

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 51

Betrayed Ava I stare. My heart beating erratically and my mind racing. How the hell did I get here? How the hell did I not see this coming?

I was frozen. Mortified. Unable to utter a fucking word. My world was crumbling down around me.

Shattering into pieces.

'Boss' That one word kept playing in my head. Driving me to the brink of madness then back. All this time. Wondering. Guessing. Searching. My enemy was right under my fucking nose.

"What the fuck is going on" the angry shout pulls me back to this painful reality.

I turn behind me, only to be shocked Letty was tied to a chair. She looked afraid and pissed off at the same time. She was bleeding from her head. I guess the bastard that kidnapped us hit her on the head too.

I had been so occupied with my fears of dying and trying to get out of this situation that I didn't notice that she was here. In my defence, she was behind me. I didn't expect anyone behind me.

"Isn't it obvious? I kidnapped both of you" our kidnapper says.

"Why would you kidnap her when I'm the one you wanted?" I ask looking down.

I didn't want to face my betrayer. It was too painful to look at the familiar face.

"It wasn't in the plan, but then I saw her outside breathing the fresh air. She is related to your family and I knew I could fetch more money if I keep her for ransom" he explains with a shrug.

It kind of made sense. She was Travis' girlfriend and from what I know he's madly in love with her. He would do anything to get her back including paying the ransom money.

"I don't get it" Letty begins. "Then what is Ethan doing here? Is he here to rescue us?" She asks hopefully. 2 His name drives a sharp sword into my heart. Why me? I thought that I had finally gotten a good man. That everything was falling into place, but this? I never expected this to happen to me.

1/4 Letty asks again.

Our kidnapper laughs and answers for me. Something that I couldn't do myself.

"Save you? Ha!" He laughs again. "He's the one that hired me to kill Ava!" I hear Letty gasp. I close my eyes at the pain that assaults me. Thinking about it. Guessing about it and actually hearing it is two different things.

I had hoped that there was an explanation. That maybe he had an evil twin brother I didn't know about. The fact that he hasn't said anything proves that everything his minion said is true.

I sag against the chains. They were the only thing that were holding me up right now.

How am I supposed to deal with this kind of betrayal? How am I supposed to look him in the eye knowing very well that he wanted me dead.

All these months, were they all just a game to him? Toying with me and my feelings while he planned on the best way to kill me.

"That's impossible. Ethan is one of the good guys" Letty defends him, her voice shaking.

I didn't want to believe it, but the truth was staring us straight in the fucking face.

Ethan has been playing me for months. Leading me on, getting into my head and my fucking heart knowing very well that he wasn't going to stay.

It fucking hurt. Nothing compares to what I'm feeling now. Not even when Rowan broke me did it hurt as much as what Ethan has done.

Couldn't he have just killed me without getting close to me? Without making me develop feelings for him. That would have been kinder than what he did. This was downright mean and cruel.

How sick in the head was he? To make the person you want dead fall for you? He slept with me, listened to my worries and made me hope for a future he knew wasn't going to happen.

"Now that you're here boss...would you like the honours or should I do it?" The man asks grinning while giving the knife to Ethan.

I finally look at him. He wasn't looking at me though. He was looking at the man he hired to kill me.

My breath catches when he takes the knife from him.

2/4 "Why? Just answer me that" I finally get the courage to ask him. "Why make me like you if you were only using me? If you were planning to kill me. Why pretend? Why sleep with me? Why Ethan?" I ask him brokenly.

I couldn't stop the tears that streamed down my face. His eyes were cold as he looked at me. No trace of any warmth. I felt like a piece of meat. Beaten to a pulp and then tossed aside. It physically hurt to look at his beautiful blue eyes.

Eyes that hypnotized me from the first time I saw them. The day he knocked on my door after I had been shot. Was that day also planned? Did he plan the whole thing?

More pain tears through me at that possibility. That he staged everything to make himself look like a hero just so I would let my guard around him. (3)

“You don’t have to answer the bitch Boss...she’s going to die anyway” the man sneers in my direction.

They probably laughed at me a million times. Making fun at me for being so stupid and gullible.

Letty screams when Ethan pulls out his gun and shoots the bastard right on his forehead. His blood and probably brains splatter on me but I don’t scream. No sound comes out of my throat.

He turns the gun on me. Pointing it straight in my direction.

“Ethan, please don’t do this...this is Ava! You have feelings for her, remember? I don’t care how things started but I know that things changed along the way. There is no way you were faking the looks you gave her” Letty pleads on my behalf, but I’m just so fucking tired.

“Do it!” I ground out.

“What the hell are you doing, Ava. Stop it. Stop pushing him” Letty screams at me, but I ignore her.

He doesn’t do anything. Just stares at me with nothing in his eyes. All the emotions I used to see there is nowhere to be found.

“Fucking do it, Ethan” I scream, as my tears fall down my face.

I watch. My heart breaks into pieces as he moves his finger on the trigger. I want him to end it. To end all of it, because being dead was better than facing the pain that was slowly destroying me on the inside. I close my eyes just as I hear a shot ring out in the empty space. 3 3/4 Evelyn M.M Author How many got it right about Ethan? And how many doubted Letty’s loyalty? Let me know what you think. Lots of love, bye ” ?

A girl named Nora.

Ava “Fuck” ine grunted shout makes me open my eyes.

Ethan was holding his shoulder, which was bleeding “Drop the fucking gun Ethan or I swear I’ll blow your brains off” Rowan’s angry voice penetrates my foggy brain.

He’s the last person I want to see right now. Mainly because I’m ashamed. He tried warning me, but I didn’t fucking listen to him.

“I have the whole building surrounded, Ethan. You’re outnumbered” Rowans adds.

Just then I hear police sirens and sigh in relief.

Ethan lowers his gun, before putting it on the ground. His eyes are locked with mine. I want to pull them away, but I can't. I want to be reminded of what a fool I've been this whole time.

"Ava, darling look at me" his voice pulls me from Ethan's cold gaze. It's only then that I realize that Rowan was standing in front of me. Seeing his face up close brings tears to my eyes. The last words he said to me two months ago still rings in my head.

I keep my eyes on him as he unlocks the chains. He was my anchor right now. Maybe if I focus on him, I won't drown in the treacherous water of pain.

"I got you" he whispers softly, his voice full of kindness.

The moment I'm free, I collapse in his arms. So worn out that I'm unable to hold myself up.

He hugs me to him and I have to fight back the tears that threaten to fall. My eyes collide once again with Ethan. He was on the ground and the police were cuffing him. His wound was bleeding, but no one seemed to care.

I watch as they take him away. My heart breaking at the loss of a future I thought we had together.

"Are you hurt?" Rowan asks me, pulling me away from his warmth.

I felt so cold now. So chilled. I not only felt the coldness on my skin, but it seeped into my "Ava?" I shake my head at his question. My mouth refusing to work. Refusing to say a single word Maybe if I just pretended, everything will go away. Maybe I'll wake up and realize it was all just a terrible.

dream Nothing registers in my mind. I see Rowan's mouth moving but I can't hear a thing. I see Travis walking with a shocked Letty and Gabe walking in with some of the cops. It still doesn't register.

Nothing does.

I was numb. Or maybe I was beyond numb. I was completely broken.

Why did he do this to me? Why go through all the trouble to get to know me if he was always planning to kill me? It didn't make any sense at all.

The more I thought about it. About us. The more I died inside.

I felt us moving. Rowan's hand around my waist. Supporting me. I was so lost in my head and my pain that I didn't realize we were even in a car until we hit a bump in the road.

The car ride didn't take long. We were soon parking outside the police station.

Brian greeted us and led us inside to take our statements. I don't remember all the things I said or how long I had zoned out.

"Ava..." Rowan shakes me gently.

I turn to look at him, only to find that we were in a white room. It wasn't just us, Travis, Gabe, Letty and even Emma were all present.

Letty had a bandage wrapped around her head. I touch my own and find one too. I didn't even know when it was done.

"There was an ambulance at the warehouse. They checked you and put on the bandage to stop the bleeding. Other than that, everything seemed fine". Rowan said as if he had read my mind.

"What is she doing here?" I ask, pointing at Emma.

The last thing I needed was Emma witnessing my pain.

No one answers. They all just look at me in sympathy. I look at the floor, unable to face them. I was just about to ask all of them to leave, when the door opens.

2/6 look back up. Ethan and Brian walk in.

Ethan was still handcuffed, and his shoulder was bandaged. At least I think it was, since it was no longer bleeding.

"Sa, you requested to hear from Ethan and here he is. Maybe he can tell you why he fooled everyone including our entire department" Brian says tiredly.

"He hasn't said anything?" Travis asks, pulling Letty who had tears in her eyes, closer.

I know how she must be feeling. I introduced her to Ethan, and we even hung out all three of us together a few times. She must also feel betrayed like I was.

"No, he refuses to say a thing" Brian shakes his head.

I turn to face Ethan only to find him staring intently at me. His emotionless gaze sucked me in right away.

"Why? Why did you do this to me, Ethan?" my voice trembled as I spoke.

He stares at me. His cold gaze burned me. Gave me frostbite. I still don't know where all the warmth he used to have went. Did he have a switch for his emotions, and he could just flip it on and off when he wanted it? Or did none of it exist? If that's so then he was one hell of an actor.

"I wanted the company." He simply said.

I was shocked that he had actually answered. I didn't expect him to. The shock is pushed back as what he said registers. Soon, my surprise turns into confusion.

"What company?" I ask. I didn't have a company. I invested in companies, but I didn't have any of my own, like Rowan. The only thing I had was Hope Foundation, and I don't see someone like Ethan being interested in an organization for helping children.

"What company are you talking about, Ethan?" I push when he doesn't say a damn thing.

I needed to know what made him play me like that. What was so important that he would pull such a hurtful stunt.

"I wanted your grandparent's company...I worked so hard for it, so it's only fair that it was given to me" he said leaving me more confused.

3/6 "You're not making any sense." I laugh humorlessly. "You did that for a company that I have no rights to. If you wanted that company so bad, then you should have gone after Travis given it was left in his name" Travis glares at me, but I don't care. Everyone knows that my grandparents and father didn't leave me a dime. I didn't even have shares in the family company like Emma did.

Ethan sighs tiredly before proceeding to unleash chaos. "I'm not talking about the Sharp's. I'm talking about your real grandparents".

"What the hell are you talking about?" Travis booms. "Don't listen to him, Ava. It's probably bullshit" I keep quiet not agreeing with Travis.

"It's not bullshit. I'm telling the fucking truth" Ethan grits out before turning to me. "Tell me deep inside you've never felt that they aren't your family. Tell me you've never doubted that you are truly a Sharp" I want to deny his claims, but I can't. I've doubted it so many times that I once thought of having a DNA test.

The way my parents and grandparents treated me since I was a kid was just so different from how they treated Travis and Emma. I was always an afterthought. No one important to them. My needs and happiness always came last.

My grandparents used to buy Travis and Emma toys and treats when they came to visit. I usually got nothing. No hugs, no kisses. I got nothing but coldness and indifference from them. I never understood why they were like that. It made me question if I was truly one of them.

"You can't say anything because deep inside you know the truth. You know the Sharp's aren't your family. That's why you never felt like one of them" Ethan concludes when I didn't say anything.

I look away. I didn't want any of them to see the truth in my eyes. To see the biggest insecurity I've had for a long time.

“So you really didn’t see us as your family?” Travis asks in a small voice.

“Does that surprise you?” I fire back. “I was never treated as part of your family. I was always the outcast. The one looking in at the happy family while I was out in the cold” 4/6 “Oh please, save us the pity party you have for yourself” Emma interrupts, sneering.

“What the hell is she even doing here?” Ethan and I ask at the same time.

I look at him before quickly pulling my gaze away.

“She’s your family, Mrs. Sharp” Brian says as if it makes sense.

“I don’t know what drugs you’re smoking, but no one in this room, except for Letty, is my family So I would prefer if they left, especially Emma” I feel Rowan tense beside me, but I don’t give a damn. What I said is the truth. Family cares for you and no one here except Letty has ever cared for me.

“Can we just get back to Ethan?” Gabe asks after a while Ethan shrugs. “I’m going to tell you a story about a girl named Nora” he begins “Nora came from a middle class family. Her father was a preacher and both he and his mother were staunch christians. She was raised to follow God and the bible religiously and she did until she met a boy. Theodore was his name, though he preferred being called Theo.” We were all entranced already as we listened to him. I had no idea where the story was going, but it was all intriguing.

“They met when they were eleven and even though she tried staying away from him, she couldn’t.

They started out as friends then started dating at thirteen. Nora knew that it was against every teaching she was taught, that her parents would kill her if they found out, but she was in love and she couldn’t let go of Theo and neither could he.” “She thought it would be simple. Hide her relationship with Theo until they graduated high school. She planned to apply to a college far away from home, that would give her the freedom to be with Theo the way she wanted. It was supposed to be easy and everything was working out well until the unthinkable happened” He takes a deep breath before continuing. “Nora got pregnant at only fourteen. Theo was supportive and he was going to take responsibility because he loved Nora, but her parents found out. Her dad in particular went ballistic. He wanted her to get rid of the baby. Nora couldn’t do that to her child, so when she refused, her parents kicked her out” The more he talked, the more my heart got heavy. I don’t know why, but I just felt like what he was telling us was going to change everything. I don’t think I’m ready for any more changes.

5/6 “You see, Theo’s parents were kind and they were also fucking rich I’m talking about owning a whole damn city, kind of rich. After Theo explained everything to them, they understood. They were disappointed in their son, but they took Nora in none the less.” “Even though they were young, they decided to keep the bab. Her pregnancy progressed well and her parents came to their senses when they realized they could benefit from this, after they found out who exactly got their daughter pregnant” Damn, what kind of parents did Nora have? I ask

myself. Using your daughter simply because you found out that the boy that got her pregnant was from a rich family was despicable.

“A few months later, the parents showed their true colours. They demanded to keep the baby.

They thought they could use their grandchild to get monthly payments for the baby’s care. Nora, Theo and his parents refused. It caused a big fight and to make them back off, Theo’s parents promised to make a huge donation to their struggling church” I watch as Ethan narrates the story. There was still no emotion in his eyes. He was like a robot.

Just narrating facts.

“Nora went into labour unexpectedly. The baby wasn’t due for another month, so no one expected her to go into labour. Theo couldn’t get to the hospital in time and his parents were on a business trip. It was a long and difficult labour. When she finally delivered, there wasn’t a cry. She immediately knew that something was wrong. Given how young tired she was, she couldn’t stay awake, that, combined with the amount of blood she lost made her lose consciousness”
“When she woke up, she was given the most painful news. Her baby didn’t make it. She was a still birth... You can imagine how painful it was for all of them, especially for Nora and Theo. It was the worst kind of pain losing their baby, a baby they had been looking forward to holding” I swallow. Dread filling up every square inch of my body.

“Why are you telling us this?” I choke out in fear.

“I’m telling you this because, Nora and Theo are my parents” he pauses, but his next words bring me to my knees. I “More importantly, they are your parents too. You’re the child Nora was pregnant with when she was fourteen. You’re the baby that supposedly died during childbirth”

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 52

A girl named Nora.

Ava “Fuck” ine grunted shout makes me open my eyes.

Ethan was holding his shoulder, which was bleeding “Drop the fucking gun Ethan or I swear I’ll blow your brains off” Rowan’s angry voice penetrates my foggy brain.

He’s the last person I want to see right now. Mainly because I’m ashamed. He tried warning me, but I didn’t fucking listen to him.

“I have the whole building surrounded, Ethan. You’re outnumbered” Rowans adds.

Just then I hear police sirens and sigh in relief.

Ethan lowers his gun, before putting it on the ground. His eyes are locked with mine. I want to pull them away, but I can't. I want to be reminded of what a fool I've been this whole time.

"Ava, darling look at me" his voice pulls me from Ethan's cold gaze. It's only then that I realize that Rowan was standing in front of me. Seeing his face up close brings tears to my eyes. The last words he said to me two months ago still rings in my head.

I keep my eyes on him as he unlocks the chains. He was my anchor right now. Maybe if I focus on him, I won't drown in the treacherous water of pain.

"I got you" he whispers softly, his voice full of kindness.

The moment I'm free, I collapse in his arms. So worn out that I'm unable to hold myself up.

He hugs me to him and I have to fight back the tears that threaten to fall. My eyes collide once again with Ethan. He was on the ground and the police were cuffing him. His wound was bleeding, but no one seemed to care.

I watch as they take him away. My heart breaking at the loss of a future I thought we had together.

"Are you hurt?" Rowan asks me, pulling me away from his warmth.

I felt so cold now. So chilled. I not only felt the coldness on my skin, but it seeped into my "Ava?" I shake my head at his question. My mouth refusing to work. Refusing to say a single word Maybe if I just pretended, everything will go away. Maybe I'll wake up and realize it was all just a terrible.

dream Nothing registers in my mind. I see Rowan's mouth moving but I can't hear a thing. I see Travis walking with a shocked Letty and Gabe walking in with some of the cops. It still doesn't register.

Nothing does.

I was numb. Or maybe I was beyond numb. I was completely broken.

Why did he do this to me? Why go through all the trouble to get to know me if he was always planning to kill me? It didn't make any sense at all.

The more I thought about it. About us. The more I died inside.

I felt us moving. Rowan's hand around my waist. Supporting me. I was so lost in my head and my pain that I didn't realize we were even in a car until we hit a bump in the road.

The car ride didn't take long. We were soon parking outside the police station.

Brian greeted us and led us inside to take our statements. I don't remember all the things I said or how long I had zoned out.

"Ava..." Rowan shakes me gently.

I turn to look at him, only to find that we were in a white room. It wasn't just us, Travis, Gabe, Letty and even Emma were all present.

Letty had a bandage wrapped around her head. I touch my own and find one too. I didn't even know when it was done.

"There was an ambulance at the warehouse. They checked you and put on the bandage to stop the bleeding. Other than that, everything seemed fine". Rowan said as if he had read my mind.

"What is she doing here?" I ask, pointing at Emma.

The last thing I needed was Emma witnessing my pain.

No one answers. They all just look at me in sympathy. I look at the floor, unable to face them. I was just about to ask all of them to leave, when the door opens.

2/6 look back up. Ethan and Brian walk in.

Ethan was still handcuffed, and his shoulder was bandaged. At least I think it was, since it was no longer bleeding.

"Sa, you requested to hear from Ethan and here he is. Maybe he can tell you why he fooled everyone including our entire department" Brian says tiredly.

"He hasn't said anything?" Travis asks, pulling Letty who had tears in her eyes, closer.

I know how she must be feeling. I introduced her to Ethan, and we even hung out all three of us together a few times. She must also feel betrayed like I was.

"No, he refuses to say a thing" Brian shakes his head.

I turn to face Ethan only to find him staring intently at me. His emotionless gaze sucked me in right away.

"Why? Why did you do this to me, Ethan?" my voice trembled as I spoke.

He stares at me. His cold gaze burned me. Gave me frostbite. I still don't know where all the warmth he used to have went. Did he have a switch for his emotions, and he could just flip it on and off when he wanted it? Or did none of it exist? If that's so then he was one hell of an actor.

"I wanted the company." He simply said.

I was shocked that he had actually answered. I didn't expect him to. The shock is pushed back as what he said registers. Soon, my surprise turns into confusion.

"What company?" I ask. I didn't have a company. I invested in companies, but I didn't have any of my own, like Rowan. The only thing I had was Hope Foundation, and I don't see someone like Ethan being interested in an organization for helping children.

"What company are you talking about, Ethan?" I push when he doesn't say a damn thing.

I needed to know what made him play me like that. What was so important that he would pull such a hurtful stunt.

"I wanted your grandparent's company...I worked so hard for it, so it's only fair that it was given to me" he said leaving me more confused.

3/6 "You're not making any sense." I laugh humorlessly. "You did that for a company that I have no rights to. If you wanted that company so bad, then you should have gone after Travis given it was left in his name" Travis glares at me, but I don't care. Everyone knows that my grandparents and father didn't leave me a dime. I didn't even have shares in the family company like Emma did.

Ethan sighs tiredly before proceeding to unleash chaos. "I'm not talking about the Sharp's. I'm talking about your real grandparents".

"What the hell are you talking about?" Travis booms. "Don't listen to him, Ava. It's probably bullshit" I keep quiet not agreeing with Travis.

"It's not bullshit. I'm telling the fucking truth" Ethan grits out before turning to me. "Tell me deep inside you've never felt that they aren't your family. Tell me you've never doubted that you are truly a Sharp" I want to deny his claims, but I can't. I've doubted it so many times that I once thought of having a DNA test.

The way my parents and grandparents treated me since I was a kid was just so different from how they treated Travis and Emma. I was always an afterthought. No one important to them. My needs and happiness always came last.

My grandparents used to buy Travis and Emma toys and treats when they came to visit. I usually got nothing. No hugs, no kisses. I got nothing but coldness and indifference from them. I never understood why they were like that. It made me question if I was truly one of them.

"You can't say anything because deep inside you know the truth. You know the Sharp's aren't your family. That's why you never felt like one of them" Ethan concludes when I didn't say anything.

I look away. I didn't want any of them to see the truth in my eyes. To see the biggest insecurity I've had for a long time.

“So you really didn’t see us as your family?” Travis asks in a small voice.

“Does that surprise you?” I fire back. “I was never treated as part of your family. I was always the outcast. The one looking in at the happy family while I was out in the cold” 4/6 “Oh please, save us the pity party you have for yourself” Emma interrupts, sneering.

“What the hell is she even doing here?” Ethan and I ask at the same time.

I look at him before quickly pulling my gaze away.

“She’s your family, Mrs. Sharp” Brian says as if it makes sense.

“I don’t know what drugs you’re smoking, but no one in this room, except for Letty, is my family So I would prefer if they left, especially Emma” I feel Rowan tense beside me, but I don’t give a damn. What I said is the truth. Family cares for you and no one here except Letty has ever cared for me.

“Can we just get back to Ethan?” Gabe asks after a while Ethan shrugs. “I’m going to tell you a story about a girl named Nora” he begins “Nora came from a middle class family. Her father was a preacher and both he and his mother were staunch christians. She was raised to follow God and the bible religiously and she did until she met a boy. Theodore was his name, though he preferred being called Theo.” We were all entranced already as we listened to him. I had no idea where the story was going, but it was all intriguing.

“They met when they were eleven and even though she tried staying away from him, she couldn’t.

They started out as friends then started dating at thirteen. Nora knew that it was against every teaching she was taught, that her parents would kill her if they found out, but she was in love and she couldn’t let go of Theo and neither could he.” “She thought it would be simple. Hide her relationship with Theo until they graduated high school. She planned to apply to a college far away from home, that would give her the freedom to be with Theo the way she wanted. It was supposed to be easy and everything was working out well until the unthinkable happened” He takes a deep breath before continuing. “Nora got pregnant at only fourteen. Theo was supportive and he was going to take responsibility because he loved Nora, but her parents found out. Her dad in particular went ballistic. He wanted her to get rid of the baby. Nora couldn’t do that to her child, so when she refused, her parents kicked her out” The more he talked, the more my heart got heavy. I don’t know why, but I just felt like what he was telling us was going to change everything. I don’t think I’m ready for any more changes.

5/6 “You see, Theo’s parents were kind and they were also fucking rich I’m talking about owning a whole damn city, kind of rich. After Theo explained everything to them, they understood. They were disappointed in their son, but they took Nora in none the less.” “Even though they were young, they decided to keep the bab. Her pregnancy progressed well and her parents came to their senses when they realized they could benefit from this, after they found out who exactly got their daughter pregnant” Damn, what kind of parents did Nora have? I ask

myself. Using your daughter simply because you found out that the boy that got her pregnant was from a rich family was despicable.

“A few months later, the parents showed their true colours. They demanded to keep the baby.

They thought they could use their grandchild to get monthly payments for the baby’s care. Nora, Theo and his parents refused. It caused a big fight and to make them back off, Theo’s parents promised to make a huge donation to their struggling church” I watch as Ethan narrates the story. There was still no emotion in his eyes. He was like a robot.

Just narrating facts.

“Nora went into labour unexpectedly. The baby wasn’t due for another month, so no one expected her to go into labour. Theo couldn’t get to the hospital in time and his parents were on a business trip. It was a long and difficult labour. When she finally delivered, there wasn’t a cry. She immediately knew that something was wrong. Given how young tired she was, she couldn’t stay awake, that, combined with the amount of blood she lost made her lose consciousness”
“When she woke up, she was given the most painful news. Her baby didn’t make it. She was a still birth... You can imagine how painful it was for all of them, especially for Nora and Theo. It was the worst kind of pain losing their baby, a baby they had been looking forward to holding” I swallow. Dread filling up every square inch of my body.

“Why are you telling us this?” I choke out in fear.

“I’m telling you this because, Nora and Theo are my parents” he pauses, but his next words bring me to my knees. I “More importantly, they are your parents too. You’re the child Nora was pregnant with when she was fourteen. You’re the baby that supposedly died during childbirth”

Not siblings I sit next to Rowan frozen. My mind unable to comprehend what Ethan just told me. First of all James and Kate Sharp weren’t my parents. Second, he claimed to be my brother.

“What?” I scream as the impact of his words finally sink in. “You slept with me knowing you’re my brother? That’s fucking disgusting“. <

“You slept with him? Why would you sleep with him?” Rowan boom, a dangerous aura filling the room. Suffocating the atmosphere around us.

I give him a withering look. “That’s none of your business“.

My thoughts were occupied with Ethan’s revelation. If what he said was the truth, then it meant I had sex with my brother, and he had sex with me knowing the truth.

I felt bile rising up at that thought. Feeling utterly disgusted. What kind of a sick bastard does that? Why would you sleep with someone knowing very well that you were blood related?

The more I got to know about Ethan, the more I wondered if he had been acting all along.

“You aren’t my sister” Ethan speaks up.

“But you just said that Nora and Theo are your parents” I point out.

“I told you I was adapted. That part was true. They did adapt me after my father was killed. We aren’t blood related, so we didn’t commit incest.” He smirks then winks “I can however say, I loved it every time you screamed my name” I am mortified. My cheeks turn pink, and I look down.

Even if we weren’t blood related, it didn’t make what he did right. If he’s telling the truth then he shouldn’t have slept with me at all.

I feel Rowan tense beside me, but I ignore him. It didn’t make sense why his hands were fisted and his jaw clenched.

Brian clears his throat. The sound cuts through the tense and awkward atmosphere.

“If you said Nora’s baby died, why then are you claiming Ava is that baby?” Brian asks, bringing me back to the present., 1/5 “Yeah it makes no sense Gabe adds It was true. There is no way Nora and Theo are my parents. If the doctors told them that the baby died then that’s probably true. Besides, he did say that the baby wasn’t responsive after birth, and Nora witnessed this herself before she passed cut “That’s what they she believed. She even held a small ceremony and buried the baby. It was months of heartache for the two of them, especially Nora. She fell into depression and had to be admitted to a psychiatric facility Ethan explained “She wasn’t the same after that news. It’s like she lost the will to live and wanted to follow her baby to the grave. Years passed and still she was struggling. Her grades dropped and she graduated late because she failed her classes. Theo was with her throughout, but it was killing him to see the gurl he loved suffer” I don’t know the woman, but I was a mother, and I knew how painful it would be for me to lose Noah. I can’t imagine the pain of anticipating the arrival of your baby only to have them taken away from you. It would have killed me “It took time, but with the love and support of Theo and his parents, she was able to pull through They got married when they were twenty two. Everything was falling into place. She was ready to try for another baby. Her hopes were dashed when she was told she couldn’t get pregnant. The doctors from when she was a teen failed to tell her that the difficulties of her labour at such a young age had caused permanent damage to her womb.” “After knowing she couldn’t have children, it broke her, but she decided to adapt. That’s when they got me. They gave me everything including their last name” I remember when he talked fondly about his parents. The love he had was immeasurable.

“So how does Ava fall into all these?” Rowan asks, his eyes glaring at Ethan “My grandparents died in a plane crash, but I came to know that they had been looking into the matter about their granddaughter. Turns out they believed there was foul play. They didn’t tell Nora and Theo in case their belief turned out to be nothing. It was around that time I came to know that they had a hidden clause in their will. One that Theo didn’t know about. Everything.

including their company was left to their granddaughter in the event Theo retired or God forbid, died. The family lawyer knew about their search and the clause.” He continues. “I couldn’t allow

that. I had worked for that company since I was twenty five. I rose search and imagine my shock when I found out that they were right. There was foul play. Nora's parents paid the doctors and nurses to fake everything, including the death of Nora's baby" I just continue watching him. Listening to him as everything unfolded.

"They thought it would be an embarrassment if their congregation found out that Nora had gotten pregnant out of wedlock. When she was pregnant it was easy to hide 'the sin' their daughter committed since she never left Theo's estate, but once the baby was born, things would change. It isn't easy hiding a baby, so they paid to have the death of their granddaughter faked and then offered her up for adoption" "My search led me to you. I knew I had to take you out. If you didn't exist, then the clause was null and void. I came here and after asking about you, I got a whole lot of information. Given how people hated you including your husband and family, I thought I would be doing them a favour.

After all, a woman who would steal and trap her sisters boyfriend couldn't be someone worth knowing or good for that matter" My breath catches at that. I still can't believe that same man that assured me that the night with Rowan nine years ago wasn't my fault, is the same man that thought just for that I didn't deserve to live.

I try to breath in through the pain, but it's fucking hard.

"I have to clarify that the first attempt on your life wasn't on me, but I took the opportunity. I saw a chance to get close to you and I took it. What better way than to be a hero to get you to trust me. It worked and you opened your door to me." Fuck, it hurts so much. To know he played me from the beginning and I was too blind to see it, just tears me apart.

"Why would you need to get close to me if you had already hired goons to kill me?" I whisper.

That's what I wanted answers to. Why get to know me if he wanted me dead.

He shrugs. "I thought it would be fun to toy around with you and pay you back for being a terrible person. You were so trusting and gullible, it made things easy for me. Besides that, getting to know was my my plan B. In case those I hired failed, then it would be easier to kill you myself if I was close to you." I look down and clench my hands. I felt like a fucking fool. Here I was developing feelings for him while all the while he was planning to destroy me.

3/5 "It was supposed to be easy, get to know you then destroy you. I didn't count on he stops before he can finish the sentence. His eyes roaming the room before landing on me.

For the first time since we found the truth, something passes in his eyes Guilt? Love? I can't tell because it was too quick for me to read into it. He soon after shuts down. Turning cold once more.

I wanted to know what he stopped himself from saying, but I'm too much of a coward to ask.

Besides, in light of everything he has done, does it even matter?

“But even if Ava had died, wouldn’t the company have fallen into Noah’s hands?” Letty asks after a while “Not really. First of all, I deleted every evidence of her existence just so the family lawyer wasn’t able to track her and second, the will doesn’t mention anything about the children Ava would have” “This is insane, you know that? You’re telling us that not only is Ava not related to us, but our parents probably knew and never said anything this whole time” Travis says standing up.

Ethan sighs before throwing Travis a hateful look. “That’s exactly what I’m saying and after getting to know the kind of woman she is, I’m fucking glad that she’s isn’t related to such a disgusting and hateful family” Travis launches himself at Ethan, but Ethan easily gets out of the way and Travis ends up sprawled on the table.

Rowan scoffs his eyes burning a hole into Ethan’s forehead. “That’s rich coming from the man that wanted her dead” Ethan glares back at Rowan before his eyes turn to me. “I was going to terminate the hitman’s services, but he went underground. I didn’t know what he was planning, by the time I did it was too late and he’d already taken you.” he breathes. “If you don’t believe anything I say, at least believe me on that” I couldn’t stand his intense gaze, so like the coward I am, I stood up and ran out of the room. I found myself outside the station. My heart squeezing in my chest like someone had grabbed it and was squeezing.

I try to control the tears, but I can’t. They fall down my cheek and I let them. A sob tears from deep inside my soul as I let the depth of his betrayal wash over me.

4/5 Someone pulls me into the chest. I know from the cologne that it’s Rowan. He has a unique scent made specifically for him.

“It’s okay Angel, let it all out” his deep voice rumbles comfortingly.

I pull away from him and look up at him. I let him see my tear stained face. Right now, I don’t care.

“It’s okay, you can say it. You can tell me how much of a fool I was. You can tell me you told me so” I hiccup through my cries.

His grey eyes soften before his arms wrap around me once again. Pulling me back to his warmth and comfort.

“Shh” he whispers “I will never tell you that, Ava. Never!” 3 I continue to cry. Wishing the pain away.

I cry in my ex-husband’s arms after the man I was dating broke me with his betrayal.

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 53

Not siblings I sit next to Rowan frozen. My mind unable to comprehend what Ethan just told me. First of all James and Kate Sharp weren't my parents. Second, he claimed to be my brother.

"What?" I scream as the impact of his words finally sink in. "You slept with me knowing you're my brother? That's fucking disgusting". <

"You slept with him? Why would you sleep with him?" Rowan boom, a dangerous aura filling the room. Suffocating the atmosphere around us.

I give him a withering look. "That's none of your business".

My thoughts were occupied with Ethan's revelation. If what he said was the truth, then it meant I had sex with my brother, and he had sex with me knowing the truth.

I felt bile rising up at that thought. Feeling utterly disgusted. What kind of a sick bastard does that? Why would you sleep with someone knowing very well that you were blood related?

The more I got to know about Ethan, the more I wondered if he had been acting all along.

"You aren't my sister" Ethan speaks up.

"But you just said that Nora and Theo are your parents" I point out.

"I told you I was adapted. That part was true. They did adapt me after my father was killed. We aren't blood related, so we didn't commit incest." He smirks then winks "I can however say, I loved it every time you screamed my name" I am mortified. My cheeks turn pink, and I look down.

Even if we weren't blood related, it didn't make what he did right. If he's telling the truth then he shouldn't have slept with me at all.

I feel Rowan tense beside me, but I ignore him. It didn't make sense why his hands were fisted and his jaw clenched.

Brian clears his throat. The sound cuts through the tense and awkward atmosphere.

"If you said Nora's baby died, why then are you claiming Ava is that baby?" Brian asks, bringing me back to the present., 1/5 "Yeah it makes no sense

Gabe adds It was true. There is no way Nora and Theo are my parents. If the doctors told them that the baby died then that's probably true. Besides, he did say that the baby wasn't responsive after birth, and Nora witnessed this herself before she passed cut "That's what they she believed. She even held a small ceremony and buried the baby. It was months of heartache for the two of them, especially Nora. She fell into depression and had to be admitted to a psychiatric facility Ethan explained "She wasn't the same after that news. It's like she lost the will to live and wanted to follow her baby to the grave. Years passed and still she was struggling. Her grades dropped and she graduated late because she failed her classes. Theo was with her throughout, but it was killing him to see the gurl he loved suffer" I don't know the woman, but I was a mother, and I knew how painful it would be for me to lose Noah. I can't imagine the pain of anticipating the arrival of your baby only to have them taken away from you. It would have killed me "It took time, but with the love and support of Theo and his parents, she was able to pull through They got married when they were twenty two. Everything was falling into place. She was ready to try for another baby. Her hopes were dashed when she was told she couldn't get pregnant. The doctors from when she was a teen failed to tell her that the difficulties of her labour at such a young age had caused permanent damage to her womb." "After knowing she couldn't have children, it broke her, but she decided to adapt. That's when they got me. They gave me everything including their last name" I remember when he talked fondly about his parents. The love he had was immeasurable.

"So how does Ava fall into all these?" Rowan asks, his eyes glaring at Ethan "My grandparents died in a plane crash, but I came to know that they had been looking into the matter about their granddaughter. Turns out they believed there was foul play. They didn't tell Nora and Theo in case their belief turned out to be nothing. It was around that time I came to know that they had a hidden clause in their will. One that Theo didn't know about. Everything.

including their company was left to their granddaughter in the event Theo retired or God forbid, died. The family lawyer knew about their search and the clause." He continues. "I couldn't allow that. I had worked for that company since I was twenty five. I rose search and imagine my shock when I found out that they were right. There was foul play. Nora's parents paid the doctors and nurses to fake everything, including the death of Nora's baby" I just continue watching him. Listening to him as everything unfolded.

"They thought it would be an embarrassment if their congregation found out that Nora had gotten pregnant out of wedlock. When she was pregnant it was easy to hide 'the sin' their daughter committed since she never left Theo's

estate, but once the baby was born, things would change. It isn't easy hiding a baby, so they paid to have the death of their granddaughter faked and then offered her up for adoption" "My search led me to you. I knew I had to take you out. If you didn't exist, then the clause was null and void. I came here and after asking about you, I got a whole lot of information. Given how people hated you including your husband and family, I thought I would be doing them a favour.

After all, a woman who would steal and trap her sisters boyfriend couldn't be someone worth knowing or good for that matter" My breath catches at that. I still can't believe that same man that assured me that the night with Rowan nine years ago wasn't my fault, is the same man that thought just for that I didn't deserve to live.

I try to breath in through the pain, but it's fucking hard.

"I have to clarify that the first attempt on your life wasn't on me, but I took the opportunity. I saw a chance to get close to you and I took it. What better way than to be a hero to get you to trust me. It worked and you opened your door to me." Fuck, it hurts so much. To know he played me from the beginning and I was too blind to see it, just tears me apart.

"Why would you need to get close to me if you had already hired goons to kill me?" I whisper.

That's what I wanted answers to. Why get to know me if he wanted me dead.

He shrugs. "I thought it would be fun to toy around with you and pay you back for being a terrible person. You were so trusting and gullible, it made things easy for me. Besides that, getting to know was my my plan B. In case those I hired failed, then it would be easier to kill you myself if I was close to you." I look down and clench my hands. I felt like a fucking fool. Here I was developing feelings for him while all the while he was planning to destroy me.

3/5 "It was supposed to be easy, get to know you then destroy you. I didn't count on he stops before he can finish the sentence. His eyes roaming the room before landing on me.

For the first time since we found the truth, something passes in his eyes Guilt? Love? I can't tell because it was too quick for me to read into it. He soon after shuts down. Turning cold once more.

I wanted to know what he stopped himself from saying, but I'm too much of a coward to ask.

Besides, in light of everything he has done, does it even matter?

"But even if Ava had died, wouldn't the company have fallen into Noah's hands?" Letty asks after a while "Not really. First of all, I deleted every evidence of her existence just so the family lawyer wasn't able to track her and second, the will doesn't mention anything about the children Ava would have" "This is insane, you know that? You're telling us that not only is Ava not related to us, but our parents probably knew and never said anything this whole time" Travis says standing up.

Ethan sighs before throwing Travis a hateful look. "That's exactly what I'm saying and after getting to know the kind of woman she is, I'm fucking glad that she's isn't related to such a disgusting and hateful family" Travis launches himself at Ethan, but Ethan easily gets out of the way and Travis ends up sprawled on the table.

Rowan scoffs his eyes burning a hole into Ethan's forehead. "That's rich coming from the man that wanted her dead" Ethan glares back at Rowan before his eyes turn to me. "I was going to terminate the hitman's services, but he went underground. I didn't know what he was planning, by the time I did it was too late and he'd already taken you." he breathes. "If you don't believe anything I say, at least believe me on that" I couldn't stand his intense gaze, so like the coward I am, I stood up and ran out of the room. I found myself outside the station. My heart squeezing in my chest like someone had grabbed it and was squeezing.

I try to control the tears, but I can't. They fall down my cheek and I let them. A sob tears from deep inside my soul as I let the depth of his betrayal wash over me.

4/5 Someone pulls me into the chest. I know from the cologne that it's Rowan. He has a unique scent made specifically for him.

"It's okay Angel, let it all out" his deep voice rumbles comfortingly.

I pull away from him and look up at him. I let him see my tear stained face. Right now, I don't care.

"It's okay, you can say it. You can tell me how much of a fool I was. You can tell me you told me so" I hiccup through my cries.

His grey eyes soften before his arms wrap around me once again. Pulling me back to his warmth and comfort.

"Shh" he whispers "I will never tell you that, Ava. Never!" I continue to cry. Wishing the pain away.

I cry in my ex-husband's arms after the man I was dating broke me with his betrayal.

The Howells It was almost noon when I wake up. At first I thought that everything was as it was supposed to be, but then everything comes crashing down on me. It wasn't a bad dream like I had thought.

Ethan had really betrayed me.

I feel my tears well up. I cried myself to sleep yesterday and I was just so damn tired of crying. I went to bed wishing that it would all change when I woke up. Praying for a miracle, but here I am.

Nothing's changed. What I wanted to be nothing but a nightmare, was now my reality.

I slowly get out of bed. I had no energy to do anything, but I also knew I couldn't sleep and wallow in bed all day.

I take a long shower hoping it will make things better. It doesn't. I don't think anything can make everything that happened better.

After dressing in a t-shirt and some yoga pants, I go to the kitchen for something to eat. I was just taking out some eggs when my doorbell rang. I heave a sigh of defeat. I wasn't in the mood to see anyone. I just wanted to be left alone.

"Hi" Letty says with a small smile when I open the door.

She looks as tired and worn as I am. Hers is probably more physical unlike mine which is both physical and psychological.

"Hi Letty" I stand awkwardly at the door.

I didn't want to be rude but I also didn't want anyone near me or around me. Like I said, I wanted to be left alone to come to terms with all that I learned yesterday.

"I know you probably don't to see anyone right now, but can I please come in?" she pleads.

It still surprises me how well we've come to know each other. It's like we've known each other for years, instead of months.

I let out a breath. "Yeah sure" It as she walks in that I notice she has a couple of boxes with her.

"Food" she says and I nod.

I am grateful. I really didn't feel like cooking even though I was hungry.

1/4 We go to the living room instead. Seating down on the big sofa, Letty joins me and sets down the boxes of food.

I immediately dig in. We don't talk as we eat. Both of us seemingly lost in our own thoughts.

"So how are you? I'm worried about you Ava. This can't be easy for you" she says after we are done eating.

For a moment I think about lying to her that I was okay. Just to get her off my back. Besides, it was easier to pretend most of the time than to face reality.

As soon as that thought crosses my mind, I push it away. I needed to talk because I felt like I was drowning.

"It isn't" I begin. "I'm still having a hard time accepting that Ethan isn't the man I thought he was and that the people I thought were my family aren't really blood related" I don't know which of the two was harder to accept. I keep asking myself if things would have been better for me. If life would have been great had I been raised by my real parents.

It would have saved me from ever meeting Rowan, but then I would never have had Noah. Every time I think of how things would be different had I not met Rowan, I turn back from those thoughts immediately. I would do everything all over again if it meant having my son in my life.

Gosh I miss him. Now more than ever I wish Noah was here with me. He has always been my anchor.

“I can’t even begin to imagine all you must be feeling. I don’t even know where to begin in giving you comfort” Letty says, pulling me back from my thoughts.

I look at her and smile a little. She really wasn’t good at comforting someone or making them feel better. I don’t mind that though. Her realness was better than someone pretending to know how I feel.

“I know, Letty. I’m just having a hard time. Not to mention that it hurts. I was finally starting to move on, you know? I thought that I’d finally gotten a guy that would love me and then before it can blossom into anything, it gets ripped away from me” I blink away the tears, not wanting to be weak anymore. Especially for a man that played and toyed with me.

I honestly don’t know who is worse. Rowan for using me for sex while he thought about Emma or Ethan for playing me and still using me for sex while he planned on killing me.

2/4 15 15 She sighs. “I don’t want to come out as rude but I’m gonna hit you with the truth. If I knew that this was what you were thinking the whole time, then I would have put a stop to it.” “What are you talking about?”

“You can’t keep looking for men to love you” She sighs again. “How do I put this out without hurting you further you went into a relationship with Ethan wanting someone to love you You can’t build you whole expectation on someone else. You can’t think that a man loving you will fill the hole Rowan and you family dug” I don’t get to say anything before she continues.

“You build this fantasy and I never saw it until now. You think when you find the man that will love you then everything will fall into place. The only person who can fill that hole in your heart is you You alone can love yourself the way you want to be loved. You have to love yourself first and judging from the way I see things, you have never loved yourself” She slumps against the back of the couch “You’re wrong” I glare at her feeling a bit attacked and defensive.

“Am 17” I want to argue with her. Of course I love myself ‘Are you sure’ an inner voice asks ‘Yes’ I force out internally Then why did you desperately want Rowan to love you? Why did go looking for love after you divorced? Why did every sentence you said about moving on consist of finding someone to love you? You can’t expect someone else to give you the love you can’t give

yourself, Ava' I shake those thoughts away. There is no way they're right. What Letty and my inner voice are saying is that I'm depending on others for love. That's just not true.

"Ava?" Letty calls "What?" I snap at her feeling pissed and irritated at her for making me doubt things She stares at me for a while before answering "Someone's at the door" It's only then that I hear the door bell ringing. I had been so lost in thought that I hadn't heard a thing I immediately feel guilty for snapping at her Feeling already tired and drained, I stand up and go and open the door.

I'm shocked to find Ethan on my doorstep. My first instinct is to close the door on his face and that's exactly what I go to do.

"Ava wait." He says holding the door before I can slam it in his face.

He was the last person I wanted to see right now. Not when the pain of his betrayal was still fresh "What do you want, Ethan?" I ground out, not sure what I wanted to do more. Slap him or cry.

"I know you don't want to see me, but there are two people I would like you to meet" he says stepping aside.

It's then that I notice the beautiful couple behind him. The woman had long black hair, striking brown eyes and the most beautiful face I've ever seen. The man was tall, broad, with wavy honey brown hair and beautiful green eyes.

I stare at them completely captivated by their beauty. Something about them seemed familiar, I just didn't know where I'd seen them.

"Ava, I want you to meet my adopted parents, Theo and Nora Howell. Mom, dad" he takes a breath." I want you to meet Ava Sharp. Your long lost daughter" (6)

The moment he says their names, it hits me. Not only are these two apparently my parents, but they're Theo and Nora Howell. No wonder they looked familiar.

Standing before me is one of the most powerful couples in the country. Not only that, but the Howell's are said to be even more powerful than Rowan's family.

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 54

The Howell’s It was almost noon when I wake up. At first I thought that everything was as it was supposed to be, but then everything comes crashing down on me. It wasn’t a bad dream like I had thought.

Ethan had really betrayed me.

I feel my tears well up. I cried myself to sleep yesterday and I was just so damn tired of crying. I went to bed wishing that it would all change when I woke up. Praying for a miracle, but here I am.

Nothing’s changed. What I wanted to be nothing but a nightmare, was now my reality.

I slowly get out of bed. I had no energy to do anything, but I also knew I couldn’t sleep and wallow in bed all day.

I take a long shower hoping it will make things better. It doesn’t. I don’t think anything can make everything that happened better.

After dressing in a t–shirt and some yoga pants, I go to the kitchen for something to eat. I was just taking out some eggs when my doorbell rang. I heave a sigh of defeat. I wasn’t in the mood to see anyone. I just wanted to be left alone.

“Hi” Letty says with a small smile when I open the door.

She looks as tired and worn as I am. Hers is probably more physical unlike mine which is both physical and psychological.

“Hi Letty” I stand awkwardly at the door.

I didn’t want to be rude but I also didn’t want anyone near me or around me. Like I said, I wanted to be left alone to come to terms with all that I learned yesterday.

“I know you probably don’t to see anyone right now, but can I please come in?” she pleads.

It still surprises me how well we've come to know each other. It's like we've known each other for years, instead of months.

I let out a breath. "Yeah sure" It as she walks in that I notice she has a couple of boxes with her.

"Food" she says and I nod.

I am grateful. I really didn't feel like cooking even though I was hungry.

1/4 We go to the living room instead. Seating down on the big sofa, Letty joins me and sets down the boxes of food.

I immediately dig in. We don't talk as we eat. Both of us seemingly lost in our own thoughts.

"So how are you? I'm worried about you Ava. This can't be easy for you" she says after we are done eating.

For a moment I think about lying to her that I was okay. Just to get her off my back. Besides, it was easier to pretend most of the time than to face reality.

As soon as that thought crosses my mind, I push it away. I needed to talk because I felt like I was drowning.

"It isn't" I begin. "I'm still having a hard time accepting that Ethan isn't the man I thought he was and that the people I thought were my family aren't really blood related" I don't know which of the two was harder to accept. I keep asking myself if things would have been better for me. If life would have been great had I been raised by my real parents.

It would have saved me from ever meeting Rowan, but then I would never have had Noah. Every time I think of how things would be different had I not met Rowan, I turn back from those thoughts immediately. I would do everything all over again if it meant having my son in my life.

Gosh I miss him. Now more than ever I wish Noah was here with me. He has always been my anchor.

"I can't even begin to imagine all you must be feeling. I don't even know where to begin in giving you comfort" Letty says, pulling me back from my thoughts.

I look at her and smile a little. She really wasn't good at comforting someone or making them feel better. I don't mind that though. Her realness was better than someone pretending to know how I feel.

"I know, Letty. I'm just having a hard time. Not to mention that it hurts. I was finally starting to move on, you know? I thought that I'd finally gotten a guy that would love me and then before it can blossom into anything, it gets ripped away from me" I blink away the tears, not wanting to be weak anymore. Especially for a man that played and toyed with me.

I honestly don't know who is worse. Rowan for using me for sex while he thought about Emma or Ethan for playing me and still using me for sex while he planned on killing me.

2/4 15 15 She sighs. "I don't want to come out as rude but I'm gonna hit you with the truth. If I knew that this was what you were thinking the whole time, then I would have put a stop to it." "What are you talking about?"

"You can't keep looking for men to love you" She sighs again. "How do I put this out without hurting you further you went into a relationship with Ethan wanting someone to love you You can't build you whole expectation on someone else. You can't think that a man loving you will fill the hole Rowan and you family dug" I don't get to say anything before she continues.

"You build this fantasy and I never saw it until now. You think when you find the man that will love you then everything will fall into place. The only person who can fill that hole in your heart is you You alone can love yourself the way you want to be loved. You have to love yourself first and judging from the way I see things, you have never loved yourself" She slumps against the back of the couch "You're wrong" I glare at her feeling a bit attacked and defensive.

"Am 17" I want to argue with her. Of course I love myself 'Are you sure' an inner voice asks 'Yes' I force out internally Then why did you desperately want Rowan to love you? Why did go looking for love after you divorced? Why did every sentence you said about moving on consist of finding someone to love you? You can't expect someone else to give you the love you can't give yourself, Ava' I shake those thoughts away. There is no way they're right. What Letty and my inner voice are saying is that I'm depending on others for love. That's just not true.

"Ava?" Letty calls "What?" I snap at her feeling pissed and irritated at her for making me doubt things She stares at me for a while before answering

“Someone’s at the door” It’s only then that I hear the door bell ringing. I had been so lost in thought that I hadn’t heard a thing I immediately feel guilty for snapping at her Feeling already tired and drained, I stand up and go and open the door.

I’m shocked to find Ethan on my doorstep. My first instinct is to close the door on his face and that’s exactly what I go to do.

“Ava wait.” He says holding the door before I can slam it in his face.

He was the last person I wanted to see right now. Not when the pain of his betrayal was still fresh “What do you want, Ethan?” I ground out, not sure what I wanted to do more. Slap him or cry.

“I know you don’t want to see me, but there are two people I would like you to meet” he says stepping aside.

It’s then that I notice the beautiful couple behind him. The woman had long black hair, striking brown eyes and the most beautiful face I’ve ever seen. The man was tall, broad, with wavy honey brown hair and beautiful green eyes.

I stare at them completely captivated by their beauty. Something about them seemed familiar, I just didn’t know where I’d seen them.

“Ava, I want you to meet my adopted parents, Theo and Nora Howell. Mom, dad” he takes a breath.” I want you to meet Ava Sharp. Your long lost daughter” (6)

The moment he says their names, it hits me. Not only are these two apparently my parents, but they’re Theo and Nora Howell. No wonder they looked familiar.

Standing before me is one of the most powerful couples in the country. Not only that, but the Howell’s are said to be even more powerful than Rowan’s family.

”