

Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 67

Posted by



By

New Grandparents

+15 BONUS

"Mommy where are we going?" Noah asks me as I lock our house.

I hadn't planned on this little trip, but I knew it was something that I needed to do. Nora and Theo have been calling me for days. They wanted a relationship with me, but instead I kept keeping them at arm's length.

I decided that I was going to give them a chance. After all, how was I supposed to know if they truly loved me if I just kept pushing them away? And besides, I needed more good people in my

life.

"I want you to meet some people" I reply, taking his hand in mine as I lead him towards my car.

As we were walking towards the car, my eyes gets caught by the moving vehicle that was parked a few meters down from my house.

"Looks like someone is moving in" I tell Noah. "We're going to have a new neighbor."

The house has been empty for months. It was similar in structure to mine with the only

difference being it looked a bit bigger. 2

"Man, I hope they have a kid my age" Noah says in excitement. "Don't get me wrong mom. I love

this place, but it's full of old people"

I chuckle at that. When I picked this place, I didn't realize we would be surrounded by elderly

people who were all up in your business. I chose this place because of the tranquility and the big

yard. The other two kids in this community were like fifteen house down from us.

“Well baby, let’s hope so” I say as I help him get in the car and buckle up.

I get in and start the car. I was nervous and we weren’t even half way to where we were going. I

was so used to getting hurt that I was skeptical and doubtful about anyone who wanted to get

close to me.

Pushing the nervousness away, I try to focus on driving.

“So, who are we going to see?” Noah breaks the silence bouncing in his seat.

One thing about Noah is that he doesn’t like being kept in suspense. A character that is just like

his father. He prefers knowing things in advance and doesn’t like anything that surprises him

which is a weird character for a kid.

7/5

+15 BONUS

“You’ll just have to wait and see” I smile at him. “They are people I currently met and they’ve been dying to meet you”

His brows pull together in a frown. Right now he reminds me so much of Rowan. Noah was an exact replica of his dad. It showed in the way he looked and behaved.

“Can’t you just tell me? You know I don’t like surprises” he grumbles

See what I told you? He doesn’t like not knowing.

“I promise this is going to be a good surprise” I assure him.

He was going to be so happy when he realizes he’s getting two additional grandparents. Mainly because he knows it will mean more gifts and love for himself. As much as he is looking forward

to having a sibling, he can’t hide that he loves being the only grandchild.

“Mommy, is dad going to marry your sister Emma?” Noah asks after a while.

My breath stills at his question.

“Probably” I mumbled.

Even though I feel the familiar pain. It isn’t as earth shattering as it used to be. I accepted it long

time ago. Rowan wasn’t mine. He never was. He always belonged to Emma mind body and soul.

Right now they may have hit a rough patch because of her lies, but they will get back together

eventually.

Their love has spanned over a decade. It’s impossible for them not fix what’s broken. Sooner or

later, when they worked their issues, they’ll resume their romance.

“I don’t want that...I don’t want a stepmother” he says in a small voice.

It breaks my heart to hear him so sad, but there is nothing I can do about it. Rowan and I were

wrong from the beginning. We shouldn’t have gotten married and I will always regret that I didn’t

fight harder when he said we should marry.

Life would have been easier if I had. Instead we got married and pretended we loved each other in

front of Noah. Now he was having a hard time accepting someone else as Rowan's possible wife.

"Noah..."

"I want you and dad together. You were happy together, you loved each other. Why can't you go

back to that?" he asks sullenly

+15 BONUS

How do I tell him that nothing he was saying was real? That Rowan and I weren't happy together.

That we weren't in love and that we played a part for his sake. How do I tell him that Rowan had

always been in love with Emma? That my obsession with him led to them breaking up.

"Right now you're too young to understand, but when you're older I'll explain things, then you'll

understand why your father and I can't be together"

It pained me to see the sadness in his eyes, but in this case, I have to break his little heart. There

was nothing between Rowan and I. There never was and there will never be. Our ship went up in

flames before it even got a chance to sail.

"I'm not giving up mommy. I told you, I want you and dad together and I always get what I want"

Determination was etched in his voice as he said the words.

I sigh. "Not this time my love"

Silence falls upon us as we drive. Soon enough, we get to the upscale neighborhood that my

parents were currently residing in.

I pull up to the electronic gates. After inputting the passcode on the small touch screen located on

the side, the gates open. Theo had given me the passcode in case I ever wanted to come visit them.

We drive along the small road that was lined with trees. It was about a five minute drive before

you got to the huge beautiful house.

“Wow, this is awesome. It’s even more impressive than grandma and grandpa’s house” Noah says

referring to Rowan’s parents’ house. 1

I grin. He was going to be surprised when I tell him that this was also his grandparent’s house.

I park the car in front of the manicured garden. After switching it off, we get out. I take his hand

and slowly start walking towards the house.

Noah’s eyes darted everywhere. His eyes taking in as much as he can. Excitement and awe was

written all over his face.

Before I can ring the doorbell, the door opens and a butler greets us.

“Welcome madam and young sir” he says politely, his hands behind his back. “If you follow me, I’ll

take you to them. They’re waiting for you.

We follow him silently. The inside of the house was just as impressive as the outside. Everything

+15 BONUS

We find Nora and Theo seated in the living room. The moment she sees us, Nora stands up and rushes towards us. Pulling me into a hug before doing the same with Noah, who freezes in shock

“Let the boy go Nora darling. You’re probably suffocating the boy” Theo says in an amused voice

“So sorry Noah” she says to Noah before turning to me. “I just never thought that you’d come or

give us a chance. I’m so happy that you’re here,”

Before I can say anything, Noah cuts in. As always he’s direct. Cutting straight to the point.

“Excuse me Mrs. But who are you?” he asks, his grey eyes piercing both Nora and Theo

Nora seems off balance for a bit, but Theo looks proud at Noah’s directness,

“Noah, I want you to meet my parents, your grandparents, Nora and Theo Howell” I watch him

closely. Looking at how he will react to the news.

“I’m confused” he says with a frown on his face. “Aren’t Ma and Pa your parents?”

“Not my biological parents. I was adopted by them. You know what adoption means right? I ask

as I kneel in front of him.

He nods “Yes, it’s when a mother and father take in a baby that isn’t their own and raises them”

“Exactly”

“But where were they? Why did they let Ma and Pa adopt you? Didn’t they want you?” he pauses

his face going hard. “If they didn’t want you then I don’t want anything to do with them”

My heart swells with so much love for my baby boy. That he was willing to reject anyone that

didn't want me meant everything to me.

Nora kneels down beside us and takes Noah into her arms. "We did want your mom. We just

thought she had died when she was a baby. We didn't know that someone had stolen her from the

hospital and lied to us"

I watch as Noah tries to process what he was being told. He turns to me. Silently asking if what

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she said was true. I nod my head and the frown clears from his face.

"What about Ma? Won't she be sad losing you? And will I have to stop seeing her?" he asks.

I will never get in the way of their relationship. Mother never really gave a damn about me, but

+15 BONUS

nothing to do with her, I won't stand in the way of her relationship with Noah.

"She'll always be your Ma, Noah. Nothing has to change that. Think about it, you're a very lucky boy. Having five grandparents is like hitting the grandparents jackpot" I smile at him

"We want to be in her life and your life if she gives us a chance, that's all we ask" Theo says kneeling down beside us.

I look at Noah waiting for his answer. He's silent for a while before he smiles. The moment he

does, I know he has given his approval.

I stare at my found parents. “I would like that. We would like having you in our lives”

Their eyes fill with tears and they pull us into the arms. I feel their love wash over us.

Things were falling into place and I wanted to believe that they will only get better from here on,

but experience has taught me that the other shoe drops when you least expect it.

I was happy right now, but deep down I just knew that this rollercoaster that was now my life was

far from over.

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Posted by



By

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Uncharacteristic behavior

I tap my feet nervously as I wait for my name to be called. I was currently sitting in the clinic’s waiting room waiting for my appointment.

To say I was nervous was an understatement because I was internally panicking.

This all felt like De ja vu. My second pregnancy and here I was going to my appointments alone. The only difference is that Ethan isn’t able to be present while with Rowan he just didn’t bother coming.

I tried so hard to ignore the fact that I was pregnant until a couple of days ago when I noticed that my waistline was increasing. My baby bump was starting to show and soon everyone will know that I’m pregnant.

I sigh tiredly and make a mental note to tell my parents. I haven’t had the heart to disclose that I

was expecting Ethan's child. Mainly because he was still their son. It will be really weird for them

knowing that their biological daughter is pregnant by their adopted son.

The whole thing was messed up to say the least, but there's nothing I can do about it. What's done

is done. This baby was here whether I liked it or not. There was no going around that little fact.

"I can feel your nervousness all the way to my fucking bones, Ava" his deep voice brings me back

to the present.

I turn my head so quickly that I get a kink. I wince as I stare at him in shock. His grey eyes

piercing mine. He looked as handsome as ever with the only difference being that his face looked

relaxed.

"Rowan? What are you doing here?" I ask him, slowly blinking to make sure that I wasn't

hallucinating his presence.

He shrugs his shoulder and smiles. I continue staring at him in shock. I think this is the first time

he has ever smiled when he was in my presence. This was probably the first smile that was

directed at me.

"I'm here to support you. I didn't want you to be alone during your appointment" he simply says.

Something was definitely wrong with him. Why the hell did it feel like a damn scam?

I get close to him and feel if he has a fever. Maybe he was sick and that what was causing this

+15 BONUS

“What are you doing?” he asks frowning.

“I’m checking if you have a fever”

He looked okay and he didn’t have a fever so why the hell was here? What was going on in his

complicated head?

Before I can figure out what the hell had gotten into him, my name is called.

He grabs my hand and gently pull me to my feet. He then leads me towards the room where my

appointment was going to take place. The entire time we are walking I stare at his strong back. Completely astonished.

We get to the room and find Dr Raven waiting for us.

“Good to see you Ava, are you ready to see how you little munchkin is doing?” she asks and as

always she’s in a jovial mood.

I nod my head. Still in a daze.

“I’m assuming he’s the father?” she enquires throwing glances at Rowan.

“No! He’s just here to offer some support.” I rush quickly to say when I see Rowan start to open his mouth. He frowns at me and tightens his grip on my hand.

What in the world was wrong with this man? And why the hell did he look pissed off.

“Okay then” Dr. Raven drags the words. “You know the drill, get on the bed and pull your top up”

Rowan helps me up and I do what I was instructed. I shift uncomfortably as Rowan's eyes lock on my exposed belly. It is so weird given that the last time he saw me naked was probably last year.

Before I can think more into, Dr. Raven squirts the cold liquid on my belly and begins to move the

wand around.

"Hmm" she murmurs, her face focused on the screen.

"Is something wrong?" Rowan beats me to the question.

"Everything is fine. The heartbeat is strong and the baby is growing as expected" she answers before turning towards me. "Do you want to know the gender?" she asks.

+15 BONUS

"No" I say just as Rowan says "Yes"

"Since you're not the father, I will have to ignore your answer in favor of that of Ava, unless you

want to know the gender, Ava"

I shake my head. "No, I want it to be a surprise just like with Noah"

"My mouth is sealed then. I'm just going to print out the picture for you" she says as she switches

off the machine and stands up.

"Can you print a set of two?" I ask, remembering I had promised to send Ethan updates.

"Sure"

She hands me a tissue and I clean up the mess before pulling my top down. When I'm done, I look

up and Rowan is still staring at the blank screen.

“Rowan?” I call him.

He shifts his eyes to me before he stands up. We leave the room and pass by the secretary’s desk.

After getting everything I need and setting up my next appointment we leave the clinic.

“I want to take you out for lunch” Rowan surprises me once again.

I look at him suspiciously “Why?”

“I want us to talk”

I scan the roads. Checking if I could locate a taxi. Today I came by one because I wasn’t in the

mood to drive.

“I don’t think that’s a good idea. We really have nothing to talk about” I focus my eyes back on him.

He runs his hands through his black hair. Seeming a bit frustrated.

“Rowan...” I was about to let him know I was leaving, but he cuts me off. His face turning stone

cold.

“I won’t take no for an answer. It’s either you get in by yourself or I carry you in” he says motioning

to his car.

“You wouldn’t dare”

“Fucking try me, Ava”

1

+15 BONUS

He starts advancing on me and I just know that he was about to enact his threat. With a humph, I

turn around and stomp towards his car.

He unlocks the car and I get in. I glare at him when he gets in and starts the car.

I keep quiet, not in the mood to talk. I was angry and confused with his sudden change in

behavior. I wanted the old Rowan back. The one I was used to. This version of him was new to me

and completely unpredictable. I didn't like that.

We get to a restaurant I've never been to. He leads me inside where he gives his name and we're

immediately shown to our table.

"What's going on with you Rowan?" I ask him the moment we are alone. "Your behavior of late is

really confusing. I mean for heaven's sake. You showed up to my doctor's appointment for a baby that isn't even yours when you never came to any of my appointments when I was pregnant with

Noah"

He doesn't say anything. Just continues staring at me stonily. Reminding me of the

used to. Cold, indifferent and detached.

ersion I was

"You never wanted me anywhere around you before and now all of a sudden you're everywhere.

Don't get me wrong, I'm thankful you pulled me back during my darkest time, but can we just go

back to how things were? Can you please go back to treating me like I don't exist?" I plead with

him.

I don't want any more changes in my life. More importantly I don't want trouble with Emma. They didn't want me in their lives before and then all of a sudden everyone wants to be part of it?

I want a life away from them. Away from anything or anyone that reminds of my pain and

suffering. I just wanted to be left alone. I want to heal and I can't do that while I'm still around the

people who caused that pain in the first place.

You can't heal in the same place you got hurt.

"I'm sorry" he says after a while. It was so low that I thought I had imagined it. "I was so angry at you. I didn't want to acknowledge the part I played that night. I fucking let you take the blame and then continued to punish you for something that wasn't entirely your fucking fault"

He managed to shock me once again. He was just full of surprises today, wasn't he? Rowan wasn't the kind of man to apologize so the fact that he was is a miracle.

+15 BONUS

The more he spoke the more he got angry. I just wasn't sure who his anger was directed at.

"I treated so horribly when you were just trying to make the best of a shitty situation. You were eighteen and scared, yet I let you go to all those doctor's appointment alone. You'll never know how much I'll regret that." He takes a deep breath

"Why now? Why are you apologizing now when everything has already been said and done? You've got to know that this won't change a thing. The damage has already been done. The best we can do is be civil towards each other" I whisper.

What has gotten into everyone? When I wanted all of them to be apologize, none was willing to. Now when I'm ready to put them in my past where they all belong is when everyone is all of a sudden apologizing for hurting me.

"I'm so fucking sorry for the role I played in hurting and destroying you. I'm not a man who ever makes mistakes, but I admit that I made the biggest fucking one in how I treated you" (4)

I hear what he was saying, but it just wasn't registering. How was I supposed to forgive him? How was I supposed to forget everything he put me through?"
3

I keep quiet as I stare at the table. I didn't have anything else to say because I just didn't know if I could ever forgive him.

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By

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More questions

We didn't talk after that. Lunch was downright awkward as we both ate silently. My mind was

reeling from his apology. I don't know what he was expecting from me, but I sure hope it was not

forgiveness. Not now at least.

After finishing our lunch he took me back home. The drive was also quiet. Both of us lost in our

own thoughts. I just didn't know how to take him in. Didn't know what to do with this new version

of him. It was all so new and strange to say the least.

“Thank you” I tell him once we reach my home. “For being with me at the appointment and for the

lunch” 1

“It was no problem” he tries to smile but it doesn’t reach his eyes.

I nod and begin to get out. He stops me by grabbing my ha

“I want you to let me know anytime you have appointments” he tells me, his eyes staring deep

into mine. 1

I stare at him once again, unable to understand what the hell was going on in his damn mind.

“Why the hell would I do that?” I ask in confusion, pulling my hand from his.

His touch was suddenly too much. It felt like it was burning.

“Because I want to be there for you” he simply replies.

“And again I ask you, why? You weren’t there during when I was pregnant with Noah, but now you

want to attend appointments for a baby that isn’t yours? Do you know how crazy that looks?

He was confusing me. I didn’t like to be confused. I didn’t like to be unsure. I didn’t like that he

was behaving out of character.

Besides, I didn’t want any trouble with Emma. That would surely come if she ever finds out that

Rowan is coming to my appointments.

“I just want to be there, is that so hard for you to believe?”

“As a matter of fact, yes. Let’s be honest, Rowan. You’ve never cared much for me.” I sigh. “That’s

actually an understatement because you downright hated me so of course this sudden show of

concern is unbelievable”

7/6

+15 BONUS

He doesn’t say anything for a while. Just continues staring at me in that intense way. When he continues to do it, I start fidgeting. Feeling uncomfortable with his piercing eyes directed at me.

“Just let me know because either way, I’ll find out and I’ll show up just like today” he finally speaks

“Have you thought how this will impact your relationship with Emma and how she would feel?”

Sure I was using Emma as a defence, but right now she was my best chance at making him see

reason.

“Emma doesn’t fucking matter right now” he growls, his eyes turning cold.

I stare at him with my mouth hanging open. This was definitely a first. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever hear him saying that Emma didn’t matter.

“What the hell has gotten into you?” I ask him, puzzled. “Do you hear yourself? How can you say she doesn’t matter when you’ve been in love with her all your life?”

The surprise punches just kept coming. I didn’t even have time to take them all in. Every word out of his mouth was trying to rewrite the reality I was used to.

I see him clench his jaw. His nose flaring at the reminder of his more than a decade long love for Emma.

“Drop it” he all but snarls at me.

I guess Emma was still a touchy subject. It didn't faze me though. I knew sooner or later they would be back together. Emma isn't one to give up on what she wants and Rowan has never been

able to resist her or stay mad at her for long.

Feeling like I've said all I need to say, I push the car door open and get out. I walk around the car

towards my house.

His voice stops me, making me turn.

“Remember what I said, Ava. I will be at all your appointments, whether you tell me the dates or

not”

With that, he fires his car and leaves. I stare for a while before turning back around.

He was being forceful and it was starting to get on my damn mind. Why couldn't he just go back to

how he was?

2/6

+15 BONUS

I was almost to my door when the sight of a man catches my attention He was watering the grass.

He suddenly turns as if feeling my eyes on him. Our gaze collide and I hold my breath. I guess he was our new neighbor.

He is hot, but that's not what draws me in. It's the fact that he looked really familiar. I just couldn't place where I had seen him before,

Shaking myself from those thoughts, I give him a small smile and walk into my house.

“Mommy, you’re home” Noah screams the moment I walk in.

Since my appointment was in the afternoon, I had asked his nanny to pick him up from school. She wasn’t a live in nanny. She only came on those days I was held up with one thing or another.

“Yes, how was school?” I ask as I set down my bag.

“Fun. I scored everything in my math test”

“That’s good. My baby boy is a math genius” I tease him, making him blush.

“Mom” he drags the word. “Please stop”

“What? It’s true and I am so proud of you”

He gives me a mischievous smile and I just know he got me right where he wanted me.

“Can I play video games then since I’m a math genius?”

I just knew it. He has been battering me up.

I sigh. “Fine, but only for an hour”

He rushes up the stairs screaming thank you over and over again making me smile in the process.

“Hey, Maria. You’re free to leave” I tell our nanny as I walk into the kitchen.

“Are you sure?”

“Yes. Now go”

She smiles at me before taking her things. Fifteen minutes later she’s gone and I wish I hadn’t

insisted on her to leaving.

With Noah in his room. I was alone. I had nothing to occupy my mind and so my thoughts started

+15 BONUS

I was just contemplating starting dinner early when my front door opened.

“Yoohoo. Ava where are you?”

Letty voice brings a smile to my face.

“In the kitchen” I shout back.

Minutes later, she walks into the room and I am surprised to see Corrine following behind her.

“Look who I found. We got here at the same time” Letty says sitting at the kitchen island.

I’d told Letty how Corrine stood up for me against Anita. She has immediately liked her, reasoning that anyone who stood up for me was worth her respect:

“What are you doing here?” I ask Corrine.

“Well, you gave me an inch at the restaurant and I thought to myself, she’s ready. I’ve always wanted to be your friend, so here I am.”

There was this part of me that was sceptical. It wanted to shut her off. Instead I push it back. It was time I stopped pushing people away.

“Well, welcome to my humble home”

She smiles and I smile back at her. Genuinely happy that she was here.

“I came for an entirely different reason. Have you seen the gossip column? It was posted like an hour ago” Letty asks.

“No. Why?”

She hands me a phone and I read the caption. With each word I read, my mood sours.

[Billionaire Rowan Woods seen going on a lunch date with ex–wife, Ava Sharp months after their

divorce and weeks after rumours of him dating her elder sister, Emma Sharp]

Below was a picture of Rowan escorting me to the restaurant with his hand on my lower back.

“Shit” I curse. “This is going to cause unnecessary drama”

Emma was going to shit a brick. I wasn't afraid of her, but I just didn't want trouble. The image

portrayed a certain intimacy that wasn't truly there. Anyone looking at it was going to think that

4/6

+15 BONUS

“Is there something going on that I'm unaware of?” Letty asks as Corrine just stares between the

two of us.

“Nothing. He unexpectedly showed up at my appointment and then asked me if we could talk over lunch” after that I recount everything that happened. Including his apology.

When I am done, I am even more confused than I was before. Things were just not making sense no matter which angle I tried looking at it from.

“What if he is genuinely sorry?” Letty asks.

That is a question I kept asking myself since he apologized. I kept pushing it to the back of my mind because I was just not strong enough to deal with it right now.

“I don't know” I sigh in defeat. “Forgiveness is something that has to be earned and so far he has done nothing to earn it. All he has managed to do is leave me with confusion and more unanswered questions”

3

Honestly, how can I move past everything? He has spent the last nine years drilling into me that he hates my fucking guts and now all of a sudden he's sorry?

His quick three hundred and sixty degree turn just doesn't seem genuine. There is no way someone can change that fast.

"What do you think Corrine?" Letty asks her since she had been too quiet.

"I think these are the actions of a man who doesn't know he's in love"

At that I burst out laughing. "That's a good one Corrine. Rowan doesn't love me"

I mean come on, he said as much on that day he came bulging into my house, avenging his lovely

Emma.

"Think about it though" she insists.

"She may be onto something. I mean why would he all of a sudden start caring for you? It doesn't make sense unless he already cared for you but never realized. And again why does he suddenly want to be around you now that you're divorced? Corrine may be right. He may have been in love with you long before and it took losing you for those feelings to come to the surface"

I didn't want to listen to their nonsense. So instead of answering their questions, I change the

+15 BONUS

Everything after that is perfect. I have a great time with both of them. Knowing very well that now Corrine was part of our inner circle.

Even though everything was great, I couldn't help thinking of what they said.

that

Rowan can't possibly be in love with me. They had to be wrong because Rowan has only ever loved one woman and her name is Emma Sharp."

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A kindred Spirit

Today was a chilled day. I didn't have much to do. Noah was already at school, and I was here at

home just relaxing.

After my mental breakdown, I decided to take some much needed break from work. My students

weren't happy about it, but they understood that I hadn't been myself the last couple of weeks.

I planned to resume after I give birth. My focus now was my kids and the Hope Foundation.

I'm still trying to come to terms with all that happened these past few weeks. Including

everyone's change in behaviour.

The only one who seemed to be consistent with her hateful personality was Emma. The rest seem

to have had an overnight change of heart.

Instead of focusing on those thoughts. I push them away and pick up my phone and dial mom's

number. She picks up on the first ring.

"Hey mom" I greet her. I wasn't completely used to calling her that, but I was slowly getting there.

“Ava!” She screams through the phone, always excited to hear from me.
“Theo, my love, our
darling daughter is on the phone“.

I hear shuffling before a sort of echo fills the phone. I just know that she’s put me on loudspeaker.

“Hey dad” I greet him too.

Their love honestly fascinated me. They were together since they were thirteen and they’re still

together years down the line. More than thirty–five years later.

If I was still chasing after love, then their kind of love is what I would have been looking for.

Instead, I’ve accepted that love is just not for me. I’m now set and prepared to spend the rest of my

life alone.

“Hey darling, how are you doing?”

“I’m doing good. Not much going on. I just wanted to check up on you guys“.

I still haven’t told them that I am pregnant.

Even though I’m starting to show, it’s easy for me to hide my bump with oversized t–shirts. I just

7/6

I know deep down it hurts them even though they try hiding it.

+15 BONUS

As for Ethan. What he’s doing to them is wrong, but I also understand where he is coming from.

He feels ashamed. He feels like he doesn't deserve their love after what he did. He was hiding from them because he felt like he didn't deserve their kindness.

I sent him the picture of my recent ultrasound. He wrote back and told me he was thankful. He couldn't stop saying how he was dying to meet his baby. He was also okay with waiting till the day I deliver to know the gender of our baby.

"Ava?" Mom calls, pulling me back to the present.

"Sorry. I zoned out a bit" I murmur embarrassed.

"It's okay darling. I just wanted to know if you'll be coming this weekend like we had talked about

"Yes, though Noah won't be joining us this time. It's his weekend with his father so it'll just be me and you guys".

The Woods and the Sharp family used to have a monthly get together. I wasn't always invited. (2)

When I did get an invitation which was rare, I was treated like I didn't exist. Like I didn't matter. I was completely ignored and was treated like a pariah.

The only one who used to talk to me during the gatherings was Noah. Most of the time, I ended up leaving early or crying in the bathroom.

There hasn't been a get together in months. I guess now that the parents are back, they were back to having them.

"It's a bummer that he won't come but I am still happy that you'll make it" dad says.

I was about to say something, but something takes my focus away. I hear a bark then a scratch. At

first, I think I'm imagining things since there aren't any dogs in the area. That is until I hear it

again.

"Let me call you guys back, dad, I have to check on something" I tell him distractedly.

“Okay honey”

I hang up and move to where the sound seemed to be coming from. Going to the backyard I find a

216

There was nothing left except a whole mess.

I stare in shock. My mouth hanging wide open.

+15 BONUS

“Do you know how long it took me to plant those, and you just ruined every single one” I fume.

He looks chastised. Laying on the ground, giving me puppy eyes, but I wasn't going to buy it.

“I wanted organic food, that's why I started the damn garden in the first place and let me tell you, it took a lot of time and effort.” He whines, but I am too far gone to listen to him.

“Oh no, no, no. You're not going to get out of this by flashing your cute, adorable eyes.” Shaking my head I stare at him. Atleast I assume it's a he. “How are you going to make up for the damage, huh?”

The more I stare at him, the more my heart begins to melt. He is big, fluffy and completely adorable. He had thick black and white fur and piercing grey eyes. For some weird reason they reminded me of Rowan and Noah's grey eyes.

“Never in my life have I seen a person's heart melt so fast when it comes to my dog. Most people usually find him annoying as hell” the warm voice makes me whip my head so fast, I almost break it in the process.

Holy smokes. The man was hot this close up. Black hair, green eyes, high cheekbones, a chiselled jaw line, lips that begged to be kissed and a body that enticed you to do dirty things. He was

freaking hot and he knew it. 4

I know what you're thinking. ‘Slow down Ava, you got fooled once by great looks, don't make the

same mistake again'. 3

I wasn't. I swore off love and men, but that doesn't mean that I can't appreciate a fine specimen

when I see one. I'm not blind. 3

"Have we met before?" The words tumble out of my mouth before I can stop them. "It's just that

you look familiar".

He stares for a while before answering. "Yes, we used to go to the same school, you were two years

behind me".

I try to remember him, but it still doesn't ring much of a bell. Probably because I was so obsessed

with Rowan that I didn't see anyone else.

316

+15 BONUS

"Calvin Garcia" he supplies when I still continue staring at him confused

The moment he mentions his name, it hits me.

"Oh my goodness, you're Nerdy Cal" for some weird reason, I shriek this.

He groans at the name he used to go by when he was in school. He glares at me, but it doesn't faze me at all.

"Wow, you had a big fucking glow up" I stare at him dumbfounded.

The Cal I remember was skinny, with too wide glasses that kept slipping down his nose. He had braces and his face used to be covered in big red pimples.

He was also a

nerd, spent most of his time studying in the library while others his age were busy fucking in the janitor's closet.

To simply put it, he wasn't someone you would look at twice. (1)

He looked good now. Really good. I am glad that everything worked out for him. He changed into someone any woman would die to have. He was now in the same category as Rowan.

"Yeah, well, thanks" he says awkwardly.

"I also remember you used to have a massive crush on Emma, how did that crush turn out for you?" I teased. I wasn't trying to be mean or anything. 2

When he wasn't studying, just like all the other boys, he was busy following Emma around like a lost puppy.

The only problem was that Emma had eyes for Rowan only. When they started dating, they were the it couple.

Every boy except Gabe and Travis wanted to be in Rowan's shows. Every girl wanted to be in

Emma's shoes.

"And you loved Rowan, how did that turn out for you?" He fired back in irritation.

"Touché" I murmur.

The pain was still there, but I managed to push it away.

I didn't know Cal that way, but I thanked God on his behalf. Thanked him for looking after Cal,

4/6

+15 BONUS

Emma's love for Rowan would have destroyed him, just like Rowan's love for Emma destroyed me.

"Dad, can I watch TV?" The sweet voice pulls me from my bitter memories,

I turn to find a cute boy standing behind Cal. He had the same captivating green eyes as his father.

“Hi, my name is Ava” I just couldn’t help myself.

“Hello” he says shyly, and my heart immediately falls in love with him.

“What’s your name?” I ask him gently.

“Gunner” (2

“I have a son about your age, his name is Noah. How about you come over and meet him when he gets out of school? He’ll be excited to have a new friend.” I pause before adding. “If it’s okay with your dad, that is”. 4

I see him looking up at Cal. A silent conversation passes between them, before Cal sighs in defeat.

“Fine” he simply says.

I stare at him. My eyes focused on his. I was trying to decode him, and I wasn’t ashamed of that. There was something in his eyes that called out to me.

He shifts uncomfortably. “Well I’m sorry that Rex ruined your garden. I’ll get someone to come tomorrow and fix it”.

So the husky was called Rex? It sort of fitted him.

“Rex” Cal called him, and he immediately went to his owner.

After he gives me a nod and Gunner gives me a smile, they leave my backyard through a very wide opening that I have never noticed before.

I stare at their backs as they walk to their house. It’s only after they’ve left, and I’ve been standing there like an idiot that I realize what I saw in his eyes.

I saw pain. I saw hurt. I saw a wounded soul.

In his eyes, I saw the same kind of darkness that I have been trying to run away for years without much success.

In him, I saw a kindred spirit.

+15 BONUS

Even as all these revelations flooded my mind, I couldn't help but wonder what had caused him such pain.

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Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 71

Posted by



By

December 20, 2023

Making a promise

"Noah, are you done with your homework?" I call, but I don't get an answer.

It was Friday afternoon and I was dead tired on my feet. I had forgotten when you're pregnant how

easily you get tired. Every single thing tired me out.

The only thing I'm grateful for is that I never experienced morning sickness unlike when I was

pregnant with Noah. 1

"Noah?" I call him again.

I wonder what the hell he is doing. I usually get an answer immediately. Unless something has

caught his attention and distracted him.

Before I can carry my tired body to go upstairs to check on him, my doorbell rings.

I release a heavy sigh. It's not that I didn't want to see anybody, I just wanted to take a break.

Maybe have a long bath.

I spent the whole day at the Hope Foundation going through tons of documents that needed my

attention. My eyes were dry, My mind was burnt out and my body was aching all over.

Dragging myself, I open my door and I am surprised to find Calvin and Gunner at my doorstep. It's

been two days since that day in my backyard.

When Gunner didn't show up when Noah got back from school, I assumed that maybe Calvin

didn't want anything to do with us. After all, he was really grumpy during our whole encounter.

"Hi" shock was clearly in my voice and I couldn't hide it.

"Hi Miss Ava" Gunner tells me sweetly with a smile. "These are for you"

It's then that I notice he has a bouquet of flowers. Pink roses to be exact. He hands them to me and

I take them gratefully.

"Thank you Gunner. These are beautiful" Without thinking, I bend down and kiss his cheeks.

When I straighten, he gives me a shy smile. Just like with Noah, I could already tell that Gunner

was a sweet boy.

I shift my eyes to his father, "Would you like to come in?"

+15 BONUS

He looks hesitant at first, but when Gunner pulls his hand, he agrees.

I lead them straight to the kitchen where I had been baking cookies and cupcakes. Noah had

requested for them and though I was tired, I couldn't refuse him.

"You're just in time to eat some goodness" I tell them as the oven timer pings.

I look for a vase and place the beautiful flowers Gunner brought me.

"Noah" I call again as I place some cookies in front of our guests.

"I'm coming mommy" he shouts back.

I hear his bedroom door close. Then his footsteps as he runs down the hallway and then the stairs.

Seconds later, he breaks through the kitchen door. He comes to a stop when he sees that we have

visitors.

NCH TH

"Come, my love. I want you to meet someone" he hesitantly takes a step until he's standing next to

me.

W

Noah is a bit shy at first glance. That is before you get to know him better. When he sheds his

shyness, you won't even believe that he's the same boy. He'll talk your ear off.

"Noah, this here is Gunner. He lives next door and Gunner, this is my son Noah. He's the one I was

telling you about"

If I'm being honest, I thought things will be awkward between them at first, but I am wrong.

Gunner smiles "Hi"

"Wanna play in my room?" Noah asks at the same time.

"Sure"

With that, Noah grabs a bunch of cookies and hands them to Gunner. Then he goes to the pantry

and get a couple of juice boxes.

"Come on, I've got a new game to show you" Noah says as they walk off.

I was super surprised by his actions. I thought it would take a bit of pushing to get him to warm

up to Gunner. I guess I didn't need to.

"Well that went well. I'm surprised Gunner made the first move. He's usually really reserved"

2/5

I face him. I had completely forgotten that he was even there.

+15 BONUS

"Noah is like that too at first. He has to get comfortable with someone first"

"Really? Then he's much better off. When I say that Gunner is reserved I mean, he likes his own company. He doesn't like making friends or meeting new people. Even in school, he keeps to

himself"

"Seriously?" I ask shocked.

"Seriously. At this point I think Rex and I are his only friends"

I frown at that. I wasn't a child psychologist but I was a teacher. Even I knew that that wasn't typical behaviour for a child his age.

For a child to be that withdrawn, then there is probably a problem. I know it doesn't lie with Calvin.

You just have to take one look at them to know they adore each other.

Something else was wrong. If Gunner is as withdrawn as Cal says, then something's made him.

that way.

"Hopefully Noah can get him out of his shell" I mumble, handing him a cupcake.

I round the island. Taking one of the barstools, I exhale in relief that I was off my feet. I dig into

one of the cupcake. My mind completely empty.

"I wanted to apologize" Calvin says after a while.

"For what?"

"Coming off as rude the other day."

Waving my hands dismissively, I face him. "In your defence, I was being too extra, so don't worry

about it"

Talking about that day reminds me of the pain I saw in his eyes. Right now he has done a good job

of trying to hide it.

Others may assume he's okay, but I can tell he is not. I recognize the struggle in his soul because I

usually go through the same thing.

It's easy for someone who's been hurt to see the pain others are trying to hide. Especially if it's the

315

+15 BONUS

"So what do you do for a living?" He asks, probably trying to make small talk.

"I'm a teacher, but I'm on leave for the next few months"

I had thought about going back, but I decided against it. Even though I was bored being home

alone, I knew I needed this time to myself. Not only because of the pregnancy, but also because of

my mental state. O

"So you got together with Rowan? Noah is his doppelgänger. It's so uncanny"

At that I snort. "Everyone in this damn city knows what happened with Rowan. I didn't get with

him. It was a drunk night gone wrong"

I sometimes curse that night when I think of how my life would have been different if it wasn't for

my obsession. Then I remember that if it wasn't for that night, then I wouldn't have Noah. In the

end I'm left wishing it didn't happen, but thankful because I got someone precious from it.

"What happened?" Cal asks curiously.

I clump up. Feeling myself start to sweat. "That's a story for another day. Right now I don't want to

relieve it"

I haven't heard from Rowan since the day he showed up at my appointment which was three days

ago.

I also haven't gotten any surprise visits from Emma demanding I stay away from her man. I think

Rowan is probably too busy trying to do damage control with Emma and for that I am grateful.

I didn't want him around me because when he is, he confuses things. His recent behavior is

messing with my head and I'm tired of trying to figure him out.

"What about you? Where's your wife" he was the same age as Emma so I assume he's married.

"I don't have a wife"

"Okay...where's Gunner's mom?"

I see pure undulated pain flash in his eyes. The kind of pain that isn't yours, but you still feel it all

the way to your soul. My heart aches for him, because I know how such pain can be consuming.

"S—she's not in the picture" he stammers in a broken voice. A voice filled with pain and a bit of

anger.

415

+15 BONUS

Fuck. I feel the need to comfort him, but I am not sure it will be welcomed.

"I'm so sorry to hear that" I whisper feeling terrible for asking because I drenched up his pain.

I can't imagine losing a spouse. I can't imagine living the life you imagined alone knowing the love of your life isn't there with you. O

Calvin looks like the kind of man who loves deeply. If you love deeply then the loss is also just as deep. The loss becomes all consuming.

Now I know where his pain originates from. He wasn't hurt by someone. He lost someone he deeply loves, 1

He breathes out. Trying to once again bury his pain. "It's okay. She hasn't been in the picture for a

while and I'm slowly learning to live with it" 2

I grab his hand and squeeze. Giving him the comfort he clearly needs.

Changing the subject into something lighter, I ask him if he would help me plant my garden again

since he didn't send anyone to fix what Rex destroyed.

After talking to him, I realize why Gunner is withdrawn. Losing a parent at such a young age isn't

easy and some children never recover from it.

I didn't know them well, but right there and then I promise myself that I will be there for them. I

was going to help them. 15

We all need happiness and joy in our lives and from the looks of it, Calvin and Gunner haven't had

it in a long time.

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Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 72

Posted by



By

Dead love
Rowan

+15 BONUS

Today we were having our monthly get together. The Woods and the Sharps have made this a

tradition since I was about five years old.

Our families have always been close. Mainly because our mother's have been best of friends since

they were little girls.

It made logical sense that their children would end up being best friends too and that both

families would be close.

"Dad, why are you driving so slow? You're going to make us miss grandpa's barbecue stake" Noah

complains, his brows pulled together in irritation.

If it wasn't for Noah, I wouldn't even have gone. I used to love them. Especially when I knew that

Ava wasn't going to be around. When I knew that she wasn't invited.

I used to think it was the only place I could escape her. That being in a room where everyone

except Noah hated her guts was the best place to be.

Now though, it doesn't fucking feel like that anymore. Instead I hate myself and the rest for the

pain we have put her through.

“I’m going as fast as I can” I answer him.

“No, you’re not. You’re driving slower than a ninety year old grandma!” He huffs in annoyance.

Did I just get fried by an eight year old boy? I shake my head and chuckle before increasing the

speed just a little bit.

The moment silence reigns in the car, my mind immediately goes to Ava.

She looked fucking radiant when she opened the door for me.

To me she looked like a damn fertility goddess in a white flowing dress, long curled thick hair, her

small baby bump and her beautiful flawless skin.

I was shocked by my reaction when I wanted nothing more than to take her in my arms and lock

ourselves in her bedroom for hours.

1/5

+15 BONUS

This reaction to her is something that has never happened before and it took me by surprise.

I haven’t been able to think about anything or anyone except for her. She’s stuck on my mind and

nothing I do distracts me from thoughts of her.

It fucking scares me how obsessed I am with her. It’s not once or twice that I found myself

wondering what she’s up to. Whether she’s eaten or not. Or whether she’s getting enough sleep. I

keep wondering if I should hire someone to help her around the house.

Those thoughts shake me to my core. I've never been one to take on more when it comes to Ava.

Now, the need to take care of her is almost consuming and it's wrecking havoc inside me.

"Dad?" Noah calls.

"What?"

"We are here"

I had not realized that we were already parked outside my parent's house. I don't know how we

fucking got here. I was so lost in my mind that I had been driving mindlessly.

I know how fucking dangerous that is. Especially when I have Noah in the car with me, but I just

can't help myself. Thoughts of Ava keep consuming me.

"Come on, I'm sure your grandpa has saved some stake for you" I say just so I can push the

awkward atmosphere away. 3

"Are you okay dad?" He asks instead of getting out of the car.

I didn't like that I was worrying him. I also couldn't tell him my current problem was in the form

of his beautiful mother.

"Yes. I just have a lot on my mind, but it's nothing to worry about"

He nods his head and unbuckles his seatbelt. We get out at the same time.

Locking the car, we walk towards the house. The door opens before we can get to it.

“Ma!” Noah shouts before running to her.

“I’ve missed you my Noah”

She bends down and catches him as his body collides with hers.

2/5

+15 BONUS

It has always been obvious that Kate and James love Noah despite what happened with Ava

Everyone loves Noah, we just didn’t love Ava because of the sin we thought she had committed

against me and Emma,

“Where’s your mom? I sent her an invite” She asks, straightening and looking behind us.

“Oh, she’s not coming,” Noah informs her. “She went to visit grandma Nora and grandpa Theo. She was excited. We didn’t get to see them last week because they were on a business trip”

Noah doesn’t seem to notice, but I do.

I see the moment Kate’s face falls. The moment pain flashes in her eyes. This has to be painful for her knowing that Ava was building a relationship with her biological parents and that no matter what she tries, she will never have a close relationship with Ava.

She had burned her bridges. Hurt Ava too much for her to forgive and accept her. Ava wanted nothing to do with the Sharps or the Woods.

The reason I was even still in her life was because I was Noah’s dad and also because I was being

forceful. Otherwise, she would have tossed me in the cold like she has done with the rest.

“Maybe next time then” Kate gives him a sad smile.

She was on the brink of tears. About to lose it. Noah didn't know the drama that was going on. I

couldn't let him see his grandma breakdown in front of him. He will start to question things and

once he finds out the truth of how Ava has been treated, he will blow.

Noah was loyal to his mom above anyone else. If he finds out how cruel we've been to Ava, we will

instantly be considered his enemies and he will cut us off.

"Let's go...I'm sure the rest are waiting for us" I walk towards them and gently push them inside

the house.

Kate excuses herself and goes to the bathroom while Noah and I move to the backyard.

I internally groan when I realize everyone has shown up. Noah runs ahead leaving me back.

He greets everyone except Emma. He doesn't even spare her a fucking glance. He doesn't like her

and he isn't afraid of showing it.

"So glad you're finally here son" my dad claps me on the back.

3/5

+15 BONUS

He knows it irritates me when he does that, but he still does it.

"Yes" I mumbled already wanting this whole thing to be over and done with.

"You sure sound excited being around family" Gabe says sarcastically.

I glare at him. He doesn't even flinch. Maybe it's because he is my twin, but he is the only one who

doesn't cower at my glare.

"Come on, Rowan. Give me a hug" mom says smiling at me. "I've missed you"

I wrap one hand around her waist and hug her to me. "Missed you too"

We separate just as Kate comes back. Her eyes red and face blotchy. 1

Noah was already at the table with a plate chatting with Trevor. 4

He had invited Letty, but she declined. She didn't want to be around people who hurt Ava.

Her friendship and loyalty to Ava was causing waves in their relationship. Trevor was so fucking

afraid of losing her since he was among those that really hurt her friend. The only things that was

standing between him and single hood was the fact that he was remorseful. 5

"Can I talk to you, Rowan" Emma's voice penetrates my ears.

Fuck. I had not noticed her approaching me.

"There really isn't anything to talk about" I say facing her.uh

I have been avoiding her. I was still mad as hell about all the shit she said about Noah. More than

that I just didn't want her around me. Not when all I can think about is Ava.

I had loved the woman in front of me. Cherished her even when I was married to her sister. I was

so fucking sure there was no one else for me except Emma.

All I had wished was for her to come back. I had sworn that the moment she did and she accepted

to give me a chance, I would divorce Ava and make a life with her. 1

She's been back for months. Yet I can't find the love I had for her. The love that I had thought was

eternal. The love I had sworn no other woman would have.

I feel like a fool. One minute I'm professing my love for Emma and the next I don't want her near

me. One minute I'm sure I hate Ava with all my heart and the next, I can't stay away from her.

4/5

Everything about the two sister was doing my head in.

"Rowan.."

+15 BONUS

"What?" I snap feeling suffocated.

I see tears fill her eyes, but for some reason I just don't give a damn anymore. Not like I used to

Without giving her another look, I turn around and walk away.

For a while I played the what if game. What if I could finally have the woman I've always loved? What if we got married and started a family? What if everything played out the way it was supposed to years ago?

Those questions rang in my mind for years and the weeks when Emma arrived. I thought that this was our second chance at our love, but I had been wrong. 1

Emma and I were too different right now. We would never work and even if we did get together years ago there is no guarantee that we would have been end game.

She'll always have a part of my heart as my first love, but it was time to accept the truth. My love

for her is dead. It has probably been dead for years.

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Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 73

Posted by



By

Undiluted jealousy
+15 BONUS

My head was swirling with the new revelation. I always thought my love for Emma was eternal. Realizing that it wasn't, was doing things to my head and heart.

I move quickly and sit down next to Noah. Now more than ever I wanted this whole thing over. I was desperate to get out of here. Already feeling like my skin was crawling.

"What were you talking about with Emma?" Noah asks the moment I sit down.

The disdain in his voice is very clear. No one needed to be told twice that the woman I had

planned to spend the rest of my life with was his least favorite person.

This hate is another thing that made me put a pause on my relationship with Emma. How could I date her? How could I be with her when my son clearly hates her? How could I consider a relationship with her when she also doesn't seem to like Noah?"

Based on the things she said about him. It's clear she resents him for either being Ava's son or being the reason I had to marry Ava. Maybe it was both.

"Nothing important" I mumbled, feeling lost in thoughts.

We are quiet for a while until he opens his mouth again. The things he spews has be clenching my fists.

“I have a best friend now. Just like you and Uncle Gabe have Uncle Travis as your best friend” he begins.

“That’s good”

I was in no mood to chat. My mood was soured. Noah didn’t seem to get the hint though. He kept talking.

“His name is Gunner and he is our new neighbor. They moved in about a week ago”

I just nod my head distractedly. It’s not that I wasn’t interested in what he was saying. I just had a

lot on my fucking mind. His mother being at the center of everything.

“You know” he pauses “He has a really good looking dad.” He finishes.

That piece of information immediately catches my attention. I turn to him and it’s then I notice

his mischievous smile.

1/4

+15 BONUS

“They’ve been to our house and when Gunner and I were playing mom and Mr Calvin were downstairs talking and eating cupcakes. He even promised to help mommy plant her vegetable garden”

What the fuck! What the hell was he talking about and who the fuck was this Calvin guy? Why would Ava invite a total stranger in her house knowing very well that the Reapers were still at large?

He continues. Smirking at me triumphantly as if he hadn’t just woken up a raging beast inside me.

“He made her laugh a lot. When Gunner and I came down for dinner, they were standing really close as he helped her set the table.”

The more he talked, the more my fury rose. I clenched my teeth just to stop myself from lashing out at my own son. My fucking heart was pounding and I couldn't calm myself down as waves of anger washed over me. 2

"I was worried about what would happen to mom when you married Emma, but now with Calvin around you can do it. I still don't like her, but you can marry her and mom can marry Calvin. He makes her laugh and Gunner will be my brother, so that's a bonus." 9

I kid you not, Noah gives me an evil grin before delivering the final blow

"Maybe Gunner and I can get more siblings, we'll have to talk to them first but I'm sure they'll agree" he finishes 3

I reach the end of my limit and blow up. My eyes narrowed into slits at the audacity my son had.

"Noah!" I shout, banging my hand on the fucking picnic table.

Everyone turns to look at us. Confusion in their faces. They were all wondering what the hell was happening. This was the first time I've ever fucking yelled at Noah

"What?" he ask innocently as if he hadn't just unleash a raging inferno inside me. 5

Instead of being afraid, he stands up, throws me a cat eating grin and then walks away. Heading

towards my mother and Kate.

"What the hell was that about?" Gabe asks, sitting down next to me. A few seconds later, Travis

joins us.

I was still fuming. Unable to control the rage that was inside me at knowing there was another

2/4

+15 BONUS

No matter what I tried. I couldn't get the fucking image of Ava laughing while setting at the table with another man. It brought havoc. Tearing at me in a way I didn't fucking understand.

When I was around her, she rarely smiled. Let alone laugh. If she smiled, it was cold and detached. The fact that someone else was making her laugh was a fucking hard pill to swallow.

"Yeah, what did Noah say to make you so mad?" Travis jumps in looking at me curiously.

"Nothing. Just some stuff about their new neighbor being cozy in Ava's house and making her laugh" I ground out, fisting my hands.

Travis and Gabe look at each other before laughing. I didn't care though, because my mind was in

turmoil.

The need to punch something or someone was there and it was fucking strong. All I could see is

red.

There was this primal part of me that wanted to scream that she was mine. That no other man

should dare come close to her.

That part of me took me by surprise because I never considered her as mine. She has always just been Ava. The woman who destroyed my fucking life.

"It's obvious he's trying to make you jealous" Gabe states after their laughter dies down. "It's not a secret that he wants you and Ava back together. He wanted to see your reaction and from how you've reacted it just proves to him that you care about Ava and that you care a lot"

I glare at my brother. I want to deny what he just said, but I can't. If I was being honest, then I would admit that I was feeling jealous. Pure, undiluted jealousy.

I want Ava to smile at me. To laugh a lot around me. I want to be the one in her house helping her set the damn table. Heck, I want to be the one to help her plant her vegetable garden.

The intense feeling brings my whole world to a stand still. I am Rowan Woods for fucks sake, yet I don't mind getting down on my knees, with my hands in the dirt to help Ava plant her garden. As long as I was next to her, as long as I was the only man near her, then nothing else mattered.

I am shocked as those thoughts cross my mind. I never would have imagined wanting anything to do with Ava, but here I was, a completely changed man.

"Do you want Ava back?" Travis looks at me seriously.

+15 BONUS

His question take me aback, but I don't have a fucking answer. How do I tell him that I was confused as shit? How do I tell him that I can't connect or comprehend all these feelings that were running amuck in my heart. That the intense feelings I have for Ava now, confused the living daylights out of me?

It just didn't make any fucking sense. Why now? Why not all those years back?

The endless questions were giving me a headache. Worst of all, I didn't have a damn answer to any of them.

I groan then stand up instead of answering. I ignore the questioning looks from my parents, the triumphant look from Noah and the confused look from Kate.

I needed space to breathe. Space to sort out my head and feelings. I thought I would get it inside the house away from everyone, but I was wrong.

Emma was sitting in the living room alone.

When she sees me, she jumps on her feet and approaches me.

"Please, Rowan, talk to me. Tell me how I can fix things" she pleads.

I don't like hurting her, but that's exactly what I will be doing if I continue giving her false hope. I don't want to lead her on. Not when I knew deep down I didn't feel the same way anymore.

Maybe she also didn't feel the same. It's been years. I bet her feelings have changed, but just like how I was before. She's refusing to let go of the teenage, young love we had.

Running my hand through my hair, I answer. "You can't fix anything, Emma. I don't want to hurt you, but it's time for us to accept that our love ran its course"

"Are you telling me you don't love me? That you love Ava instead?" She asks, shock and heart break written all over her face.

Just like I did with Travis and Gabe, instead of answering I fucking walk away.

As the day bleeds to night, I couldn't help but ask myself the same thing.

If I wasn't in love with Emma, does that mean I was in love with my ex-wife?

Last updated on December 20, 2023



Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 74

Posted by



By

Sex toys
Ava

The weekend was great. Nothing much happened, but I'd enjoyed spending time with mom and

dad

They were the kind of parents I'd hoped that mother and father would be. Loving, caring and attentive. Instead they had been the complete opposite except when it came to Emma and Travis.

Hell, they even treated Rowan and Gabriel better than they ever treated me even though they

claimed that I was their daughter.

The more time I spend with Nora and Theo, the more I grow to love them. The more I accept them

as my parents. Being around them made me understand why Ethan adored them. Why he used to

speak with so much love when it came to them. They were the best and no one had to be told

twice about that.

“Where the hell is she?” Corrine asks in annoyance, breaking my thoughts.

“”

We were at a cafe shop waiting for Letty, who like most of the times, is late. The woman is a

secretary, but she has no sense of time.

“She’ll come. She’s probably just running late” I mumble around my blueberry muffin.

My pregnancy cravings have started to kick in and it’s driving me nuts. Right now all I want are

muffins and cupcakes. I take them for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Most of the food I try to eat end

up tasting like sawdust.

“We agreed we should all be here by two” she grumbles, irritation distorting her beautiful face.

I chuckle at how pissed off she seems. “You’ll soon learn that Letty is rarely on time. The quicker

you learn that, the better life will be for you”

She’s silently fuming and I know why. Corrine isn’t someone that likes to be kept waiting. She’s

the punctual type of person. The kind that would rather be an hour early than a second late. 2

As she stews I continue eating my muffin. I'm just so damn hungry all the freaking time.

With Noah I could barely keep anything down. No nausea medicine worked and it wasn't until I

was about six months into my pregnancy that things settled.

1/6

+15 BONUS

That's why Rowan abandonment hurt me so much. There I was suffering Barely surviving because I couldn't keep food down and all he was doing the entire time was brooding and mooning over Emma. Not caring that I was losing weight and that my pregnancy was difficult

I had to be hospitalized a couple of times because my doctor was concerned about mine and

Noah's health

I get he was heartbroken about losing Emma, but come one. Does that take precedence over the health and welfare of your unborn child?

Pushing those thoughts away, I focus on my friend. She was tapping her foot relentlessly.

"What's wrong? I finally ack when I can't take it anymore.

"I had a business proposal for you and Letty, but since she's not here yet, I'll just have to tell you

because it's driving me insane" she speaks up after a moment.

"Okay.."

"It's going to sound absurd and it's not really a business people of our social standing would

consider

The moment she says that, my interest is piqued. That she would suggest that it's not your normal

traditional business has me curious on what idea she has come up with.

"Go on"

"I wanted us to open up a sex toy company" she delivers the news with a straight face.

I choke on the sweetness I was eating, not sure I'd heard her correctly.

"Come again?" I stammer

"A sex toy company" she repeats. "Think about it. Sex toys have become increasingly popular and

I bet you seventy percent of women have it, whether one is single or not. Even men have began

embracing it as a way to spice things up in the bedroom*

I stare at her, my mouth hanging wide open.

"What's got Ava shocked?" Letty asks, joining us.

I didn't even hear her joining us. That's how shocked I was.

216

+15 BONUS

She takes her seat and moves her gaze from me to Corrine. Trying to figure out what was going on.

"I just told Ava that the three of us should consider starting a sex toy company" Corrine answers

I expected Letty to be in the same boat as me. I expected her to be shocked by the idea. She isn't

“That’s a good idea” she screams in excitement. O

“Are both of you crazy?” I ask but they don’t seem to be paying me any mind.

“It’s a great idea. I mean, which woman doesn’t have one of those pleasure bringers?” Corrine

possesses the same question.

“I don’t”

They turn to look. With the way they look at me, you would think I’ve grown a second head or

something.

“You don’t have one?” Letty seems surprised by this and I can’t for the life of me understand why.

“No and I’ve never had one”

“Well you’re missing out on a lot” Corrine adds.

I mean I once considered them, but my sex life with Rowan wasn’t at a level where I could

comfortably introduce them.

For Rowan it was about getting sexual relief and for me, it was about seeking a connection with

him that was lacking in other parts of our lives.

“I think we should do this. Like Corrine said, it’s a profitable business. We just have to find away to stand out from all the other sex toy producers” Letty happily says.

“It’s settled then, I’ll draw up the proposal and email them to both of you once I’ve covered

everything” Corrine smiles, looking more relaxed.

“Wait a damn minute, I haven’t agreed to this damn idea”

Letty speaks, totally ignoring me. “We should do an extensive research, I suggest that since Ava hasn’t had them before she’s the one to buy all the top notch brands and try them. Her input as a total virgin to sex toys will help us evaluate what’s lacking in them and how we can improve and

make ours better”

+15 BONUS

Corrine nods her head. Grinning at the idea. I could tell she was feeling really good right now I

wasn’t, given I was going to be sort of their lab rat.

“Do I have a say in all these?” I ask in irritation.

“Not really. We’re going to make you lots of money so...” Letty leaves the sentence hanging

“You do realize I don’t really need the money. I am loaded”

She just shrugs her shoulders before brushing me off. “Doesn’t really matter, besides, weren’t you

the one that said you needed something new? A challenge? Well here it is. It will keep you busy

without really tiring you out”

I think about it for a while before sighing. I mean, how bad can things get, right?

“Fine” I sigh in defeat.

They both squeal in excitement. Hugging me close to them. Squashing the breath out of me.

Seeing them so excited made excitement rise inside me. I haven’t had any in a while, maybe this

will bring some life back into my soul.

“Now that we have that out of the way, I have something to ask you, Ava”
Letty says as we break

from each.

I look at her in question before nodding my head. “Go ahead”

“Who is Calvin?”

I’m surprised at her question because I haven’t told them anything about Calvin. Besides, after that day I haven’t seen him again. Gunner comes to my house almost everyday, but I haven’t seen

his dad.

“He’s my new neighbor. How do you know about him?”

“Well, Travis told me about him” she pauses and I frown more confused about how Travis knows

about Calvin.

“Apparently at the get together, Noah mentioned him. He actually did more than mention him. He told Rowan that Calvin made you happy and he wouldn’t mind if you and him married and gave him and Calvin’s son more siblings. Travis said that Rowan blew aasket” (2

“Seriously?” Corrine asks with wide eyes.

+15 BONUS

“Yes. Travis said he was so jealous that he almost broke the table in half at hearing that” Letty added with a grin

I laugh. I laugh so hard that my stomach cramps.

I couldn’t believe what she was saying. It all seemed insane that Noah would try to make his father jealous. It was even more crazy that Rowan would be jealous.

Do you know how absurd that is? If there was someone who wouldn’t care whether I fucked the

entire male population it would be Rowan.

“That was a joke right?” I ask her after I stop laughing.

It had to be a joke. The only one Rowan has ever been jealous over was Emma. He was not jealous

over me and he never will be.

“It isn’t. Travis is even questioning Rowan’s feelings when it comes to you” Letty insists.

“Why is it hard for you to believe that Rowan was jealous?” Corrine asks curiously.

“Because I know him. He would never be jealous. He was probably just angry that Noah keeps trying to push us to get back together.” I tell Corrine before turning to face Letty.

“As for Travis, please assure him that there’s nothing going on. When his sister came back he asked me not to get in the way of Rowan and Emma getting their happy ever after and so far I’ve

done exactly that”

“I don’t think that’s it. I think he too is probably starting to realize he might have been wrong about you and Rowan. I think it’s starting to sink in that Rowan might have feelings for you” Letty whispers.

I still remember the warning Travis gave me at the hospital after Emma arrived. He was probably worried that I was getting in the way and that his sister wouldn’t get her happy ever after.

“The only feelings Rowan Woods ever had for me is hate. No one can convince me otherwise. What you’re all saying is insane. You can’t hate someone for nine years then all of a sudden develop

some positive feelings for them. It’s impossible”

“It’s possible if the feelings were already developed inside him but he didn’t know or acknowledge

them” Corrine put in.

I shake my head in refusal. I was starting to get annoyed by them.

5/6

“Ava

+15 BONUS

“No Letty, just drop the fucking subject. I don’t want to hear about Rowan okay? Even if he magically developed feelings for me, which I doubt, don’t you think it’s already too late?”

Letty doesn’t answer and Corrine looks down at the table. The mood was soured and now I just wanted to go home and forget all about this Rowan nonsense.

Why couldn’t they just let this go? Why were they insisting on something that isn’t there? They were insane if they believe all that bullshit. I knew Rowan and I know he has nothing but resentment for me.

I shake my head to clear my mind. I wasn’t going to dwell on what they said. My focus now was on my children, foundation and this absurd new business we were starting.

Rowan was in the past and he’ll remain there. I don’t see that ever changing.

6/6

Ex-Husband’s Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 75

Posted by



By

December 20, 2023

I’m sorry

I watch my lawyer nervously as he goes through the business proposal Corrine sent me.

I have to hand it to her. The woman worked fast. It hasn’t even been a day since we discussed the idea and already she had the proposal ready.

It was either that or she had already worked on it beforehand and she was just waiting for Letty and I to agree.

Staring at Rodgers, I wonder what was going on inside his head right now. He has been not only my lawyer but my advisor since I made my first million. I never get into a business without having his input first. So far he is the best and has never been wrong.

All the businesses he told me had the potential to prosper actually did and those he warned me against ended up failing. So as you can see, his input is really important.

“What do you think?” I ask him when I can’t take the nervousness anymore.

His eyes scan the document one more time before he lifts his head.

“It’s a great idea. I can see its potential” he answers.

I’ve worked with the man long enough to know that there was a ‘but’ in there. With the way he paused, it was clear that he had concerns, but he didn’t know how to let me know.

“What is it?” I prompt, wanting him to speak up before my heart bursts in anxiety.

He stares at me carefully. As if he was trying to gather his thoughts and organize them before speaking.

The more he continued to stare at me without speaking, the more anxious I got.

“Spit it out, Rodger’s”

“I just feel like this isn’t really a traditional idea” he finally says.

“I know it’s not”

“Plus there is the other aspect.” He pauses before continuing. “Have you thought about how this will affect the foundation aspect of your life”

I frown at that. He sees my unhappiness and rushes to correct himself.

+15 BONUS

“I’m not saying it’s a bad idea. It’s actually really good and has the potential to become a huge company. All I’m saying is that as the founder of Hope foundation you have an image to uphold. Now that people know your identity, they associate you with the kids you help. Most people would probably stop donating if they find out you’re part owner of a sex toy company”

My eyes drop to my desk.

Since I had extra rooms in the house, I had decided to turn one of them into a home office given I was going to spend the majority of my time home until after I gave birth.

I stew on it for a while before realizing that what he said is right. I was the face of a children’s organization, so, for me to be in that line of business, it will be viewed as going against what is morally acceptable when dealing with kids.

I sigh in defeat, I was against the idea at first, but I got excited about it later on. It seemed like fun to start such a company with friends.

“You’re right. A lot of the social elites would probably stop donations once word gets out”

He nods his head and then we are quiet for a moment.

I was deep in thought. Thinking of how I was going to let Corrine and Letty down easily. I know they would be disappointed but I’m sure they’d understand where I was coming from. After all,

that’s what friends do.

“This is a big opportunity and I don’t want you to lose it.” He starts, pulling me from my thoughts.” Would you friends be open to having you as a silent partner?”

Slowly, my excitement starts growing. I can see in which direction he is heading towards. In some

of the business I helped with capital, I was a silent investor. I had shares and I was consulted in major decision making, but most people didn’t know I was a partner. Usually, only the CEO and the board knew of my identity.

“That could work. I’ll have to talk to them, though I’m sure they won’t have a problem with it.” I

tell him, smiling. Feeling my mood lift.

“It’s settled then” he says standing up. “Talk to them and then let me know so I can draft up the

required documents”

“Okay. And thanks once again Rodger’s for your help”

“No problem. After all, you do pay me a hefty amount to make sure I sort out your worries” he says

215

+15 BONUS

“I’ll see you, Ava”

“See you too, Rodger’s”

He leaves after that and I immediately pick up my phone. I was going to talk to Letty first, then

Corrine.

She picks after the first ring.

““Letty, I’ve got...” she cuts me off before I can finish my sentence.

“I’m really sorry Ava. I’ve wanted to apologize, I just didn’t know where to start”

Her voice is so remorseful and so sad. It makes me want to soothe her by taking away what was

worrying her.

“What are you talking about, Letty? What are you sorry about?”

I stare at the wall opposite me in confusion. As far as I can tell, we haven't gotten into an

argument. She hasn't done anything that would warrant me forgiving her.

"For pushing. I keep pushing the issue about Rowan not realizing how much it is hurting you. I

just want you to be happy and a part of me thinks Rowan is your happiness. You've loved him so

long that it's hard to believe that all of it is gone."

"Letty..." She was on a rant so she doesn't give me a chance to speak.

"I want you to have a chance to be happy. You told me that you used to want Rowan to have

feelings for you, but now that it seems he has, you don't believe it and you're against it. I just don't

get it"

I sigh. This again?

I was getting tired of hearing them speak about Rowan and his so-called feelings. It grated on my

mind every time they did. Rowan didn't factor in my life and neither did his feelings. He could

take them and shove them up his stuck up ass for all I cared.

"I'm going to explain it this once and then I never want to hear about this ever again" I breathe

before continuing.

"I loved Rowan and a part of me will probably forever will. Sure, you can't get over that kind of love

but it can be slowly killed by actions from the one you love. Rowan hurt me in so many ways that

3/5

+15 BONUS

love I had became too painful for me, so in order to preserve the little pieces of myself I had, I

buried it so deep that it could never be dug up again”

I feel my heart hurt when I speak of the love I had for Rowan. Like I said, it was probably still

there, but it was buried under years of his cruelty. The pain he inflicted later became heavier than

the love I felt.

He never lifted a hand against me, but sometimes I wish he had. Physical wounds were easier to

heal unlike the mental one and those inflicted on the heart and soul.

“Rowan hurt me in a way I would never wish on my worst enemy. Burying that love was the only

way I could survive the hurricane that was him.”

I hear her sobbing. It hurts me, but I have to make her understand.

“I’m sorry, Ava. I didn’t mean to dredge up such painful memories”

“I know, Letty and I know you want me to be happy, but Rowan isn’t the key. If we were never

happy in the nine years we were married, what makes you think we’ll be happy together now?”

Like I keep telling Letty, I doubt Rowan has any feelings for me except hate, and even if he

miraculously developed some, too much has already happened for us to move past it.

“I’m really sorry. I promise never to mention it again”

I exhale in relief.

K

“Thank you, and besides, did you forget I swore off men? Love isn’t for me. Looking at the men I’ve

been with, history has taught me I have horrible taste when it comes to them” I chuckle.

She lets out a small laugh. She had a field day the day I announced I was done with men.

“Yeah I remember. I guess the business idea came at the perfect time. Free sex toys for you” this

time her laugh is more robust and I’m glad I was able to draw her from the melancholy feelings

she had.

“Speaking of which...”

I proceed to tell her everything we discussed with the lawyer. Explaining to her why I had to be a

silent partner instead. Just like I had predicted, she accepts the idea.

“I completely understand. I see no problem with it and I’m sure that Corrine will understand too”

4/5

+15 BONUS

Til speak to her later”

“Which reminds me, did you buy from the list we sent you like we asked you too?” She asks after

some time.

“I was planning to go after the meeting with my lawyer”

“Well you better get your butt up and go... your feedback is very important”
she pauses and I hear

someone talking to her before she gets back on the phone. “I have to go,
there’s an impromptu

meeting and I’m needed”

“It’s okay. Have a great day and take care”

“You too and remember to let me know once you’ve gotten the toys”

After that we hung up.

I finish doing my chores, take a shower, get ready then I leave. Heading
straight to the mall. It

doesn’t take me long to get there.

After parking my car, I head inside. I was a nervous wreck. I was excited but
at the same time I

felt like I was doing something wrong. Like everyone will judge me and find
me lacking by

entering a sex toy shop, let alone buying from it. 1

I follow the directions to where Corrine told me her favorite shop is located. I
breathe a sigh of

relief when I realize that it in a somehow hidden location.

I pause when I get to it. Still unsure of what exactly I had let my friends talk
me into. It was as I

was seriously debating whether to enter or not, when I heard his unmistakable
deep voice.

“Ava?”

Ah fuck! What the hell was he doing here?

Last updated on December 20, 2023



Ex-Husband's Regret by Evelyn M.M Chapter 76

Posted by



By

Mirror, mirror on the wall...

I swivel around. Shocked to see Rowan standing behind me.

Could this day get any worse? I ask myself, groaning internally.

"Rowan?" I shriek, caught off guard. "What the hell are you doing here?"

Of all the times I had to bump into him, why now when I was standing in front of a sex toy shop?

This had to be the most embarrassing thing I've ever experienced.

"I could ask you the same thing?" He says looking behind me.

I feel my cheeks redden, because I know nothing I say will get me out of the situation. I was standing in front of the shop and its windows displayed a variety of sex toys. It was hard to shrug off what kind of store this was.

I look back at the store before facing him nervously. I don't know why I was nervous, but I was.

"I'm here to shop for maternity clothing and buy some things for the baby," I lie.

He looks at me. His left eyebrow raised. "In a sex shop? I don't think you'll find what you're looking

for here, unless you have other things in mind"

The tilt of his mouth lets me know that he was teasing me, which was a completely new concept

to me.

Instead of answering him, I start walking in the other direction. I expected him to at least leave

me alone, but he doesn't. Instead he falls in step with me.

"I didn't take you for a woman who would use sex toys" he says, making me halt in my steps.

What the hell was wrong with him. Why the hell was he even bringing this up? Didn't he get the memo that I wanted nothing to do with him? That I didn't want him near me. It was the reason

why I walked away in the first place.

"First of all, you don't know the type of woman I am. You never did, mainly because you thought I was beneath you or something and second of all, what's wrong with using dildos and vibrators to

pleasure myself? I am a human being with needs, and they have to be fulfilled one way or another.

Now leave me the hell alone"

1/5

+15 BONUS

I see an inferno light up in his eyes, but I don't dwell on it. Not giving him a chance to speak, I start walking again. This time I quicken my steps.

The man infuriated me and at times like this, I want nothing more than to slap the daylight out gets worse when I remember all the shit he put me through, all because he was 'in love' with Emma. Note the sarcasm.

of him

I was now fuming. I would like to blame the pregnancy hormones, but I couldn't put all the blame

on them.

“Ava?”

“What?” “stopping, I snap, now realizing that he was striding next to me.

He was looking at me with his head tipped to the side. Almost like I was a puzzle he was trying to figure out.

“Here’s a mom and baby shop” he says pointing at the store that was a few feet from us.

I know I had lied about why I was here, but seeing the store made me realize that I was indeed in need of maternity clothes. Plus I had yet to buy anything for the baby.

I stomp my feet grudgingly as I walk toward the store. I stop just as I cross the threshold and put

my arms out.

“What the hell are you doing?” I ask him when I realize that he was about to walk inside with me.

“Isn’t it obvious? I am here to help you shop”

“I didn’t ask nor do I need your help, so turn your ass around and go back to where you came from”

I had reached my limit with him being so pushy about things that no longer concerned him.

Where was he when I needed him? Now that I don’t, he thinks he can force himself in my life? It’s

not going to happen. 2

Instead of backing off, he gets into my face, so much so that there is barely any space between us.

“I’m staying and I’m going to watch as you try every fucking piece of cloth, Ava. You better get it inside your head because I’m not leaving until you buy what you need”

My mouth falls open at his audacity. How dare he? Who the hell did he think he was? He wasn't

even the baby's father for fucks sake!

215

+15 BONUS

Before i can get a chance to give him a piece of my mind, someone interrupts our stare down. You could literally cut the tension with a damn knife

"Hi, how can I help you two?" the sweet voice says behind us

"My wife is looking for some clothes for herself and the baby Rowan answers before I can, leaving me completely shocked on

What the actual hell? Wife! I wasn't his fucking wife anymore. Why the hell would he tell her that? I swear Rowan has completely lost it. He has gone ahead and joined the loony train. That was the only explanation why he was behaving in such a way. 2

The store attendant smiles and motions for us. "Follow me. My name is Wendy and we've just received beautiful exclusive pieces that I'm sure your wife will like"

Before I can correct her for her mistake. Rowan grabs my hand and gently drags me into the store. Following behind Wendy like a damn puppy.

She sits us on one of the sofas then leaves. I turn and glare at Rowan. Completely pissed off.

"What the hell was that back there? I fume, feeling my anger reach dangerous peaks.

He looks at me lazily, before casually answering me with another question.

"What was what?"

"Don't play dumb with me! Why the hell did you call me your wife, have you forgotten we're divorced? Or that you're now dating Emma?"

"Here are the pieces" Wendy says walking towards us with a stack of clothes.

What was with her and interrupting me. I was now mad at the poor soul because Rowan had

pissed me off. (2)

“How about we start with this one?” She asks, holding a beautiful maxi dress up for me.

If it wasn't for the fact that I was seething, I would have appreciated how beautiful the dress

actually was.

“Go, try it on” Rowan says seemingly unaffected by the suffocating tension in the room.

Grabbing the dress, I stomp to the direction of the changing rooms. He had another thing coming

if he thought that I was going to model for him. He could rot in hell for all I cared.

3/5

+15 BONUS

Taking out my clothes, I put on the dress. The moment I look at myself in the mirror, all my anger just sort of fades away. I looked damn beautiful. The dress did wonders for my figure and my growing baby bump I immediately decide to take it.

After that I call Wendy. She hands me the next piece of cloth. It was a sundress and looked really nice. Just like with the maxi dress, this one also looked really good on me. I loved their exclusive pieces. They were gorgeous and just perfect for expectant mothers.

It was as I was about to try on a pair of jeans, that the door opened. His presence immediately alerted me that it wasn't Wendy in the room with me.

I stood frozen, my eyes connecting with his through the mirror. He was holding a blue top while I stood in nothing but my bra and panties.

“What the hell, Rowan!” I whisper–yelled turning to face him while trying to hide my ass and bulging boob which literally spilled out of my bra.

Which reminded me, I needed maternity bras too.

He doesn't say anything. His eyes slowly peruse my body. It almost felt like a gentle caress and it

made me uncomfortable.

Taking one of the long dresses, I use it as some sort of shield. Hiding my partial nakedness.

He drops the top and starts to move towards me as if he was in a sort of trance. 2

Before I have the chance to do anything, he cages me between his body and the mirror. My breath starts coming out rapidly as I start to panic. I never thought that I would find myself in such a

position with Rowan.

He lifts his hand. His finger caressing my lips, my neck before falling on my cleavage.

“They're bigger than I remember” he says gruffly, his voice filled with something I don't want to

acknowledge. 1

“Step away Rowan,” I murmur.

Instead of doing what I asked, his hand continues its descent downward. He pushes the dress aside and places his hand on my baby bump.

My breath still and his picks up.

His eyes stare at mine, and that's when I see it. I wanted to be wrong. I thought I was wrong, but I

4/5

never saw directed at me. I saw nothing but burning desire.

+15 BONUS

I'm completely frozen by what I've seen. Unable to believe it. Unable to understand it. I remain

frozen in shock as his head descends.

Before he can get too close, I push him away. Unable to take in what was happening or the desire

that had coated the room.

My shove seems to have woken him up from his trance. He shakes his head as if trying to get rid

of the fog. I was breathing hard, confused as fuck about what had happened.

"Ava" he says almost on a plea.

"Not another fucking word" I snarl at him.

I quickly put my clothes on before fleeing the room. I really loved the clothes, but I will be

damned if I had to spend another minute in Rowan's presence.

Within minutes, I'm outside the mall. Getting into my car, I drive off. My mind was a mess as I

tried to figure out what the hell was wrong with Rowan and why the hell he did what he did.

Rowan has never looked at me with desire, so why the hell did it look like he wanted nothing

more than to take me against that mirror? 3

Last updated on December 20, 2023

