

Loving Quinn Chapter 53

(Annora)

A glass of water with a red rose in it is the first thing I see when I wake up. With a smile on my face, I rolled towards Quinn, only to find an empty bed. After the mind-blowing sex we had last night, I was looking forward to a slow love making session to start our first morning as an engaged couple.

Finding his spot empty is disappointing, but then I remember that we have a guest. I look at the clock on the bedside table. It is only eight in the morning. Quinn is probably downstairs with Aaron. I hope he is doing better this morning than he was last night.

Quickly I roll out of bed, then head to the bathroom to shower. After showering, I head to my closet to dress for the day. I grab an ankle-length skirt in light green with a floral pattern going up one side from hem to hip. I pair it with a white loose- fitting blouse, grab a pair of canvas slip-on shoes, then call myself dressed.

It is Saturday, so casual clothing is necessary.

My entire body is relaxed as I walk down the stairs to find Quinn and Aaron. I can hear their voices coming from the kitchen as I reach the bottom of the stairs. I stop in the doorway to watch them. They have always had an effortless way with each other that I used to admire.

Aaron's hair has grown out since the last time I saw him at the hospital. It is getting s**y, but it looks good on him. It is currently sticking up in all directions like he has been running his hands through it. From the tone of their conversation, I can understand why he has been doing this.

Rylan. They love each other, that much was made crystal clear last night. However, after talking to Quinn last night, I understand why Aaron pushes her away. I don't agree with it, but I understand. One day I hope they find their way to each other.

"Give her time, Aaron. You both need time. Once you talk to Dr. West..."

"Do you think he can help me?"

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"Between the two of you, I was able to pull myself together and out of that dark pit. Give it a chance. Please."

"I will go. For you."

“No, Aaron. Do this for you. I will be there every step of the way. Call me night or day if you need me. I will be there.”

“What about Annie and Grace? You can’t drop everything with them for me.”

“If he doesn’t, I will kick his a**.” I say as I enter the room.

Aaron jumps and spins around on his stool to look at me.

“I’m sorry. When I came down here, I couldn’t help but watch you two together. It has been so long since I have seen you two together like this. Well, outside the hospital, and in business settings. I am sorry for eavesdropping.”

Aaron pats the stool next to him. There is a smile on his face as I sit next to him.

To my surprise, he pulls me into a sideways hug, then lets go quickly.

“It is good to see you, Annie. Last night wasn’t my finest night, but I am glad you were here. Thank you for taking care of Rylan.”

“There is no need to thank me.”

“I need to anyway.”

“Well, I am glad to help. Rylan is a strong woman. I have a feeling that we will be good friends. I look forward to getting to know her better.’

you two

A ghost of a smile crosses his face, then he grimaces. “The thought of being friends is frightening. With her stubbornness and your mischievous nature, I

fear the trouble you two will make.”

I can’t help but laugh at that. “Oh, come on now. I thought you enjoyed my pranks that summer.”

The look of horror on his face makes me laugh again.

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“Absolutely not.”

“Then I will have to think of new ones. It is time to up my game.”

He shakes his head, then looks down at his hands as he laughs. “I should get going. Mom is going to want to meet for breakfast before she and dad go off on their adventures today.” He looks up at Quinn as he stands up. “Are you two s dinner later with my parents so mom can meet Grace?”

on for

“Yes. I have an idea about that. Rather than go out to dinner, why don’t we do something here? That way, when Grace has had enough of adults, she can just go up to her room.

That is actually a good idea. I can call the restaurant we were going to go to and have them cater for dinner. Giovanni’s has a great delivery service. However, I would need to call them as soon as possible to set that up.

Aaron nods his head, then walks out of the kitchen. When I hear the door close behind him as he leaves the penthouses, I turn to look at Quinn. He looks tired and worried. I know he is worried about his friend. He is tired because of me.

Well, it is his fault too. That erotic bondage session lasted for hours. When we finally fell asleep, it was around three in the morning. With our chosen careers, we have both had to function on less sleep than that. Today, however, isn’t one of

those days.

“Since Grace is at my parents, and we don’t have to pick her up until noon, I say we get some more sleep.”

Quinn smiles at me as he walks around the counter. The way he pulls me against him lets me know he has other ideas in mind. I shiver in anticipation as I see his eyes go dark with desire.

“How about I take you back upstairs, spread your thighs wide, then spend the next few hours with my face buried in that juicy p**y of yours?” D

“Why not just do that right here, right now, on the kitchen floor? We have the house to ourselves still.”

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His mouth fuses to mine as his hands grab my a**. Fire erupts in my belly as he deepens the kiss. When his tongue flicks across my lips, I open my mouth for him. The passion between us instantly ignites as his tongue sweeps inside to explore and entwine with mine.

I break from the kiss with a laugh as he lifts me up and places me on the counter. The last time my a**way on this counter, had no panties on and he took full advantage of that. Now I feel so overdressed.

The ringing of the house phone makes him pull away with a growl. "It isn't even nine in the morning. David better have a good reason for calling."

"There is only one way to find out."

He growls before letting me go to walk out into the foyer. When he comes back in, there is a grim look on his face. It makes me hop off the counter, then close the distance between us quickly.

"What is it?"

"We have visitors. The detectives from last night at the hospital. I told David to give me ten minutes to get dressed, then send them up. I would rather not have this conversation while I am still in my pajamas and sporting a hard on."

I glance down at his obvious erection and smile. I absolutely love that I have this effect on him. If I had more time, I would help him with that.

"Go get dressed and I will make a pot of coffee."

Quinn nods, then rushes upstairs to get dressed. Please let the detectives be here to tell us they know who hit my car yesterday, or who called me and threatened Grace. I doubt they found that person, though. I am more concerned now about who hit

my car.

When Quinn comes back downstairs, he is dressed in a pair of black dress pants and

a

charcoal grey button-up shirt. He has the sleeves of the shirt rolled up to his

elbows. My gaze lingers on the tiger lily tattoo with my name on the base. I am still amazed that he did that to remind himself of me.

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I feel his gaze on me, so I look up. "Are you ready to talk to the police?"

"Come here."

I walk to where he is standing at the entrance to the kitchen. He pulls me into his arms, kisses the top of my head, then he looks down at me. His green eyes are full of love, and I can't help but smile up at him. The phone rings again, causing him to sigh in annoyance.

"Guess they are getting impatient."

"So, it would seem. Are you ready?"

I nod at him, then walk back into the kitchen to grab four coffee mugs out of the cabinet.

(Quinn)

After showing the two detectives into the foyer, I lead them into the living room, where Annora is waiting. She set the coffeepot with four mugs with cream and sugar on the square coffee table. She glances up at the two men when they approach her.

"Dr. Winters."

She stands up and shakes both of their hands, then gestures to the coffee table. "Would either of you like some coffee?"

"That would be great. Thank you," Detective Morris says.

"We have some news about the crash," Detective Anson says as he makes a cup of coffee, then sits down.

I sit down next to Annie and wait patiently for the two men to get comfortable. She reaches over to grab my hand as she waits with me. I can feel her nervous energy, so I gently squeeze her hand.

"We couldn't make an I.d. by using the traffic cameras at the scene. The good news is that we got a call about an abandoned vehicle an hour after we left the hospital.

The vehicle description matched the description of the truck that hit you.” Morris tells us.

“The truck was reported stolen early yesterday morning. The CSU team recovered fingerprints off the steering wheel that didn’t belong to the owner and ran them through the system. We don’t have a match yet, but we wanted to give you an update,” Anson says.

That could have been done over the phone. Why did they come here just to tell us that? I feel there is something more to the story.

“What else did you find?”

Anson looks over at me, then glances at Morris quickly before looking at Annora. “It is about the phone call she received yesterday afternoon. The call was made from a cell phone in Rick Walker’s name. He is a guard at the FSan Francisco County jail.”

That is where Dionne is currently while she waits for her bail hearing.

“We are fairly certain that he was paid to make the call, or he was paid to give her his phone so she could. We had Walker put into a holding cell at the jail until we can get down there to speak to him.”

“What happens if it is proven that she paid him or did it herself?”

“Well, it is a mis*demeanor in the state of California. However, since there is no proof of what they said, it will be difficult to charge either of them. We will have to wait and see what Walker has to say when we talk to him.’

“Did you talk to McAllister about the crash?”

Morris sighs and shakes his head. “That one seriously angry man. One who had a strong alibi at the time of both incidents. However, we understand that he could have hired someone, so we are going to get a warrant to check his financial records. We are working hard to find who tried to kill you yesterday, Dr. Winters.” I

“Can either of you think of any other suspects that would try to harm you or your daughter?”

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“Lana Wells,” Annora says.

“That is your ex-husband’s new wife? Why do you suspect her?”

Annora laughs aloud. “She is a jealous harpy. Kyle has her fooled about his true nature. She is angry with me for putting her precious husband in jail. He tried to kill me, and this is what he deserves. Lana thinks I lied about that, but we have witnesses. Do I honestly think she would try to kill me? No, but I have to give you everyone who could be a potential suspect.”

Morris pulls out his notebook to write her name. Then he stands and Anson follows his move. I stand up and lead them both to the door. After they leave, I walk back to Annora and pull her up off the sofa.

She wraps her arms around my waist and buries her face in my chest. To soothe her, and myself if I am being honest, I run my hands up and down her back. When she stops shaking, I pull back a little to look down at her.

“Let’s go pick Grace up, then we can all go to the beach. Have a little family picnic, collect some seashells, and build sandcastles.”

“Grace would love that. Can we stop at my house on the way so I can grab out beach gear? I will call Giovanni’s on the way to arrange for dinner to be catered later tonight.”

With that plan in place, I grab my keys off the hall table, then wait for Annora to

grab her purse. A day out of fun in the sun sounds like the best way to shake off all the drama surrounding us now. It will also be a suitable time to tell Grace that we

are getting married.

“When we get married, where do you want to live? Here, your place, or do you want to look for a new house where we can start over as a family?”

“I love my house, Quinn, but I really love the security of this place. Why don’t Grace and I just move in here until we get married and then we can decide after that? Max can stay at my house so that it isn’t empty.”

“So, he isn’t going to back to New York?”

“Not until he knows if the baby is his or not. If it the baby isn’t his, then he plans to move his business here and go from there.”

I hold my hand out for her as she

Loving Quinn Chapter 54

(Annora)

As we park in the drive at my parents house, the front door opens, and Grace comes lying outside. She is still in her pajamas with her hair stick up all over the place. There is a serious expression on her face at the steps next to Quinn's door.

Why such a serious expression to early in the morning?

Qui gets out of the car, and she hugs him tightly. After I get out, I walk over to that. Grove locks up at me when I step up beside them. The tear in our daughter's eyes that make me frown.

"What is wrong. Gracie?"

"I am sorry I was being a jerk yesterday morning I was just sad that we can't live together

I share a look with Quinn, then smile at her.

"What if I tell you that your mother and I have thought about it and have charged on mind?"

Grace's face falls at his words. She pulls away from him with an angry glare. "Why?"

"Because we are

to move in with your father."

"REALLY?" she screams.

She jumps up and down, then throws herself at me in her excitement. I wrap my arms around her as she continues to bounce on her feet. I laugh as she pulls away from me to throw herself at Quinn. He catches her and spins her around

"Why did you guys change your minds?" Grace asks as Quinn sits her back on her

I show her my engagement ring and her face lights up with joy. "So, since we are getting married, we decided it would be a good idea to move us into Quinn's place

Crace frowns. "What about our house?"

"Uncle Max will move in until we decide what to do with it."

"This means I can go swimming all year round."

Quinn laughs. "It does, but there will be rules for the pool, Let's go inside to talk to your grandparents. How would you like to spend the day at the beach?"

Grace squeals in excitement, then rushes back into the house. Quinn looks over at me with a smile on his beautiful face. I spent hours memorizing his face that summer. His features have changed as he grew older. I will enjoy watching him grow more distinguished as we grow old together.

“What?” Quinn asks.

I close the distance between us, loop my arms around his neck, then just stare up into his eyes. Those alluring sea-green eyes have always reminded me of Belize. My family visited there when I was sixteen for my mother’s birthday. His eyes haunted me when I didn’t think I would ever see him again.

“Have I ever told you how much I love the color of your eyes?”

“Dice or twice. What else do you love about me?”

“That will take a lifetime to tell you.”

Is that so? Well, since you agreed to be my wife, I think that will work out for us both.”

As Quinn leans down to kiss me, my mother calls to us to come inside. He laughs, then kisses me before stepping back. He holds his hand out for me and I take it. Then we walk to the front door where my mother is waiting for us.

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Chapter 54

The smile on her face lets me see that Grace already spilled the news of our engagement. “Congratulations, you two. Now get in here so I can properly welcome Quinn into our family.”

She turns around, then heads into the house. I can hear Grace talking to my father as I walk inside. The minute the front door is closed, my mother pulls Quinn into a big hug. I let go of his hand, then walk to where my father is sitting in the den.

“So, you two are getting married, huh? My father looks up at me with a smile on his face.

I hold my left hand out for him to see the engagement ring, wiggling it a few times, so the light from the windows makes the diamonds sparkle. Grace stands up off the sofa so she can get a look at the ring. She gives me a hug, then runs out of the room.

“Where is Quinn?”

I glance over my shoulder to see where he is. He and my mother are still in the foyer with their heads bowed close together. Knowing my mother, she is telling him how happy she is. I look back to my father and gesture with my hand towards where mom and Quirm are standing.

“Vis, let the poor boy go and come in here.”

We spent the next thirty minutes being congratulated by my parents. Max came in briefly on his way to Lorelai’s office. The smile on his face is genuine, but there also pain in his eyes that makes me sad for him. He gave me a hug, then shook Quinn’s hand before he quickly walked away. My parents share a look that conveys their worry for Max. What he is going through with Leita has been a nightmare. Add in the fact that the baby he has been so excited about could be another man’s Not just any other man’s, but his best friend since childhood.

When Grace comes back, we all head to the beach. By the time we arrive, it is close to lunchtime. My mother packed plenty of food for the five of us. We watch Quinn and my father walk from the car to the sand. Each of them has their arms full of gear.

Why make two trips when it can all be taken in one?

Men

Grace runs down the beach to secure us a spot, then waits for us to join her. She is jumping up and down as she waits for us. I am happy that she is smiling now compared to how she was yesterday. After everything that happened yesterday, spending this afternoon in the sun with my family is just what I needed.

After reaching Grace’s spot, my father takes out the large blanket he packed, then my mother helps him lay it out over the sand. Soon we are all sitting and digging! into the lunch my mother packed. She packed leftovers from last night’s dinner. Fried chicken, potato salad, and peach cobbler.

Grace grabs a bucket and shovel after lunch, then heads closer to the water to make sandcastles: Quinn angles his body so that he can have her in his line of sight. His attention is focused on our daughter as she plays in the sand.

“Have you two decided when and where you want to get married?” My father asks.

“Annora wants to go back to where we met. Quinn says while watching Grace.

“Oh, that is perfect. Your grandpa would love that. He was rooting for you two for so long.”

That makes me smile. Grandpa was my biggest supporter that summer. He encouraged me to pull my head out of my h**s and live my will be forever grateful for his advice.

“A for when, well, we haven’t really decided on that yet.”

“What

are you going to do with your house?” Dad asks.

while I had the time. L

“Twas thinking of letting Max stay there until he knows what is going on with things in New York. He told me that if it turns out the baby is not his, then he plans to move out here.”

My father grunts, then takes a bite of this cobbler.

“Grace and I will move in with Quinn for now, then after we get married, we will discuss it again.”

What about Enally bading a house on the land your grandfather gave you

Quinn glances at me. “Where is this

“It is across the lake from my grandparents” place. The spot where we fest met is on that property.”

I can see the ideas forming in his head already. I had plans once to build a summer hem there I never went through with it. Note would be a wonderful time to do that. We wouldn’t live out there full time. Not with my jobs and his business, but it would be great to have a place out there in use as an escape from the city.

“Why don’t we build a summer place out there and then we look for something her be in the city?” Quinn says.

The man read my d**n mind. He does so often. I love it

“Why don’t we just stay in your penthouse? Grace and I love it these

Quinn opens his mouth to say something but closes it again, then turns his attention hack to Grace. I can only assume we will talk about it later. For now, I help my mother clean up our lunch mess. As 1 help her, my mind wanders to dinner later tonight

I am nervous to meet Victoria again after all these years. She was nice to me back that. All I can think about is how angry she must have been when Quinn told her about Grace. I just hope she can see my side of the story

[Quinn)

Annie has been pacing our bedroom for the last twenty minutes. After our afternoon at the beach with her parents, I was hoping she would be nice and relaxed. Now that we are home and dinner with Aaron and his parents is getting closer, she is a bundle of nerves.

I know why she is nervous.

I walk up into her path to stop her pacing. "Hey, you have nothing to worry about."

She stops pacing so she can look at me. I close the distance between us, then wrap my arms around her. She lays her head on my chest and snuggles close.

"What did you tell her about why you are just now meeting your daughter?"

*I told her you tried to find me, but then life got in the way. Listen to me, Annie, I am not angry with you about it. If Tori is, then we will explain it to her. I am right here with you

"Ok. I need to get dressed for dinner. Then I need to make sure Grace is dressed, too. The caterers from Giovanni's should be here soon."

With that, she pulls away from me, then spins around to walk into the closet. I decide now is a good time to head downstairs to my office to check in with my lawyer. Donne's bad hearing is Monday. With what the detectives told us today, I am sure she will face additional charges by then

I just want to know when the court date for her lawsuit against me. The sooner that happened, the better. If the judge agrees to my petition for a DNA test, then

can get the ball rolling on that. Is Logan mine or is he Ethan's?

How will it affect our lives if Logan is my son? We are now engaged, and she wants to have another child with me. I will do everything in my power for Loom if he is my son. The best thing would be to get full custody of him.

There is no way I am going to co-parent with that crazy bitch.

After talking to my lawyer and getting the date set on my calendar, I head to the kitchen to help Annora set up for dinner. Grace is in the dining room setting the table and humming to herself. My life has changed so much in such a short time.

A little over six months ago, I was a bachelor without a care in the world. Now I am a father and soon to be a husband. I have dreamed of this and finally it is coming true. All thanks to Annie. My incredibly beautiful, drop-dead s**y fiancé.

When I hear the doorbell ring, I give Apie a smile, then walk to the door to let our dinner guests in. The first face I see is Tori's. Her eyes light up when she sees me and Lam

pulled into a hug before I have time to react. She has always been a hugger. When I was younger, it used to freak me out until I realized she genuinely

Tu het, I was

I was her

son too, even though she never tried to replace my mother.

After she releases me, I step out of the way so they can all come side. Aaron's father, Michael, follows behind his wife. He stops to shake my hand, then gives me an appreciative whistle as he walks her into the room. He is an interior decorator in heart, I know he will want a full four later tonight after dinner,

"He will want to see everything you have done with the place." Anton says as he walks inside and closes the door behind him.

We share a laugh, then follow his parents into the penthouse,

"Is that Giovanni's I smell? Ton asks.

"Yes, Annora had it catered in since we decided to do dinner here instead."

As I said her name, Annie steps into the kitchen doorway. There is a smile on her face as she greets the Carters. Tori walks straight to her and pulls her into a hug. I can tell by the look on her face that she is shocked.

When Tori pulls back, they share a laugh. Now that the ice is broken, I can see Annie relax. I told her everything would be alright. I enjoy being right.

"Mom, I set the table," Grace calls from the dining room.

Tori turns towards the sound of Grace's voice. Her eyes are wide when she glances my way. I nod my head at her and that was all it took for her to walk slowly towards the dining room. I step up to Annie, grab her hand, then pull her along with me as I follow Tori.

Tori lets out a soft gasp as she comes face to face with our daughter. Grace smiles at Tori, then walks up to her to shake her hand at how proud I am to be her father. It still amazes me daily that she is my child.

And, I can't help but smile

When we finally sit down for dinner, Grace and Tori talk like old friends meeting for the first time in years. I can see from the look on Annie's face that she is happy with how

the evening is turning out. However, I know Ton. There will be a more adult conversation to be had once Grace has gone to her room.

Yes, I was angry with Annie at one point about all the time I missed with our daughter. That was six months ago. I have thought long and hard about it. I would have been there for them both had I known. However, with all the darkness in my head after all my deployments, it could have been bad for them both as well.

PTSD doesn't just hurt the one going through it. It is a double-edge sword that can hurt those that are just trying to help. I am in a better place in my life no. This is a better time for me to be the father Grace needs and the husband Annora deserves.

"The brave men and women who serve their country and, as a result, live constantly with the war inside them, exist in a world of chaos. But the turmoil they experience isn't who they are; the PTSD invades their minds and bodies."

Robert Koger, Death's Revenge

Loving Quinn Chapter 55

(Quinn)

All good things and faster than we like, for me, Monday came all too soon to my liking. After such a good weekend for my family, I am not looking forward to all the things that come with Monday momines.

Grace is going back to school today, completely unaware of the danger she could have been in on Friday. I hired one of Mac's guys to be her bodyguard. Luca Holt agreed to do the job at a discounted fee. He will be at the school from the time she dropped off until she is picked up

Having him there for six hours is expensive, but worth it to make sure Grace is safe. Anora insisted on paying for half of his fee. Her argument was that Grace is our daughter and as her parents, we should split the cost to protect her.

I conceded the point to her, and we paid for Luca's first werk together.

My first order of business this morning was a meeting with the board of directors for Mercy General regarding Jake Paulson. Alter Rylan made her police report Friday night, I emailed the board to have Paulson suspended until the DNA results come in. He tried to run when the police went to his home for questioning by the

police on Saturday morning.

That sent big red flags to the police. When they caught up with him, he punched one officer, so they arrested him for assaulting an officer. That made me laugh

when Rylan told me about it on Sunday

So, here I am waiting for all the board member to arrive. Aaron is steadily tapping his fingers on the table in annoyance. We are waiting for one member. Our CEO. Given his relationship with Rylan, I understand his ta**n**

I am so sorry I am late," Andrew says. He came in thirty minutes la

"How is Rylan?"

"She is doing better. I offered my guest roo

room to her until she is feeling better."

Andrew takes his seat, then shakes his head.

Once I am sure I have everyone's attention, I get the meeting started. I inform them of the newest developments with Paulson and how he was arrested for assaulting an offer. Because of this news, I raise a vote to terminate his employment with the hospital.

"Has Paulson been charged with the assault against Dr. Danvers?" Samuel asks.

"They are waiting for the results of the DNA tests for the skin under her nails. However, since he ran from the police, then assaulted an officer, they are holding him as a suspect in her case." Aaron tells him.

"We should suspend him from his duties until further charges are filed. If the DNA proves he was her attacker and they charged him for that crime, then we end his employment with Mercy General." Donna says.

"All in favor of that plan, raise your hand," Andrew says.

The vote was unanimous.

"Is there anything else you can think of that we need discuss while we are all here?" I ask.

When no one speaks up, I call the meeting to a close. I have to be in court for Dianne's ball hearing over her breaking the restraining order on multiple occasions. The police confirmed she was the one who paid the guard to use his phone. He tipped on her fast to save himself.

So, during the hearing, I am hoping the District Attorney will add that to her rap she

After leaving the hospital, I head straight to the courthouse. There is no actual need for me to be there, but I was asked to attend to make a statement to the judge. He wants me to tell the judge how Dionne's actions have affected my life over the last two years,

Honestly, it has been nothing but an annoyance. I know the restraining order was called for. Dionne never posed a physical threat to me. All I want is for it to end. We have one more unresolved issue between us, but once it is proven that I am not Legan's father, I want Dionne to leave me alone.

The court date for that is at the end of the month. I wish it was sooner, but that was the date the Children's court judge set. A lot can happen in a month. Hell, a lot can happen in one day. Dionne's reign of terror knows no bounds.

Don't play her game, However, with Ethan McAllister backing her, I am afraid this ride is far from over. That man has been sucked all the way into her web of lies. He is so far down that rabbit hole he wouldn't be able to see the truth, even if I slapped him in the face.

What keeps him tied to her? The sex was amazing, I will admit that, but her true nature is disgusting. I wish I would have seen that before I asked her to marry me. No matter how amazing the p**y was, we would have crashed and burned eventually.

"Ah, Mr. Greyson, I am glad you could come down here today."

I turn to look at Conrad Deaven, the District Attorney for San Francisco

County, California. His pale blue eyes meet mine as he walks towards him. I have met him a few

times at charity events, but this is my first time dealing with him in a courtroom setting. I did my research on him and was impressed with his conviction record.

"I am not sure if what I have to say will help."

"She will be granted bail. There is no doubt about that. However, I want to have your statement on record for the judge, I will ask that she be barred from any further contact with you other than through your lawyers or in court."

I give him a nod, then take a seat behind his desk. A few minutes later, the door to the courtroom swings open. At the sound of the door opening, I glance behind me out of habit. Two men enter the courtroom and walk towards the front of the room. One must be Dionne's lawyer. The other man I recognize instantly.

Ethan McAllister,

His eyes are cold when he glances at me as he walks further into the room. When he recognizes who I am, anger flashes across his face. His anger towards me is based on lies. I hope his brother can get him to see the truth soon. This man is a victim just as much as I.

No, what she has done to Ethan is much worse

He walks to take a seat near the lawyer, but stops before he sits down. He turns toward me with anger burning in his eyes. "You will pay for all the things you put her through. Do you hear me, Greyson? Mark

Before he can say anything else, the judge comes into the room, and the court is called to order. His lawyer pulls on his arm to make him take a seat. Ethan shoots me one last glare before he sits down. He doesn't scare me, but with that much hate coming from him, I will watch my back from now on

A few minutes later, two guards bring Dionne into the courtroom from a side door. They escort her to the table where Ethan and the lawyer are sitting. Twice as Ethan jumps to his feet when she steps up next to him. He pulls her in for a hug, but while he buries his head in her neck, her eyes meet mine over his shoulder,

The look in her eyes pisses me off. There is a smile on her face as she stares at me. I know that look. I hate that look. Here we are in a courtroom and this bitch is giving me the "fuck me eyes. Does she have no shame at all?

I know the answer to that already. Everything she has done to me, and Ethan proves she is just playing a sick game with our lives. Lust blinded me to all her faults. Then when I thought I was in love with her, I was too far gone to realize the trap fell in

Dionne blows me a kiss before Ethan pulls away from her. They both take their seats, and the judge starts the proceedings. As expected, she is granted bail. However,

there are stipulations she must meet and abide by, or she will be right back in jail.

The terms of the restraining order are still in place. She is to have no further contact with me unless it is through our lawyers or when we go to court for the lawsuit. The judge also told her she was to report to court-ordered therapy for the next six months.

The looks she gave me after the judge gave his ruling made me smile. Dionne is not happy with the outcome. I find it hilarious that she has been ordered to see a therapist for the next six months. The therapist needing to see a therapist.

I am delighted

I shake Conrad's hand, then turn to leave the courtroom. A movement to my right makes me glance over to where Dionne and Ethan are standing. Ethan makes a move to step

towards me, but Dionne places a hand on his arm and shakes her head when he looks at her. Smart move.

With one last look at her, turn around and walk out of the courtroom.

Now to see what she does after today, in three weeks, we will be in court again. This so I can petition the judge for a much needed DNA test. Ethan is going to be angry when my lawyer calls. Even to the stand as a witness to the affair between Dhan and Dionne. That is such reasonable doubt for a judge to grant my

After I step out of the courthouse, I take a deep breath, then release it before I walk to my car with one less worry on my shoulders. Now if the police can find the person responsible for the hit and run on Amora's car. I would ask Mac to investigate, but we have hired him for enough already.

When I reach my car, I hop in and head back to the hospital. I am meeting Annie for lunch so I can tell her what happened in court today. On my way, I make a detour to the police impound lot where her car was taken after the accident. She was very upset with the loss of all the lingerie she bought on Friday.

I am interested in seeing her in all of it.

An hour later, I pull into the parking lot of Mercy General for the second time today. There are five bags of lingerie in my trunk that I am very curious about. I wanted to peek, but I decided to just be surprised when she wears it for me.

As I step out of the elevator on her floor, she is stepping out of her office. A smile lights up her face when she sees me. Unable to stop myself, I close the distance between us in a few swift strides. My lips claim hers in a hungry kiss the second her body is pressed against mine.

I don't think I will ever get enough of her. For twelve years, I starved for her touch. Now I can have her any time I want. What I want to do right now is lift her up, have her wrap her legs around my waist, then walk us back down the hall to her office. A little afternoon delight is called for.

However, I hear a door open further down the hall, and sadly, Annora pulls away from me. With a smile on her face, she leads me to the elevator. My mind races with all the things I can do to her in there if I stop the elevator on this floor.

"Lunch first, I am hungry for food, Quinn. I want to hear about what happened in court. Then, maybe if you behave during lunch, I will reward you."

I growl at her as the elevator doors open. The throaty laugh she gives me sends my libido pulsing through the roof. With a shake of my head, I realize I am the whipped teenager again. I think I am ok with this. Only for her

“Where do you want to go for lunch?”

“There is a small seafood place close by. How does that sound?” Annie says.

“Is it within walking distance, or should we drive!”

“Let’s walk. You can tell me

ll me about court while we walk-

With her hand in mine, we make our way out of the hospital. I let Annora lead the way, since I don’t know where we are going. As we walk, I tell her everything that happened at the courthouse, starting with Ethan’s entrance.

“He really hates you. She did a number on that man. I almost feel sorry for him.”

“I do too. Even more so if Logan is his son. Can you imagine how he is going to feel knowing he treated the boy so badly?”

“How can he just ignore Logan like that? Even if he thinks Logan is yours, that boy is innocent in all of this. I take it back; I don’t feel sorry for him anymore.”

I stop mid-stride to glance over at her. There is a fire in her eyes that makes me smile. She is a mother and a pediatric surgeon. Children have always been her

weakness. No, her strength. Her need to heal the future of generation make me so proud of her.

We keep walking after she regains her composure. I continue to tell her about what happened in court. I s** the part where Dionne was giving me the ‘f**k me’ eyes. and pouty looks. When I tell her that the judge ordered Dionne into therapy, Annora stops in her tracks.

She bursts out laughing, then looks at me when she realizes I am serious. “Good Good move for the judge. Maybe it will help her. There is something deep down ~muide her that is broken. Why else would she do what she did to you and Ethan? How many others has she mind f**ked like that?”

I have asked myself that very question

“Honestly, I am not sure I want to know All Inge is that I wasn’t the only one.

“When is the court date for her lawsuit?”

“At the end of the month. We have there weeks of peace, I hope”

Annor sighs, then steps closer to me. I wrap my arms around her as her arms go around my waist. We stand like that on the sidewalk, just holding each other for a few minutes. The sound of her stomach gracing makes us both laugh

“Let’s go eat.” She says with a laugh.