

Memphis pov

He saw the look in Willow's eyes and knew he was in deep g**1. She was mad as hell. Luckily he was saved by Aiden.

"Hey momma where have you been?" Aiden asked and it was like her murderous rage clear from her eyes. He started to breathe a sigh of relief as her son talked on.

"What do you mean?" She asked confused.

"The school called cause me and Ari were running a fever.

They couldn't reach you, I suggested they call uncle Memphis. I feel better now, Ari doesn't." Willow's eyes had lost their rage as Aiden explained his presence through the innocent eyes of a child. Willow looked worried and she went to feel his forehead.

“Aiden’s fever went away after I gave him Tylenol, but Ari fell asleep a little bit ago.”

“Thank you,” she whispered before taking off. Memphis let out a sigh glad that she wasn’t going to cream him a new one. He was beyond shocked that Aiden had given him a call asking him to pick up the kids. He had told the nurse that he was a half an hour away and to keep trying Willow, but he would come right away. Jackson’s school had an SIP day and he was already off of school so the two of them went to pick the kids up. Memphis expected a call any minute to turn around and that Willow was on her way.

That call never came and Memphis was shocked as hell that he was led to the nurses station after signing in at the kids school. When he asked the secretary, who was checking him out the whole way to the nurses office, why he was allowed to pick up the kids, the lady informed him that Aiden had showed them pictures of that weekend.

Aiden had been happy to give the school his number and claim his uncle would pick him up: Memphis had showed up to the nurses office to see a talkative Aiden and a miserable looking Arianna. He felt bad for tiny little girl curled up on the bed with Aiden keeping his arms over her shoulders.

Memphis picked up a sick looking Aria and Aiden walked out of the school talking Jackson's ears off. Memphis's heart warmed as the adorable little girl laid her head on his shoulder and wrapped his arms around his neck. He always wanted a daughter, but never met the right person to give him another child. Arianna was the most precious little girl and so was Aspen.

When the kids got home Arianna wanted to change into her dads old t-shirt and Memphis let her. He read the label on the child's Tylenol and gave the kids the appropriate amount, not worrying about what Willow thought about it.

The school had refused to and the kids were in pain.

Memphis stayed next to Arianna until she fell asleep. Then he went down to find Aiden in the kitchen looking for food.

He quickly put a stop to that as the last thing Willow needed was a puking kid. Memphis found some chicken noodle soup and heated it up. He also gave him some buttered toast when Aiden whined he was still hungry.

Aiden was just finishing up eating when Willow walked in the door.

Willow pov

She felt bad for immediately assuming the worst about Memphis, but she didn't have time to apologize as Arianna was sick.

Willow went upstairs to check on her daughter, jumping over the plastic along the way. Guilt slammed through her as she saw her daughter sleeping in her bed, small amounts of sweat beading her forehead.

“I gave her Tylenol about an hour ago,” Memphis said from the door and stealthily walked away after her nod. She sat by her daughters bedside and felt her forehead, Arianna was burning up.

“Mommy,” her daughters voice cried out.

“I’m here baby girl,” she tried soothing her daughter.

“I want daddy,” her daughter cried out but still opened her arms for Willow to pick her up. Willow’s heartbroken as she picked up her daughter.

“I want him too baby,” she whispered into her daughters ear. “How are you feeling?” She asked and Ari simply whined in returned.

“I hurt mommy.”

“What hurts baby?”

“Everything,” her daughter cried out in a pathetic voice. She couldn’t help but smile inwardly, her daughter was a total drama queen.

“I want daddy,” her daughter cried again and her heart continued to burn for her husband who would have right next to her soothing their daughter.

“I know baby girl, I know,” she whispered and she rocked her daughter back and forth.

It took twenty minutes to get her daughter calmed down and back to sleep. Willow put her under the blanket and walked quietly out of the room. She pulled out her phone and saw twenty missed calls. Willow leaned against wall and let out a sigh.

“You can do this Willow, you can do it without him.” She sighed, “you have no choice.” She saw there was ten missed calls from Aspen so she called Aspen, she needed

to check on her as she had academic decathlon practice today.

“Mom where are you? You are late!” Her daughter screamed at her. “I look like an i***t standing on the school steps by myself!” Willow groaned as she felt the weight of being a single mother settle in around her like a cloud.

“Aspen!” She cut into her daughters rant as she walked down the stairs which caused her daughter to finally quiet down. “Im sorry I’m not there yet, but your siblings are sick I’m will be there as soon as I can.”

“Mom!” Her daughter continued to whine, “people are staring at me!”

“I can go get her,” Memphis offered from the living room.

She didn’t even know he was there. She gave Memphis a nod and a smile.

“Aspen! Stop!” She told her daughter. “Uncle Memphis will come pick you up in the next ten minutes okay?” Willow hung up on her daughter and let out a sigh. “Thank you.”

“Text me the address?” He asked and Willow nodded as he walked out the door. She let out a sigh before going to check in on Aiden.

The night was rough as Arianna woke up puking and crying because she was puking. Willow quickly got her into the bath and she settled down. Though it was clear that her daughter was miserable.

“Mom!” Her sons voice called from down the hall and she groaned as she didn’t want to leave Arianna in the tub alone. She went into her sons room and found he was sick over his trash can.

“Mom,” he cried out and she rushed to his side.

“It will be only honey, let’s get you to the bathroom.” Willow wanted to pick his son

up, but he was too big for that. She helped her son to the bathroom where she helped Aiden sit over the toilet. Willow checked on Arianna and sure enough she had puked in the tub again.

“It’s okay honey,” Willow told her.

“I want daddy,” Arianna cried and Willow echoed that sentiment with a tiny tear falling down her cheek. She wanted him too.

“I miss dad too,” Aiden said. “He always took care of us when we were sick.” Willow drained the tub and went to get Aiden some fresh water from the sink.

“I know honey, I miss him too.” Aiden washed his mouth out and Willow helped him with his clothes. She cleaned off Arianna and then ran the tub again. Willow let the kids sit in the tub for twenty minutes despite it being one in the morning as it always helped to make one feel better.

When the kids were in the tub Willow cleaned up the mess in the rooms, Aiden only got sick on his hardwood floors, so the cleanup was easy. Arianna got sick everywhere and it took awhile to get the mess out. She sighed as she cleaned, remembering that Tate would take the kids and she would take the clean up, or vice versa.

When the rooms were clean Willow returned to the kids in the tub and started cleaning them up. Aiden was easy, but Arianna had vomit in her hair and thus she had to have it washed twice. It was a long process to undergo during the middle of the night.

It wasn't until two in the morning that the kids were back in their beds. Hopefully they don't wake up again in the night.

Willow exited Aiden's room after checking on and fell to the ground. She couldn't keep the pain in any longer. The gut wrenching sobs that came from her after this

clusterfuck of a day. She was a failure of a mother. She failed to pick up the kids from school when they were sick. She failed to pick up Aspen. How much more could she fail at? She needed Tate, she didn't know how to live this life without him.

The hardest part was the kids, the kids asking for their father and looking to her for answers. Willow didn't have any as she didn't know why. She would never understand why he wasn't here for our children. In the end, Willow had to pick herself up off the floor and deal with it. No matter how much she cried, how much she begged God to bring him back, Tate was gone. Gone and never coming back to them.