating the fire as arson” I could hear him, but for some reason my mind wasn’t processing anything.

“What do you mean?” I ask slowly, my voice coming out shaky.

“I mean that someone deliberately set your house on fire” he pauses. “We believe that whoever it is thought you were inside and burned your house with the intention of killing” a My mind goes completely blank after that. His answer sending chills down my spine.

Deep down I know. I know that if it wasn't for the early morning meeting I had with Mary, I would have been burned alive. If it wasn't for that meeting, I would probably be dead right now, I was able to escape death yet again, but how long can I outrun it before it catches up to me?

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 44

“You're kidding me, right?” I ask her, hoping that she was just joking.

She shakes her head sadly before handing over her phone.

AVA SHARP'S HOUSE BURNS DOWN HOURS AFTER SHE REVEALS HER IDENTITY AS HOPE FOUNDATION'S FOUNDER.

I read and re-read the title of the news, hoping that this was one big joke. I'm proven wrong when I scroll down and see the video of a burning house.

As much as I didn't want to believe it, there was no way to deny that it was indeed my house burning.

With my heart in my throat, I place Mary's phone down and stand up quickly. My movements are jerky as I rushed out of the room.

“Ava, wait” She calls me but her words fall on deaf ears.

Faces blur as I move at a speed that would put vampires to shame. Nothing registers in my mind as I get outside.

Getting into my car, I peel out of the parking lot just as Mary burst through the door. She waves.

her hand. Trying to make me stop. I ignore her and keep driving.

My head was in turmoil. Anger and panic wage war inside me.

Did I forget to turn off my stove and that's what caused the fire? I had no answer because I couldn't remember if I had turned it off or not.

My phone rings with an incoming call from Rowan. I ignore it. I wasn't in the right frame of mind to deal with him.

I get more calls from Ethan, Letty and even Travis and mother. Just like with Rowan's call, I ignore theirs too. I just wanted to get to my house and see how much damaged they caused.

"Fucking bitch, watch where you're going" a man screams and gives me the middle finger.

In my rush to get home, I almost ran him over.

"Sorry" I shout out the window, but he doesn't listen. He instead continues to curse me and I
Twenty minutes later, I'm pulling into my neighborhood.

I drive slowly as there are civilians, cops, police cars and a fire truck. I bring my car to a stop and walk a short distance to where my house was burning.

I watch in horror, unable to believe that it was true. Firefighters were trying to extinguish the fire, but even I knew that by the time they're done there won't be anything left.

I feel my heart break as I watch the fire consume my house. It may not be grand but it was mine and Noah's home for the past few months. I loved it and I had so many good memories there. I
Tears threaten to fall. Why was this happening to me? Haven't I been through enough?

"Ava" his deep voice brings me back from to the present.

I turn to find Rowan behind me. He looked at me with sympathy and I hated that more than anything.

"What are you doing here?" I ask as I wipe away my tears.

The only good thing was that no other house had caught fire. I don't know what I would have done if others suffered because of me.

"You weren't picking up your phone, I was worried" he answers stepping forward.

I wanted a hug so badly, but I knew I wouldn't get it from him. Couldn't get it from him.

"I'm fine" I give my house one final looking before turning and walking away. There wasn't anything I could do anyway.

I increase my steps when I hear his footsteps behind me. I was out of a home so I needed to get that shit sorted out first.

Getting into my car, I think I've lost Rowan, only to be surprised when he opens the passenger door and plants his large body in my car.

"What the hell are you doing?" I shriek in disbelief.

“You’re upset, there is no fucking way am I allowing you to be on your own he puts his seatbelt on as he replies.

“Get out I snap.

He ignores.

“Get out of my fucking car, Rowan” He levels me with a cold look. “It’s either you start driving or we sit for however long it takes....your choice” I glare at him, but he doesn’t budge. We have a stare down for a couple of minutes. Eventually, I give up when I realize he wasn’t going to leave.

“What about your car?” I ask as I start mine.

I knew that he must have driven here or had his driver drive him. Rowan wasn’t the kind of man who takes cabs.

“Dennis can drive my car back home....I’ll call him when I need him” he mutters just as I reverse mine and then drive off.

“Home...I no longer have that” I whisper sadly.

“It’s going to be okay” “Is it?” I ask sadly.

For some reason I felt that it wasn’t going to be okay. That the worst was yet to come.

Taking out my phone I call my real-estate agent. He picks up on the first ring.

“I’m so sorry, Ava. I saw what happened to your house” he says in a high pitched voice.

“It’s okay” I pause. “Please tell me you have something for me, anything really, given I’m now homeless” I didn’t like the idea of staying in a hotel for whatever period of time. I don’t know what I will do if he tells me he has no house on offer.

“I have one and it’s perfect for you. I’m sure you’ll love it” he says and I sigh in relief.

“Okay, good please send me the address now, I want to check it out. If I like it then I’ll take it.” He agrees before I hanging up “So you’re getting a new house? You know I have properties which you’re entitled to. You could have just picked one and I would have given it you” Rowan says startling me a bit.

He’d been so quiet and I had been so focused on getting a house that I had completely forgotten that he was with me in the car.

“No thanks... I can buy myself a damn new house and that is exactly what I will do. I don’t need or want your help” I snap.

He mutters something under his breath, but it's too low for me to hear.

We're quiet for a while. The atmosphere in the car awkward.

"I've been wondering how you got wealthy. The last time I checked, your father cut you off from his will" he asks breaking the silence.

At first I thought of ignoring him, but then I realized what he was doing. As much as he was probably curious, he also wanted to distract me from my thoughts. To distract me from the fact that I had lost completely everything in the fire.

"I somehow knew our marriage wouldn't last. It was given either I would give up and ask for a divorce or you would. Personally I thought it would be you. I knew it was only a matter time before Emma came back and you left me" He takes a deep breath at her name.

I didn't know what happened between them yesterday after I left, but I didn't care. It was after all, none of my business..

"I also knew I didn't want a single dime from you except what was Noah's. I wanted to continue providing Noah a life he was used to and I couldn't do that on my teacher's salary, so about four years into our marriage I took all my money and invested it in a new company" I pause before continuing.

"The bank told me that it was risky, that the probability of that company succeeding was small. They were sure that I would lose my money in the end. Tom's logistics proved them wrong and flourished" I smile at the memory. Tom's logistics was a big company and very successful in its field. I was still a share hold but a silent one.

"I started earning from my shares and it felt great. I took a part-time business course, just to know the ins and outs of managing a business. From there, I started investing in startup companies. Those who needed capital and couldn't get them from the bank, came to me. I went through their business proposals and if it had potential then I invested." So far, I have not made a bad investment. After the companies grow, they either buy me out or I remain as a member of the board.

I give him a side way glance, just to gage his reaction. He looked impressed.

"And this has been going on for more than five years?" he asks quietly.

"Yes...when I made my first million, I was so excited to tell you, I wanted you to be proud of me. To see that I wasn't just a loser" my mind goes back to that day. "I remember I waited for you to come home, but you didn't so I kept the news till morning, still excited to tell you. When I saw you in the kitchen the next day I sat down next to you and told you that I had something to tell you" I pause to swallow and take a deep breath. The memory was burned into my brain.

“Instead of listening you turned and looked at me coldly and told me that you didn’t care what I had to say. That you didn’t care about my life or what I was doing. You cruelly then told me that I could drop dead right then and there and even then you wouldn’t care, so instead of wasting your time and ruining your morning why don’t I just go and pester someone else” “Ava...” he begins gruffly but I cut him off.

“So, I never said anything after that morning and since you made it clear you weren’t interested in anything I did, I kept quiet about anything and everything that concerned my life” The memory still hurts, but just like with everything that happened with Rowan, I’m learning to live with it. One day I know it won’t hurt so badly.

We fall into silence again. When I couldn’t take it anymore I move to put on the radio just as his phone rings. He picks it up.

“Yes, I’m with her right now” he says.

He listens before answering. “Sure, we’ll be right there” He then hangs up the phone and turns to me. “The chief wants to see you at the police station” “Why?” “Because of the fire he wanted to see us before he leaves for an important meeting, so you’ll have to reschedule viewing of the house” I don’t even think when I turn my car around and head in the direction of the station.

“Why did he call you?” “Because I have a personal interest in this particular case” that’s all he says.

“I told you I don’t want or need your help. I would prefer if you stay out of my life” I groan in annoyance.

What was so difficult to understand? We were done so he shouldn’t be up in my business.

“You’re the mother of my son, Ava. There is no fucking way I’m going to sit back when someone is targeting you” 3 Since the station wasn’t that far, we get there quickly. I don’t have the time to answer before he’s jumping out of the car.

I quickly follow him and catch up to him just as he is entering the station. We head straight to chief’s office. 1 “Take a seat” he says once we’re inside.

“What do you have for us?” Rowan immediately asks, his eyes fixed on Brian.

“There’s no way to say this, but we are treating the fire as arson” I could hear him, but for some reason my mind wasn’t processing anything.

“What do you mean?” I ask slowly, my voice coming out shaky.

“I mean that someone deliberately set your house on fire” he pauses. “We believe that whoever it is thought you were inside and burned your house with the intention of killing” a My mind goes completely blank after that. His answer sending chills down my spine.

Deep down I know. I know that if it wasn't for the early morning meeting I had with Mary, I would have been burned alive. If it wasn't for that meeting, I would probably be dead right now, I was able to escape death yet again, but how long can I outrun it before it catches up to me?

Threats I was shopping for furniture, but my mind wasn't in it. I bought a new house. It was perfect for me and it suited my style. Simple yet cozy. It was in a great neighborhood and was even closer to Noah's school. I loved it the moment I saw it. It also had a big backyard where Noah could play unlike our previous house.

"Are you even paying attention?" Letty asks in annoyance.

She was helping me pick furniture my new home. It has been three days since I bought it and yet it was sitting completely empty. I didn't even have a bed for heaven's sake. I've been sleeping on a make shift bed on the floor.

"I'm sorry, Letty...I just have too much on my mind" I apologize.

When you have someone trying to kill you, most other things usually take a back seat. They don't seem as important as trying to stay a live long enough to see you child grow up.

I still get chills knowing that I was close to dying. Again. That someone deliberately set a fire to my house. That they wanted me burned alive. What kind of a sick person does that?

Plus it can't be a coincidence that the day of the dinner party someone chased me. Only to have my house burned down the next day. I "Is it because of your house?" her voice is full of sympathy.

I clench my hands in fist. "Yes! And not only that, it's everything. It just makes me so angry. Four times, Letty! They've tried killing me four times and from what I see they don't plan on stopping until i'm dead. I just want to be left the fuck alone" I take a deep breath.

The people around as stare at us at my outburst, but I don't give a shit about the scathing looks.

I sometimes felt so lost. I can't bring my son back home even though I miss, because I don't want to put him in any danger. I haven't held or kissed my baby boy in weeks.

"What terrifies me is what if they succeed? I haven't see Noah in three months, Letty. Seeing him on video calls isn't the same as holding him in my arms. What if they succeed and I never get to see or hold him again?" I ask, fighting the tears that threatened to fall.

"Uh...I don't know what to say" she looks at me awkwardly "You're really not good at pep-talks are you?" I ask chuckling, wiping away my tears 1/6 "Hell No!" She all but shouts then sighs "I don't know what you're feeling but I get you. I know how frustrating this must be for you, but don't let them get to you, cause the moment they do, you give them power over you" I think for a second about what little she's told me. She was right. I can't lose it right now. Who

knows? Maybe that is what they're counting on. Making me lose it, so that I can be careless and make a mistake.

"Thank you, Letty" I give her a side hug.

Her pep-talk however small, is exactly what I needed.

"Good. Now, have you gotten everything you need?" she asks. "We've been at this for hours and I'm starving" "Yeah...we can go get something to eat. Let me pay and then I'll come back and drive the U-Haul back to my place" "You do realize you can just hire them to deliver the furniture right? They'll even help you moving them. You don't have to do it by yourself" she folds her hand and scrutinizes me.

"I know, but I don't like strangers in my space. Besides, I'm just driving it. Ethan will be by later on to help move the furniture" She stares a bit before shrugging her shoulders. We head to the cashier and I pay for the furniture we've chosen.

There were restaurants and eateries near the furniture store so we don't have to go far.

"Fancy or fast and greasy?" I ask her already feeling my stomach start to rumble.

"Definitely fast and greasy...is that something you even have to ask?" I grin at her.

We find one pretty quickly and soon enough, we are settled. Our food arrive about ten minutes later. We basically ordered the same thing. Fries, burger, chicken wings and milkshakes.

Our conversation flows easily. We don't talk about anything important. We joke, we eat and have a fun in each other's company. For a moment, I forget about my troubles and it felt nice.

"I'm so full I can barely think straight" Letty says, making me laugh.

2/6 She had this satisfied look in her eyes and it was just adorable.

"You look like you just had an orgasm" I joke.

She smirks. "I did, I had a food orgasm" Laughing I tell her that there is nothing like that. Food and orgasms shouldn't be used in the same sentence.

"There is...food brings pleasure and even if it's not the same as the pleasure I get when Travis' dick I gag. "Don't you dare finish that sentence...haven't you ever had of TMI" I look at her in horror. "The last thing I want is to hear what you and Travis do behind closed doors" "Oops" she says sheepishly.

No sister wants to hear about their brother having sex. They especially don't want it being described.

My phone beeps and I check the incoming message.

“I have to go...Ethan will be leaving work soon and I want to be there when he gets to my new place” “Okay. It’s about time I head out too. My feet are killing me” We pay our bills and leave.

“Thanks for your help today” “Anytime, Ava” We say goodbye and she leaves. I walk the short distance to the furniture store.

I didn’t see them until it was too late. Mainly because I was focused on texting Ethan to let him know that I’d be home by the time he gets there.

“Seriously!” her annoying voice makes me lift my head.

Emma was standing next Travis at the parking lot. She was staring at me like she contemplated murder.

I didn’t want her kind of drama so I turn about to move around them but her words stop me.

316 “Are you happy now? bitterness and anger laced her voice *

Against my better judgement. I turn back around and face her. Travis just stood there stoically.

like a damn statue “Happy about what?” I ask her, my eyebrows furrowed.

“Don’t play dumb with me! Are you happy now that Rowan broke things off with me” she seethes.

“This was your plan all along wasn’t it?” I knew something had happened between them, but I never expected or thought that Rowan would break things off. He loved her after all.

“I don’t know why you think I would be happy about that when it doesn’t concern me” I answer emotionlessly “Stop pretending” she shouts drawing the attention of others.

I look to Travis. “Would you mind controlling your hysterical sister? The last thing I want is her attacking me because she thinks I had something to do with whatever drama is going on between her and her man” “You’re also my sister, Ava” he says softly.

“I haven’t been your sister in a long time, Travis. Or have you forgotten the many times you told me that yourself” He keeps quiet and looks down. I wait for the pain, but it doesn’t come. I heave a sigh of relief.

My happiness is short lived when Emma takes a step towards me.

“If you think you’ve won then you’re wrong Ava. Rowan is mine and I’ll go through anyone who tries to take him from me. I am not going to let you win. This time I will fight you to the death if I have to” she spits. (2)

I take a step back and raise my hand. “Whoa, first of all, Rowan isn’t a possession. He’s a living breathing person. Second of all, there will be no fighting to the death. If you want him you can have him. Keep him for all I care, marry him, fuck him, and give him a whole lot of babies. Just get it in your fucking head that I. Do. Not. Want. Him” I was getting tired of repeating the same thing over and over again. Why was it so hard to believe that I no longer wanted Rowan?

4/6 “You expect me to believe that bullshit? You were always obsessed with him” she says sneering and I snort in return *And now it looks like you’re the one obsessed with him now if you’ll excuse me, I have to go.

You’ve already wasted enough of my time” “I’m not done talking to you, you bitch” I ignore her but her next words make me freeze.

“I swear, Ava, if you walk away, I will find that bastard son of yours and make him pay for everything. After all, he is the other reason I lost everything” I hear a sharp gasp from Travis, but it doesn’t register in my mind.

I don’t think when I move.

I twist around and push her Slamming her against a van. I use my forearm on her neck, pinning her to the van and choking the daylights from her.

The self–defense classes I took were paying off and as of a week ago, I was a licensed gun holder.

Ethan advised me to start carrying it around after the fire at my house.

Nothing registers when I take my gun and point it to her temple. (1)

“If you ever and I mean ever threaten Noah again and I will end you. I will bury your body so deep it will take a century to dig it up. Don’t fuck with me Emma. I’ve tolerated you enough and it ends today” I snarl, feeling crazed.

“Avalet her go” Travis pleads with fear in his voice.

“If you ever so much as look at my son wrong or I find out you’ve hurt him, I will destroy you Emma. There won’t be a place in this world you’ll be able to run from me. Am I understood?” I see the fear in her eyes as she nods. After a minute I let her go and she begins chocking.

“How could you do this to your own sister? You make me sick” Travis shouts at me as he comes to Emma’s side. Helping her up./6 “She’s not my fucking sister” I hiss catching him by surprise. “You told me to stay away from her and I’ve done that. Now am asking you to keep her away from me. I won’t have anyone threatening my son and I will burn the whole fucking world to the ground if it means protecting him.

5/6 “You heard what she said concerning Noah. She threatened him yet you have the guts to stand there and scold me?” I glare at both of them.

“Ava...” he begins to say, apology in his eyes but I interrupt him.

“Shut your fucking mouth, I don’t want to hear what you have to say. As of this day forward, you’re no longer a part of Noah’s life. He doesn’t need a pathetic excuse of an uncle who can’t even stand up for him against his bitch of a sister” (2)

He looks heartbroken but I don’t give a fuck. He made his views known when he tried making me feel bad and completely ignored the threat Emma made.

“As for you” I turn to Emma. “Think long and hard about ever going against me. I’m not the same pathetic girl you left behind, push me too hard and I’ll push back. Trust me when I say you won’t like it when I retaliate” She’s shaking. Looking at me with wide and terrified eyes. Her eyes are drawn to my hand when I put the gun back inside the waist band of my jeans.

I turn to leave but before I do, I give her one last look.

“What have you become? Going around threatening innocent children and all for what? A man?

You’ve changed so much I hardly recognize you and despite being jealous of you when we were younger, I also admired you. Ask yourself, are you still the woman Rowan fell in love with years ago? Or have you become someone he can never love?” With that I walk away. Hoping that Emma will realize what she’s become before it’s too late and she does something she can’t take back or worse, hurts someone innocent.

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 45

Threats I was shopping for furniture, but my mind wasn’t in it. I bought a new house. It was perfect for me and it suited my style. Simple yet cozy. It was in a great neighborhood and was even closer to Noah’s school. I loved it the moment I saw it. It also had a big backyard where Noah could play unlike our previous house.

“Are you even paying attention?” Letty asks in annoyance.

She was helping me pick furniture my new home. It has been three days since I bought it and yet it was sitting completely empty. I didn’t even have a bed for heaven’s sake. I’ve been sleeping on a make shift bed on the floor.

“I’m sorry, Letty...I just have too much on my mind” I apologize.

When you have someone trying to kill you, most other things usually take a back seat. They don't seem as important as trying to stay a live long enough to see you child grow up.

I still get chills knowing that I was close to dying. Again. That someone deliberately set a fire to my house. That they wanted me burned alive. What kind of a sick person does that?

Plus it can't be a coincidence that the day of the dinner party someone chased me. Only to have my house burned down the next day. I "Is it because of your house?" her voice is full of sympathy.

I clench my hands in fist. "Yes! And not only that, it's everything. It just makes me so angry. Four times, Letty! They've tried killing me four times and from what I see they don't plan on stopping until i'm dead. I just want to be left the fuck alone" I take a deep breath.

The people around as stare at us at my outburst, but I don't give a shit about the scathing looks.

I sometimes felt so lost. I can't bring my son back home even though I miss, because I don't want to put him in any danger. I haven't held or kissed my baby boy in weeks.

"What terrifies me is what if they succeed? I haven't see Noah in three months, Letty. Seeing him on video calls isn't the same as holding him in my arms. What if they succeed and I never get to see or hold him again?" I ask, fighting the tears that threatened to fall.

"Uh...I don't know what to say" she looks at me awkwardly "You're really not good at pep-talks are you?" I ask chuckling, wiping away my tears 1/6 "Hell No!" She all but shouts then sighs "I don't know what you're feeling but I get you. I know how frustrating this must be for you, but don't let them get to you, cause the moment they do, you give them power over you" I think for a second about what little she's told me. She was right. I can't lose it right now. Who knows? Maybe that is what they're counting on. Making me lose it, so that I can be careless and make a mistake.

"Thank you, Letty" I give her a side hug.

Her pep-talk however small, is exactly what I needed.

"Good. Now, have you gotten everything you need?" she asks. "We've been at this for hours and I'm starving" "Yeah...we can go get something to eat. Let me pay and then I'll come back and drive the U-Haul back to my place" "You do realize you can just hire them to deliver the furniture right? They'll even help you moving them. You don't have to do it by yourself" she folds her hand and scrutinizes me.

"I know, but I don't like strangers in my space. Beside, I'm just driving it. Ethan will be by later on to help move the furniture" She stares a bit before shrugging her shoulders. We head to the cashier and I pay for the furniture we've chosen.

There were restaurants and eateries near the furniture store so we don't have to go far.

“Fancy or fast and greasy?” I ask her already feeling my stomach start to rumble.

“Definitely fast and greasy...is that something you even have to ask?” I grin at her.

We find one pretty quickly and soon enough, we are settled. Our food arrive about ten minutes later. We basically ordered the same thing. Fries, burger, chicken wings and milkshakes.

Our conversation flows easily. We don't talk about anything important. We joke, we eat and have a fun in each other's company. For a moment, I forget about my troubles and it felt nice.

“I'm so full I can barely think straight” Letty says, making me laugh.

2/6 She had this satisfied look in her eyes and it was just adorable.

“You look like you just had an orgasm” I joke.

She smirks. “I did, I had a food orgasm” Laughing I tell her that there is nothing like that. Food and orgasms shouldn't be used in the same sentence.

“There is...food brings pleasure and even if it's not the same as the pleasure I get when Travis' dick I gag. “Don't you dare finish that sentence...haven't you ever had of TMI” I look at her in horror. ” The last thing I want is to hear what you and Travis do behind closed doors” “Oops” she says sheepishly.

No sister wants to hear about their brother having sex. They especially don't want it being described.

My phone beeps and I check the incoming message.

“I have to go...Ethan will be leaving work soon and I want to be there when he gets to my new place” “Okay. It's about time I head out too. My feet are killing me” We pay our bills and leave.

“Thanks for your help today” “Anytime, Ava” We say goodbye and she leaves. I walk the short distance to the furniture store.

I didn't see them until it was too late. Mainly because I was focused on texting Ethan to let him know that I'd be home by the time he gets there.

“Seriously!” her annoying voice makes me lift my head.

Emma was standing next Travis at the parking lot. She was staring at me like she contemplated murder.

I didn't want her kind of drama so I turn about to move around them but her words stop me.

316 “Are you happy now? bitterness and anger laced her voice *

Against my better judgement. I turn back around and face her. Travis just stood there stoically. like a damn statue “Happy about what?” I ask her, my eyebrows furrowed.

“Don’t play dumb with me! Are you happy now that Rowan broke things off with me” she seethes.

“This was your plan all along wasn’t it?” I knew something had happened between them, but I never expected or thought that Rowan would break things off. He loved her after all.

“I don’t know why you think I would be happy about that when it doesn’t concern me” I answer emotionlessly “Stop pretending” she shouts drawing the attention of others.

I look to Travis. “Would you mind controlling your hysterical sister? The last thing I want is her attacking me because she thinks I had something to do with whatever drama is going on between her and her man” “You’re also my sister, Ava” he says softly.

“I haven’t been your sister in a long time, Travis. Or have you forgotten the many times you told me that yourself” He keeps quiet and looks down. I wait for the pain, but it doesn’t come. I heave a sigh of relief.

My happiness is short lived when Emma takes a step towards me.

“If you think you’ve won then you’re wrong Ava. Rowan is mine and I’ll go through anyone who tries to take him from me. I am not going to let you win. This time I will fight you to the death if I have to” she spits. (2)

I take a step back and raise my hand. “Whoa, first of all, Rowan isn’t a possession. He’s a living breathing person. Second of all, there will be no fighting to the death. If you want him you can have him. Keep him for all I care, marry him, fuck him, and give him a whole lot of babies. Just get it in your fucking head that I. Do. Not. Want. Him” I was getting tired of repeating the same thing over and over again. Why was it so hard to believe that I no longer wanted Rowan?

4/6 “You expect me to believe that bullshit? You were always obsessed with him” she says sneering and I snort in return *And now it looks like you’re the one obsessed with him now if you’ll excuse me, I have to go.

You’ve already wasted enough of my time” “I’m not done talking to you, you bitch” I ignore her but her next words make me freeze.

“I swear, Ava, if you walk away, I will find that bastard son of yours and make him pay for everything. After all, he is the other reason I lost everything” I hear a sharp gasp from Travis, but it doesn’t register in my mind.

I don’t think when I move.

I twist around and push her Slamming her against a van. I use my forearm on her neck, pinning her to the van and choking the daylights from her.

The self–defense classes I took were paying off and as of a week ago, I was a licensed gun holder.

Ethan advised me to start carrying it around after the fire at my house.

Nothing registers when I take my gun and point it to her temple. (1)

“If you ever and I mean ever threaten Noah again and I will end you. I will bury your body so deep it will take a century to dig it up. Don’t fuck with me Emma. I’ve tolerated you enough and it ends today” I snarl, feeling crazed.

“Avalet her go” Travis pleads with fear in his voice.

“If you ever so much as look at my son wrong or I find out you’ve hurt him, I will destroy you Emma. There won’t be a place in this world you’ll be able to run from me. Am I understood?” I see the fear in her eyes as she nods. After a minute I let her go and she begins chocking.

“How could you do this to your own sister? You make me sick” Travis shouts at me as he comes to Emma’s side. Helping her up./6 “She’s not my fucking sister” I hiss catching him by surprise. “You told me to stay away from her and I’ve done that. Now am asking you to keep her away from me. I won’t have anyone threatening my son and I will burn the whole fucking world to the ground if it means protecting him.

5/6 “You heard what she said concerning Noah. She threatened him yet you have the guts to stand there and scold me?” I glare at both of them.

“Ava...” he begins to say, apology in his eyes but I interrupt him.

“Shut your fucking mouth, I don’t want to hear what you have to say. As of this day forward, you’re no longer a part of Noah’s life. He doesn’t need a pathetic excuse of an uncle who can’t even stand up for him against his bitch of a sister” (2)

He looks heartbroken but I don’t give a fuck. He made his views known when he tried making me feel bad and completely ignored the threat Emma made.

“As for you” I turn to Emma. “Think long and hard about ever going against me. I’m not the same pathetic girl you left behind, push me too hard and I’ll push back. Trust me when I say you won’t like it when I retaliate” She’s shaking. Looking at me with wide and terrified eyes. Her eyes are drawn to my hand when I put the gun back inside the waist band of my jeans.

I turn to leave but before I do, I give her one last look.

“What have you became? Going around threatening innocent children and all for what? A man?

You've changed so much I hardly recognize you and despite being jealous of you when we were younger, I also admired you. Ask yourself, are you still the woman Rowan fell in love with years ago? Or have you become someone he can never love?" With that I walk away. Hoping that Emma will realize what she's become before it's too late and she does something she can't take back or worse, hurts someone innocent.

Fighting each other I was still quite pissed off when I arrived at my new house. It was going to take me some time to get used to calling it my home.

I park the truck and get out only to be surprised. Rowan of all people was sitting outside my house. I approach him with a glare on my face.

"If you're here to scold me about Emma, you can just walk your ass back to your car and leave" I tell him pointing at his sleek black Ashton Martin.

I swear, if he was here to cause me trouble, I was going to beat his ass all the way to space and back.

"What are you talking about?" he asks standing up. A look of confusion on his face.

"I'm sure that little bitch called you and told you a bunch of lies didn't she?" I seethe, remembering what Emma said, I tap my foot waiting for him to confirm it. I mean why else would he be here minutes after my showdown with Emma?

"I don't know what the fuck you're going on about, but I'm not here for whatever went down between you two" he says running his hands through his hair.

"Then why are you here?" I ask, curiously.

"Travis called and said you might need help unpacking furniture" he walks towards me and I take a step back.

At the mention of his name, my fury rises again. Those two were something else. Sometimes I wonder how the fuck I was related to them. 3 "Don't even mention his fucking name to me" I snap.

He has known Noah since he was born. So how the fuck could he just stand there and let Emma threaten him. Then scolding me for getting angry was just ridiculous.

"What did he do?" "He stood by when Emma threatened Noah and then had the gets to admonish me when I almost blew her fucking brains" 1/5 4 I wait for him to blow up on me like he usually does. I wait for him to take her side. He doesn't, which comes as a big surprised "She did what?" his voice booms and it may be my imagination, but I swear, I feel the earth shake at his voice.

I swallow, not sure what to do now. I expected him to fight me.

“I didn’t want to fight with her, so I walked away. She stopped me by saying she would make Noah pay given he was part of the reason why she lost you” I take a step back at the storm raging in his eyes. Danger coats his eyes and electricity cracks in the air around. He looked ready to murder. A look I never thought he would ever have when it comes to Emma.

“If she so much as touches a hair on his head, it will be the last thing she ever does” he growls dangerously. His voice taking a deeper note.

I’m shocked. I won’t lie. His threat was clear. The look in his eyes told me that he wasn’t bluffing.

That he would really end her if she hurts Noah “Calm down” I try soothing. “I’m sure after the warning I gave her, she won’t so much as look in Noah’s direction” I saw the fear in Emma’s eyes and I know at that moment she knew that she had crossed a line. A line she knew would get her in trouble.

I had no sisterly love towards her. It ended a long time ago. She knew that, which also means she knew that I wouldn’t hesitate to hurt her if she hurt my son.

Rowan tries to calm down, but it’s a difficult feat. He has always had a temper and getting it under control was difficult. He put a tight lid on it, but sometimes it barely contained it when he lost it.

“Look...“I begin, but his eyes go unfocused.

They were trained behind me. /The anger I saw in his eyes minutes ago multiplies ten folds just as I hear a car door slam behind me.

I let out a tired sigh knowing it was Ethan. Ethan didn’t like Rowan and looking at Rowan, the feeling was very mutual.

“What’s he doing here?” they both ask at the same time.

2/5 I step away to look at both of them. They are glaring at each other. Brows furrowed and fists clenched Their jaw tightly locked.

“It looks like you’re both here to help me move the furniture, so can we get a move on it?” I don’t give them a chance to answer, instead I turn and head towards the truck. (2)

I unlock it, before turning to face them. Six hands were better than four. Besides, some of the pieces looked heavy. It would be easier for both of them to carry instead of just me and Ethan.

“Will you stop having a stare down and come help me?” I ask when none of them move.

Rowan grunts then stomps towards me. Ethan soon follows.

“So what will you carry first?” I mumble when none of them move to do anything.

They were beginning to get on my nerve. I was sure none would leave, if I asked them, but they were also not helping. If I knew this was going to happen, I would have just hired someone.

Finally, Ethan moves first and grabs one end of the sofa. After clenching and unclenching his jaw, Rowan takes the other end.

They silently move and take the sofa into the living room. Picking what I could easily carry, I take them inside.

We work quietly. I did try to engage them, but they both seemed to be in a terrible mood.

Thirty minutes or so, most of the heavy stuff had been moved. I was getting some throw pillows when I heard a crash. I rushed inside the house to find Ethan and Rowan, rolling on the floor, punching each other.

“Stay the fuck away from her” Rowan growls, landing a punch on Ethan’s face.

I stare at them in shock. My mind refusing to believe that they were behaving like children fighting over a toy. Not that they were fighting over me. Rowan would never fight over me.

“The hell I will...you had your fucking chance and you blew it” Ethan shouts. He lands a hit, managing to punch Rowan in the gut.

“Would you two stop it!” I shriek, but no one pays me attention.

They continue fighting. Creating a mess in my house. Dropping the pillows, I go get a bowl of water. I don’t think when I empty it on top of both their heads.

3/5 They come out of it and stare at me like I’m the one that had lost her mind.

“What the hell are you two thinking? Fighting and making a mess in my house” I scream at both of them, completely pissed at their stupid behavior.

“He started it” Ethan mumbles like a petulant child.

“I don’t care who started it!” I take a deep breath before turning to Rowan. “What the hell has gotten into you? What is your problem?” His eyes flashes. “My problem is that you’re dating this asshole!” I so didn’t expect him to say that. I mean, why would he have a problem with who I date?

“Who I date is none of your business, Rowan. Besides, shouldn’t you be happy that he’s occupying my time and I’m no longer bothering you” I say folding my hands across my chest.

“If you had been dating anyone else then I wouldn’t fucking care, but this bastard is a whole other story” (

“Would you stop calling him names!” I didn’t like it one bit.

Ethan didn’t deserve being called names and being disrespected by my ex-husband. What Rowan was doing was uncalled for.

“Why can’t you see it? Why can’t you see he’s not the man he pretends to be? Open your fucking eyes and see the real him. Are you so fucking desperate to be loved, so desperate to have a man that you’re ignoring the truth that’s staring at you right in the fucking face?” he mocked. D The words hit me like shards of glass. Their sharp edges biting into my skin and heart.

“Get out of my fucking house, Rowan. I won’t let you disrespect Ethan or me” I seethed as my hands balled into fists. The need to hit him almost consuming me.

He glares at me. His eyes sending daggers. “If you can’t see reason, then I’ll gladly leave. I won’t stay here and see you making googly eyes at an asshole who has a hidden agenda and is only using you” He turns, but before leaving he gives me one last look. “Mark my words, Ava, the bastard isn’t who he says he is and he will hurt you. When he does you’ll have no one to blame but yourself because I warned you and you didn’t listen” With those disturbing words, he storms out my house. Banging the door behind him.

4/5 Rowan is wrong. I don’t know what’s gotten into him but he is wrong. Ethan would never hurt me.

Unlike Rowan, he actually cares for me.

