

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 21

Willow spent the rest of the evening at home in bed. She just had enough of everything. She did get a couple of texts, but it was from her work family. Not blood relatives. The text were completely humiliating and Willow decided to ignore everything that had happened today and everything she learned. Willow wanted to destress as best as she could. She was still pretty wound up from everything and she knew that was bad for her health as well as her daughters. Willow went to bed early that night, well laid down early that night. She was too keyed up to sleep.

Willow tossed and turned for several hours running over everything in her head. Her brain simply wouldn't shut off and it was driving her batty. Thankfully she finally felt herself drift off to sleep.

Willow woke up with a pain in her stomach, she turned on the lamp and felt something in between her legs. When she felt down in her vagina it was sticky, she pulled back to see blood. Willow was horrified, she felt herself panic.

Willow knew enough to know she needed to go to the hospital, she just wished she had some one to go with her. Willow decided to try and call Knox to see if he would come over and take her. She read enough about childbirth to know that in situations like this she was never to drive herself. Knox was still the baby's father, even if he was an asshole. Willow called and texted several times but he never responded to her. The texts were simple and to the point. She told him that she was bleeding and she needed to get to the hospital.

She wanted to cry cause she knew that if she called Memphis he would come and take her to the hospital. Despite everything; Memphis

wouldn't turn her away in an emergency. God she was regretting sleeping with him more and more every day. That man was truly her only friend and she hated that she ruined it in a single night.

Willow decided it was best to call an Uber. She literally had no other options. She grabbed a towel as she was still bleeding, not heavily but enough. Then she had them take her to the hospital. The ride was awkward as hell cause the man could clearly tell something was wrong, but he didn't ask and Willow didn't tell.

She walked into the hospital twenty minutes later and was surprised, when she told the nurse she was pregnant and bleeding. It took a reasonable amount of time for her to be ushered back to her own room and have her vitals taken. The doctor ordered an ultrasound to be done and her daughter was checked out. While the baby seemed to be fine, the doctors were still worried and

wanted her to be admitted for the night for observation.

Willow was scared as the doctors didn't have any definitive answers for her. She also hadn't stopped bleeding and the doctor seemed to be worried. Willow tried to stay calm and distracted, but she wasn't able to do so. She was scared. Scared for her baby.

Willow wished she had some one with her right now, but she didn't. Knox still hasn't responded to either her phone call or her text message. It had been two hours since she had sent them and it was only midnight. She decided to call her mom. The phone rang and rang. Her mother was most likely mad at her because of what happened today. Willow let out a heavy sigh, she couldn't believe her mother didn't pick up.

Willow was nervous, but she decided to call her father. He answered,

“Hey Willow what do you need I’m in the middle of a big case.” No surprise her father sounded upset she called him.

“Hey dad I was just calling because-“

“Hey that’s my other line, got to take this.” Her father hung up and Willow started to cry, it was her childhood all over again. Her parents never had anytime for her when she needed them. Just then her uncle James called her.

“Hey Willow tree!” Her uncle James called happily.

“Hey Uncle James,” she was happy to hear his voice.

“Sorry I’m calling so late, but I couldn’t get away earlier and I just wanted to check on you.” Willow couldn’t believe that just today was the gender reveal party, it felt like a life time ago. “Willow?” She couldn’t stop the tears. “What’s wrong? Why are you crying?”

“Uncle James can you come see me, I don’t want to be alone right now.” Willow answered in a small voice.

“Of course Willow tree, where are you?” He asked and she was silent for a moment.

“The hospital...”

“Did you-“

“Yeah I did.” James let out a long sigh and he replied,

“I’ll be by immediately.” Her uncle James hung up and Willow immediately felt better. He was asking her if she had called her parents, why did he have to ask? Willow tried to stay calm for the sake of the baby, but it was hard.

Knox never understood why they always went to his family’s place for every holiday. This is why, her family simply didn’t show up her. Willow hated every forced family dinner her parents made her go to. It was all

fake. It was all for her father's image as an attorney.

Uncle James showed up forty five minutes later looking worried.

“Willow! What’s going on?” James came and embraced her in a hug and it was like she was a girl again. The hug filled her with a sense of security she hasn’t gotten from anywhere else.

“I don’t know,” Willow whimpered out. She was scared, several nurses had come and checked her vitals but that was it.

“Okay Willow just start at the beginning then.” Willow told her uncle the whole story from the beginning and he only interrupted when he found out she took an Uber to the hospital.

“You should have called me!” She just shrugged and continued on with the story of what the doctors told her.

“Hmm, I better go find some one to see the deal is.” Uncle James took off and to find a doctor. They were both told by the attending doctor that the only thing the ER could do was monitor her and the baby until her doctor arrived in the morning.

“Is the baby in danger?” Uncle James asked.

“Not currently, that’s why we are monitoring her, her doctor has been called and she knows everything.”

“I don’t like this Willow let’s get my doctor here.”

“So Doctor Rayas knows everything?” Willow asked and the doctor nodded.

“Yes she does and gave us strict parameters to monitor and we will keep an eye on you and the baby until morning.” Willow was convinced by the doctors explanation, but uncle James continued to grill him for several minutes. The young doctor started to

actually sweat and Willow finally had enough.

“Uncle James! I think you asked him enough about his residency.” Uncle James nodded,

“Very well. Take her vitals.” Even though it normally done by nurses the young doctor went ahead and took her vitals.”

“Sorry about him,” Willow whispered when he took her blood pressure. The doctor whose lab coat read McNair smiled,

“Even I know not to cross the great James Cunningham or I’m fired.” Willow smiled and Uncle James murmured,

“Damned straight.” Willow just shook her head and the Doctor smiled at her. McNair took her vitals and charted them before leaving.

When the doctor left it was around two in the morning and Willow was starting to

wind down a little. Uncle James seemed to notice this,

“Why don’t you try catching some sleep?”

“What about you?” She asked. Uncle James sat down in the chair next to her and smiled.

“I’ll be fine right here.” Willow smiled back at him and found herself dozing off after fifteen minutes of watching bad late night tv.

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Doctor Rayas came in the first thing the next morning reading over her chart. Her cheery doctor was nowhere to be found, she was very serious.

“Willow, I see you had some bleeding and your blood pressure was sky high, let’s get you checked out.” Dr. Rayas approached her and started examining her.

“Is that bad? The blood pressure?” Uncle James asked from the chair.

“Who are you?” Rayas asked through her stethoscope.

“James Cunningham ma’am, Willows uncle.” Rayas eyes almost bugged out of her head.

“You mean?”

“Yes I’m Willow’s uncle.” James dismissed her recognizing him as anything but Willow’s uncle. James always did this and she always loved it. Uncle James always had a way of making her feel special. He made it seem that being recognized as her uncle was way better than being known as the man who donated a million dollars to the hospital. Doctor Rayas went back to Willow and she smiled. Uncle James was a huge benefactor to the hospital and many other places throughout the city, so James Cunningham was definitely well known by everyone.

“Right. Willow let me do a quick exam.” Rayas says and uncle James excused himself.

Doctor Rayas checked her blood pressure and noted that it was slightly elevated. Her doctor then put her in the stirrups and checked her cervix.

“I see you are still bleeding slightly.” Doctor Rayas said as she helped her sit up, Willow was going to ask what that meant when a portable ultrasound machine came rolling in.

Soon enough her daughter came on the screen and Willow smiled at her little girl.

“Well your baby girl is doing well, everything seems normal with the fetus, but I am still worried about the bleeding as well as your blood pressure. I want you to stay another night for observation.” Dr. Rayas told her in a calming tone, but Willow still panicked.

“Why?” Willow asked confused. Uncle James came back into the room.

“Well high blood pressure is a big problem for pregnant woman, if it isn’t resolved it

can cause preeclampsia. This can be fatal to the baby Willow, that and the bleeding is a huge cause for concern. When you are discharged tomorrow I am putting you on minor bed rest for the rest of your pregnancy.”

Willow looked to her uncle James and she was so scared. She had no idea how to go from here. She could only agreed with the doctors orders.

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It was Sunday evening and Willow had been stuck in the hospital for close to twenty-four hours. She was looking forward to going home tomorrow. When the shock of the dangers of the situation calmed down she and uncle James talked for a long time. Uncle James told her that he would hire a housekeeper for her and a driver to take her anywhere she wanted. Willow tried to refuse, but he simply wasn't having it. Willow prayed that her boss would be

understanding, she already worked from home. She wasn't sure if she could miss the meetings throughout the week.

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Willow stared at her phone and there wasn't a single call from anyone since she entered the hospital. Willow would truly be alone if it wasn't for her uncle, he was her safety net through this whole ordeal. He didn't leave her side at all. Davis uncle James closest friend for as long as Willow can remember even came to visit a few times. Davis also dropped off some Doctor approved food.

Willow was still staring at her phone when it suddenly rang in her hands. Sadly it wasn't anyone she wanted or expected it to be. It was her father-in-law. Willow still picked up her phone.

“Hello Mr. Hayes.”

“Hey Willow I know things yesterday didn't go over well, but I thought it would be a nice

time to invite you to our Sunday barbecue.” Mr. Hayes told her like it was the most normal thing in the world. What? Why would he do that when she was in the hospital?

“Willow?” Both uncle James and Mr. Hayes asked.

“My father-in-law invited me to a barbecue after Knox ignored my calls for the past day and a half.” Willow said and her uncle stood up and gave the universal gesture to hand over the phone. Willow saw the fury in his eyes and she handed over the phone without a word. Her uncle walked out of her hospital room without a word. That entire Hayes family was on a whole other planet.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 22

Knox pov

Knox was sitting outside with his family for their traditional Sunday barbecue when his father walked up and punched him across his face. Knox fell into a heap on the floor, his father worked a hard job his entire life. Despite being in his late fifties he was a strong man. Knox had also lost a considerable amount of weight since the affair had been brought to light.

“Dad what the hell!” Knox tried to get his feet under him and his father screamed at him.

“You will stay on the floor where I put you or I will knock you down again!” His father hollered at him. Knox knew better than to say anything, he had never seen him so mad before. His dad in fact never hit him in any way.

“Honey,” his mother tried to run interference but it seemed his dad wasn’t having it.

“No! Not this time Marge! I will not have you coddle that boy any longer! I’ve had enough!” His father screamed out then stomped off and he wisely stayed on the floor.

“Honey where are you going?” His mother asked.

“The hospital, apparently it’s where Willow has been for the past twenty-four hours and she called our son for help. News flash he didn’t answer.” His father stormed off and the rest of the family looked to him.

Shit!

“Knox?” His brother asked him as his mother had followed after his dad.

“I smashed my phone after the party yesterday.” Knox said in way of an explanation.

“Why? Willow was being reasonable, she just left.” Memphis realized he talked to

Regina. “You fucking idiot, you got in touch with Regina?”

“She talked to me first, she told me she was going to show Willow some pictures. I got so mad I just tossed my phone.” Memphis just shook his head and went in the direction of his parents. Knox was torn if he should follow or stay down like his father demanded.

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They arrived at the hospital and the doctor was about to tell his family what was going on with Willow when James Cunningham stopped him.

“If he’s the husband and father he has the right to know,” the doctor responded.

“My client is going through a divorce.” Knox was confused, when was James Cunningham Willow’s attorney?

“Please, we just want to know what happened,” his father pleaded and Knox knew enough to stay silent. James looked back and forth at the four of them and James went back into the room. He returned a few moments later.

“It seems Willow wants to speak with Mr. and Mrs. Hayes only,” his mom gave him a sympathetic look, but they went into the room. Knox was crushed, but there wasn’t anything he could do about it. Cunningham looked at him with a lethal stare,

“You, you come with me.” Knox followed Cunningham scared. James walked to an empty waiting room and James got into his personal space.

“I’m going to tell you what’s going to happen here Hayes. You are going to leave this hospital, sign the divorce papers and then agree to whatever custody agreement my goddaughter comes up with when the baby is

born. You will not bother her again do you understand me?”

“If I don’t?” Knox asked him feeling brave. Cunningham face turned menacing and his voice reflected that.

“I will not only destroy you, but everyone in your life. You will have to move out of this country to find a job. I will have not only your brother but your father fired from his job at the plant.” Knox didn’t believe that for a second and he expressed that.

“You can’t have my father fired, he’s worked there close to fifty years.” Cunningham smiled like a wolf,

“So you truly don’t care about your brother do you? Damn and people called me cold, I always took care of my family.” Knox started to get angry, but before he could say anything Cunningham continued. “The answer is yes Hayes not only could I get him fired I could get it done today. Your father is

one of the few people left at the plant that has a pension and they don't want to pay it."

Cunningham indicated with his index finger, "one tiny call it's just the excuse that place needs." Cunningham sighed, "it's also ironic, your marriage is the only thing that has been keeping him employed this whole time."

That comment surprised him,

"What do you mean?" He asked and Cunningham smiled again looking him up and down,

"You don't remember your father complaining about work around the time you brought Willow home from college for the first time?" Knox's eyes widen and James chuckled. "I see you do, they were going to fire your father. I'm sure your brother can explain it as he's been eavesdropping this entire time." Memphis walked into the room looking sheepish and Knox looked at him.

“Yeah it got really bad for awhile, dad didn’t say anything to mom. Dad was harassed at work constantly. He was one write up away from being fired. I’m not sure how Willow caught on,” Memphis reflected on that time several years ago.

“Willow said she overheard you talking that night when she went to the bathroom. She just happened to mention it to me, on one of her breaks home that her parents made her attend. I knew how important you were to her. So I made a call, to the owner of the plant.” Cunningham looked meaningful between the two brothers, “The Hayes have been under my protection since.” Knox’s mind was completely blown and it seems he wasn’t the only one as he looked over at his brother. Cunningham laughed again as he looked between the brothers, “it’s funny Hayes you fucked that Silverton woman for her society connections when you were too dumb to know you were receiving them the whole time. I mean how do you think you got

that damn job in the first place?”

Cunningham said wryly.

“What?” Knox asked and Cunningham laughed,

“What you think every new graduate gets a 100K job right out of college? No my glowing recommendation gave you that job. You imbecile.” Memphis laughed at than and Cunningham along with him. Knox ignored him,

“Did my wife know?” Knox was curious as to how much Willow helped him.

“You mean your ex-wife? Of course she knew, you know I was going to watch and let it all play it out, but now Willow’s in the hospital.” Cunningham got in his face, “sign the papers Hayes or things will go very bad for you.” Cunningham made that promise with lethal intention and turned around and walked out. Knox wouldn’t admit it out loud to anyone; but he was scared.

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Knox and his family sat around the dinner table where Memphis told him about what Cunningham revealed at the hospital. Knox sat in silent anger as Willow refused to see him to explain why he wasn't there. When Memphis finished retelling the tale everyone sat in silence for around five minutes.

“Well what now?” His mother asked and his father grunted.

“He signs the papers.”

“Honey!”

“Dad!” They both protested at the same time and his father held up his hand demanding silence.

“No! Even before Cunningham's threat I felt this way. Knox you cheated on your wife and caused her so much stress she almost lost the baby. She's only twenty weeks along and is on bed rest! You haven't been there to

support her. While Willow has been nothing but a supportive wife and partner even when you didn't deserve it. Knox Hayes you will sign the papers tonight or you will leave my house!" His father got up and walked out of the room. Knox looked to his mother.

"She's on bedrest?" His mother nodded,

"Yes there is still a chance she could loose the baby." His mother sighed, "I'm sorry son while I don't agree with how your father approached this I do agree with his assessment. I think it would be best if you signed the papers." His mother stood up and left the room and it was just his brother.

"Humiliating isn't it?" Memphis asked him. It was, even if he was the one that went outside his marriage. Knox relished in his brothers marriage exploding. To find him on this position went against the grain. "I guess it's karma."

“What do you mean?” He asked and Memphis smiled.

“Well for you trying to sleep with my wife.” Knox froze and looked at his brother,

“She told you about that?” Memphis laughed,

“She told me about it when I found out she was cheating on me. Turns out she was only cheating on me cause some one told her I was cheating.” Memphis looked at him dead in the eyes, “don’t know who that would be would you?” Knox didn’t say anything and Memphis laughed again. “Fool I was told Gina that Knox wouldn’t do that he’s my brother.” Memphis got up “more the fool I was.” His brother left him with a parting shot and left the room.

Knox sat staring at the divorce papers while fingering his wedding ring. The lawyers told him he was getting a good deal and he knew that. Knox wasn’t an idiot and Willow was never greedy, she just wanted to be able to

pay the mortgage on their home. They had always talked about buying a big house and filling it with kids, looks like that won't happen now. Knox opened up his iPad and looked at the messages from Willow.

Wifey: pls I need you to take me to the hospital. I'm bleeding

Wifey: Knox I need you

Wifey: the baby needs you

Wifey: I'm scared, please come pick me up, the books say not to drive if something like this happens.

Wifey: please Knox.

Wifey: Help me

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Knox did something he hasn't done since he was little, he cried. Knox remembered the first time saw Willow Steele in one of his elective history courses. She was so smart

and a genuine person. He remembered bringing her home for the first time, once they met Memphis they had no interest in him anymore. Willow wasn't like that, they were so in love. Knox thought that he could fix it, but he fucked it all up again. He fucked up everything.

His damn boss found out about the gender reveal and forced his hand. Knox looked at the papers and it seemed like he didn't have much of a choice now. Regina wanted to twist the knife in about the affair and he hated himself for it. Cunningham wasn't giving him an empty threat, he would follow through. He told himself it was for the best, even though everything inside of him was screaming not to do this. Knox took the pen and signed the divorce papers.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 23

James pov

He went home to go change his clothes and to get a nap before returning to the hospital. It seems that Willow's stay would be longer than expected.

When he got home it seemed his wife was having another dinner party and it included the Silverton's and Steele's. James had planned to just ignore them when his wife pulled him into the room.

“Oh honey there you are! You knew I was having this get together tonight where have you been?” His wife cooed with her tentacles wrapped around him. Everyone in the room looked at him expectantly, James didn't bother to smile. He wasn't one for fake pleasantries.

“It's nice to finally show yourself good buddy,” Stan Steele had the balls to tell him. It seemed his small stint as the ADA gave him enough spine to stand up to him. They weren't close friends as Steele told everyone,

he let Stan tell everyone that for Willow's sake.

"Yeah, you would think you were stepping out," Julia had the balls to say to him. There had to be hellfire in his eyes as his wife immediately knew it. The rage he felt was instantaneous.

"Honey-"

"Silence! Everyone needs to leave my home." The Silverton's we're smart enough to get up and leave, they still thought his son was marrying that slut of a daughter.

"Sweetheart-" his wife tried to calm him down.

"Yes you too wife, you can go to your loft downtown where you've been fucking that barely legal boytoy of yours." James looked to the Steele's. "As far as you two go you seem to forget who I am, you also seem to forget you have a daughter as you have her entire life."

“What is that supposed to mean?” Julia asked him as she stood up.

“That means if you answered your phone then you would know she’s been in the hospital since the party. That’s where I’ve been for the past two days. She called me when neither of you could spare the time with her, just like you never could her whole childhood.” Julia looked horrified and looked to Diane,

“You told me she was just looking for sympathy!” James looked down at his wife and felt nothing but disgust. He pried his wife’s arms off of him.

“Diane I should have known you were behind this, your petty jealousy of Willow has gone on for long enough.” He was absolutely enraged.

“What?” Both Julia and Tim asked. James laughed,

“Don’t tell me you don’t know that my little wife has been jealous of your daughter since her elementary days.” He sneered at them given the look of shock of their faces. “Oh that’s right, that means you would have to actually be around for you to know anything that goes on in Willow’s life.” James looked down at his wife. “Diane has been jealous of Willow as I have always treated her as the daughter she never gave me. She refused to.” Diane looked embarrassed and he wasn’t ashamed to say he relished in it.

“Cause you were too busy fucking your secretaries and my daughter had to see it!” Julia screamed out. He laughed at the take Diane told everyone.

“My wife knew about all of my affairs! She knew all about every woman I ever slept with, she set it up so Willow would never see me again! Why do you think she never left me? Iron clad prenup.” The Steele’s both blanched at that revelation but especially

Julia. Diane had started crying, her house of cards was falling around her.

“Diane?” Julia cried. “Please tell me it’s not true.”

“James.” Diane started begging and crying. “Please don’t divorce me.” James smiled,

“It’s already been filed, you can keep the loft and other millions you have stolen from me over the years. I won’t have you arrested, but if you think to fight me I will have you arrested.” His voice brooked no argument and Diane started crying and ran out.

“Your a monster,” Julia said and started to go past him but James grabbed her shoulder.

“I’m a monster? You let yourself be manipulated by a woman who hated your daughter and you chose her over your own daughter. Take a good hard look in the mirror Julia Steele.” James looked between them. “I also suggest you remember your place, now get the fuck out of my house.”

“Not without Diane.” James laughed without any humor.

“Your daughter is in the hospital and your more worried about your viper of a friend who put her there? Get the fuck out of my house before security removes you both and I put in a call to the DA’s office.”

“Julia,” Stan warned and they finally both had the good sense to leave.

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Willow pov

She ended up staying in the hospital for another week. She had called into her work on Monday and let her boss know of the situation. Mary was amazing, since her work output hadn’t changed at all since she started working from home Mary had no issues with her working from home full time. Willow just had to zoom the meetings on Monday and Friday. She was incredibly relieved as she wasn’t sure how she would

be able to pay for her hospital bills. When she asked the nurse, Willow was told it had already been taken care of by her father. She was shocked wondering when he had come by. The nurse laughed out loud and said “you mean the man who visits you every day? I wish my father was like yours.” Willow just smiled and didn’t correct the nice woman. She wished her father was like James Cunningham as well. James had been her stand in father her whole life, despite how much she pushed him away. Her father did call her the other night, but she simply let it go to voicemail. Willow wasn’t ready to deal with any stress, and he never called her again. Willow still hasn’t heard anything from her mother.

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Willow’s mental health took a dive when her lawyer called her and informed her that Knox signed the papers on Tuesday. Mr. Cohen informed her that she would have to

wait until the baby was born for child support and custody arrangements before everything could be signed. Cohen said something about needing the baby's name. However, they would still be going before a judge in a few weeks to officially dissolve their marriage.

Willow knew she should be happy, but as she was sitting alone in her hospital room she wasn't. She hated herself for being weak again for a bastard that treated her bad, over and over again. When would her love for Knox Hayes go away?

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Willow walked into her home and was surprised to see a clean home. She had left the place a complete disaster, she looked to her uncle James.

"I told you I hired a housekeeper," he told her a little sheepishly. Willow smiled,

“Thank you.” Uncle James walked to the fridge and opened it.

“Yup, it’s stocked with plenty of meals for you and instructions are taped on top,” uncle James walked back over to her and helped her to the couch.

“Are you hungry?” He asked her and Willow shook her head negatively.

“No I’m just tired, which is weird since I’ve been at the hospital for over a week.” Willow settled in and looked around at her living room uncomfortably,

“Okay, well I better get going.” Uncle James gave her a stern look, “remember bed rest I’ll be back tonight with dinner from your favorite restaurant if you’d like.” Willow nodded,

“I would, thank you uncle James for everything. I don’t know what I would do without you.” Her uncle nodded and if she

didn't know better she would swear she saw a tear in his eye.

When her uncle left Willow pulled out her laptop and got started on her work emails. She had been gone for a week so they had accumulated. Willow focused on the oldest and specifically from the authors. It took Willow over an hour to sort out the emails and was going through them when she got a call from Mary.

“Hey Mary what's up?”

“Hey Willow I just wanted to check up on you.” Willow smiled,

“I'm good, I got home this morning and I am going through work emails. Is there important I need to take care of?” Willow asked and Mary let out a scoff.

“Willow you just got out of the hospital today, why don't you relax?” Mary asked her.

“I have been relaxing all week at the hospital, I’m just answering emails,” Willow was firm on this, she couldn’t lose her job. It was the only thing that kept her sane.

“All right well there is this book that I have been wanting to give some one,” Mary said hesitantly.

“Perfect! Send it my way,” Willow suggested.

“Okay now it’s going to need a lot of work, but I think it will be worth it.”

“Why is that?” Willow was wondering about what book piqued Mary’s interest.

“The man is a soldier so he’s not used to writing, he’s using his GI bill to get his education and he wanted to write down his experiences. His professor sent it to us, I only read the first chapter.” That was odd that Mary even read any of it.

“What did you think?”

“If done correctly it will be on the New York best sellers list,” Mary told her honestly.

“Then why are you giving it to me?” Willow asked in confusion.

“Cause you are a writer yourself-“

“No I’m not.”

“Yes you are, this book is very technical and you can make it flow easier.”

“Okay I’ll read it.”

Willow hung up with her boss and immediately opened the manuscript. She started reading and could see what her boss was referring to. While this book had great potential, it still needed a lot of work she just didn’t know how to get the work done.

Willow was so lost in the book that she didn’t realize that it was past dinner time.

James came in with food and she happily ate dinner.

“So aunt Diane doesn’t mind you spending all this time with me?” Willow asked after they sat down and started eating. Willow had expected a quick No or a joke. She didn’t anticipate dead silence,

“Yes Willow she does.” Willow was completely shocked.

“What?” Uncle James let out a sigh,

“I know I shouldn’t tell you this, but I’m filing for divorce from Diane for many reasons.”

“Why?” Willow’s jaw just hung open.

“Well she has been stealing from me for years. Despite having given access to my accounts she has been stealing from one of my charities. I let it go cause she is my wife, but when I found out about what she did to you I was done.”

“What did she do to me?” She asked blown away that her aunt Diane was a thief.

“Willow tree I have never claimed to be the best husband, but I never lied Diane knew about every woman I have slept with that wasn’t her. I told her from the beginning I couldn’t stay loyal to her.”

“She just wanted your money?” Willow asked shocked and disgusted. Uncle James nodded,

“So she knew about what I was doing with my secretary and when Rowan told me recently about what you two witnessed I knew she set me up. She set me up cause I’ve always loved you as a daughter. I know this isn’t the best time to tell you given what you are going through, but it’s the truth.” Willow nodded and went back to eating her food. She could and couldn’t believe that another person that said they cared about her. Willow finished eating her meal and pushed everything she learned aside. The only thing that mattered now was her baby.

“Willow? Are you mad at me?” Her uncle James asked.

“Well I wished you would have remained faithful, but I’m glad you were honest. I would also appreciate if we didn’t talk about this anymore. You love me and are here for me when no one else is, that’s all that matters to me right now,” Willow stated firmly. Willow could see her uncle let out a sigh of relief and the two of them went back to their dinners.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 24

It was a week after returning home and Willow made a hard decision. She changed her phone number, she just couldn’t take the drama any longer. She contacted her phone provider and Willow got a new phone number the next day, she only gave it out to a handful of people. Willow didn’t deactivate her social media as she had a lot of distant

family on there, but she removed the app from her phone.

Her Doctor made it very clear that she couldn't handle anymore stress without significant risk to her baby. It was something that was necessary and in all honesty Willow didn't think anyone was going to try to get ahold of her. She hadn't received any phone calls since her dad called her the other day.

Willow decided to focus on this manuscript and after reading it she emailed Mary to request a meeting. Willow loved the story, it was moving and beautiful. However, it needed so much work to make it readable for a general audience. She had to look up a lot of the military acronyms, why couldn't they just use regular expressions. Who uses military time anyway?

The meeting was scheduled via zoom next week, but after the doctor cleared her for this one meeting Willow decided to head to

the office. She always proffered in person meetings as it was more personal.

Willow was sitting in the meeting room when the author walked in the room. He was not what she expected at all. She was expecting a man in his fifties after everything he experienced. He reminded her of Memphis, but so much sexier. He was ginormous he had to be at least six foot four and almost as wide as the door he was walking thorough. The man had to be in his early thirties, but he didn't show his age. There was some weathering on his face, but his hair was dark brown and he was clean shaven. The saying 'jaw so hard it could cut glass,' came to mind as she looked at it.

He wasn't covered in tattoos, but they were scattered around his arm. The man was clearly military to anyone who passed him by on the streets, even wearing civilian clothing. It was the way he carried himself, his posture and haircut. He was very

intimidating, she could barely look the man in the eye. Willow wanted to stand to greet him, but Mary wouldn't let her by a gentle touch on her shoulder. Mary was going through the initial introduction, Willow was just here to talk to him further if he did sign the contract.

"This is Willow Ha-Steele." Mary corrected when she gave her boss a look, "she will be working with you if you agree to sign with us." The man smiled and shook her hand. That soothed her a little bit, but she was still uncomfortable. Attractive men always intimidated her. Willow still didn't know the authors name as possible editors never get names to stay as objective as possible.

"Hello ma'am, I'm Tate," Willow expected him to have a Boston accent of some kind, but his was more southern if anything.

"It's nice to meet you, sorry for staying sitting, but bosses orders." Willow couldn't

stop herself from rubbing her stomach and it drew his eyes.

“I understand,” Tate flashed her a nice smile and sat down. “Well ma’am I don’t understand why I need an editor with my book?” Tate asked the room. Mary looked at her to explain and she started.

“Well Tate let me start with you have a wonderful book, but it’s filled with military jargon that a lot of the readers most likely wouldn’t understand. Even myself with a background in studying military history had to look up some of the stuff you referenced. It will be my job to make sure that your book is relatable to a general audience,” Willow smiled and Tate kept a blank gaze.

“Okay I understand that, what was your degree in?” Tate asked seeming to be genuinely curious.

“Oh I studied history at Boston University, my favorite was 20th century history and as

well as military history.” Tate looked her in the eye.

“What was your favorite war to study?” He asked and without hesitation Willow went into detail,

“WW1 or the Great War it is so fascinating to study from any perspective. The war itself and the events that it triggered it just leave you in awe.” Tate looked at her as if she was a puzzle he needed to figure out. The man next to Tate started to talk,

“Well we will come back and see if Tate wants to have an editor go over his work-“ Tate cut him off.

“I think my book is in good hands.” Mary decided to cut in,

“Actually it doesn’t work that way, you will both work together on this book. That is if you agree to the contract, now normally you would do it here but Willow is...” Mary

looked at her to see what Willow was comfortable revealing.

“I’m on partial bed rest due to stress, I’ve been working from home. If you decide to sign we would work together either via zoom or in my home.” Tate looked concerned,

“Your husband wouldn’t mind?”

“We are going through a divorce,” Willow said and felt like a gigantic loser for having to tell this very attractive male that she had been dumped. Tate simply nodded,

“All right, let’s go over this contract.” Mary nodded,

“I’ll have some one bring it in, I just need to help Willow back to her office.” Willow slowly got up as she kept her hand protectively over her stomach. Tate watched her closely as she watched her walk out the door. Willow felt uncomfortable being the focus of the man’s attention.

Willow went back to her small office and got to work on the manuscript. She wanted to give Tate some examples before he left the office today. She was so lost in working on the chapter that she didn't hear the knock the first time.

“Hey Willow your boss sent me you way.” Tate said as he poked his head in to her shared office. Willow shared the office with several other junior editors. Willow looked at him with a small smile.

“Did you sign the contract?” Willow asked and Tate nodded,

“I did.” Willow handed him the first chapter she managed to edit.

“Here look this over and whenever you get time give me a call and we can get to work on your book.” Willow started to hand him her business card, but just remembered she changed her number. She took it back and grabbed a pen to write down a new number.

“Change your number?” Tate asked.

“Ummm yeah, I-here call me whenever you are ready to get started.” Willow wasn’t ready to get into why she changed her number to this attractive male. She doubted he would understand.

“I wanted to let you know it gets easier,” Tate smiled at her.

“You’ve been through a divorce?” Willow asked with shock and Tate laughed.

“What you don’t believe I could be married?” Willow shook her head,

“No I just can’t believe some one wanting to divorce you.” Tate flashed her a small smile,

“The military life is hard on relationships, especially when you are in the special forces.” Willow nodded in understanding,

“I’m sorry to hear that.” Tate just nodded and held up her business card,

“I’ll give you a call in a few days when I clear my schedule. The military isn’t done with me yet.” The large charming man left Willow feeling off balance and she didn’t understand why. It didn’t matter she had to deal with her own crap before anything else. Also who would want her now, Knox didn’t, Rowan didn’t, Memphis didn’t, and that gorgeous specimen of a man definitely wouldn’t. Willow let out a sigh and got back to clearing of the pile of things on her desk before leaving for the day.

Rowan pov

God he couldn’t stand to be around Regina any longer, he went to his parents place to try and figure out when his father could get him out of this mess. He walked into his parents house and heard his mother talking furiously.

“Listen here Silverton! I did everything you asked and now James is going to divorce me!” Rowan paused, “why do you think he’s

going to divorce me? Cause of that damn girl!” Pause, “no he’s not sleeping with her you fool, he loves her and wants her to marry our son!” Pause. “No he didn’t care that I had stolen millions from his charities.” Mom had stolen from dad? “Look I can’t help you to blackmail Rowan any longer, I have to move out of the mansion, you are on your own.” Rowan couldn’t believe it, this whole time he thought his dad was the bad guy. Rowan heard the clack of heels and took off out of the house.

Rowan got out of the car and drove to his fathers office downtown. He rushed past his fathers secretary and busted in.

“Rowan what’s wrong?” His father sat behind his desk looking confused.

“It’s mom! She’s behind everything!” His dad sighed,

“Yeah son I know.” Rowan shook his head,

“No dad, I heard her on the phone with Mr. Silverton. She was talking about how she couldn’t do it anymore because you were divorcing.” His father stood up and came over to him.

“Rowan, you have to tell me everything.” Rowan nodded and quickly recounted what he overheard his mom say on the phone. Rowan knew his father was getting angry and wasn’t sure how to react.

“Dad?” He questioned as his father stood there for several minutes. His dad turned to him and nodded,

“Thanks for tell me son.”

“What do you want me to do?” He asked.

“Nothing for right now, we have to wait. I want you to focus on school.” His father told him and Rowan nodded still feeling uncomfortable.

“Don’t worry son,” his father said giving him a pat on the shoulder. “I will take care of everything.”

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 25

Memphis pov

It had been several weeks since visiting Willow and no one had been able to get ahold of her. His dad told him that Knox had signed the divorce papers and Knox had been a wreck ever since. Knox had been going out to bars every night and sleeping with random woman. Memphis was disgusted by his brothers behavior, but honestly he couldn’t judge him too much. He did in fact sleep with Willow, he didn’t know if his father was right or not. Memphis honestly hadn’t had time to deal with how he felt at all. Memphis just had to take a step back and wait until this whole disaster of a situation played itself out.

Memphis had to sit down with Gina and tell her that despite clearing the air the two of them weren't getting back together. Gina cried and asked why? Memphis told her softly but firmly that if she had just talked to him about the situation it could have all been cleared up. Needless to say Gina didn't take it well and threatened to take him to court and he readily agreed knowing she didn't have the money. He didn't either, but he had to take the bet. The bet paid off as she said 'forget it,' then stomped into the house.

Memphis showed up to his parents for dinner on Wednesday night and Willow was the topic of discussion. Knox was nowhere to be found as usual.

"Memphis you have a half day tomorrow, why don't you go check on her," his father suggested. He looked at his mom,

"Why don't you go?" He asked bewildered as to why he was being singled out. His mother shrugged,

“I can’t I’m busy.” Memphis sighed, that meant she was going to play bingo.

“What about Knox?” He asked desperate to get out of going there.

“That fool is out whoring around with half of the neighborhood. He going to give himself syphilis before his daughter is born.”

Memphis had to smother a smile, his dad was hilarious when he was mad.

“All right I’ll go.” This was not going to end well.

Memphis rang the bell and stood outside waiting nervously. He could hear footsteps approaching and when the door opened he was shocked to see it wasn’t Willow on the other side. In fact it wasn’t anyone he recognized. It was a huge ass motherfucker with a cocky grin Memphis immediately wanted to punch.

“Can I help you?” The man asked with a lazy grin.

“Where’s Willow?” He gritted out.

“In bed, exhausted,” the man replied and the grin transformed into a smirk. Memphis’s temper almost ignited, but then he heard it. Her voice calling out,

“Tate! Who’s at the door?” Tate? She knew this guy? Willow wasn’t being robbed?

“I don’t know babe, he wouldn’t give me a name. He’s a tatted up mother though.”

Memphis was enraged at their familiarity, that used to be them. Memphis could hear her soft footsteps and the man called Tate looked at her in concern,

“You’re not supposed to be out of bed.”

Willow smiled at him,

“I’m fine.” Willow looked to him in surprise, “what are you doing here Memphis?”

Memphis tamped his anger down and looked at Willow with concern.

“My mom was worried when you didn’t respond to her messages.” Willow shrugged, “I changed my number, I sent her and your father an email. I’m sorry they didn’t get my new number.” Not him though, he hated to admit it but he was hurt. Why did she change her number?

“What about Knox?” That was a safe question.

“Everything is done through our lawyers now, if that’s all I’d appreciate if you’d leave. I can’t be on my feet too long.” Willow simply turned around and left before he could say anything else. Tate smirked at him and slammed the door in his face. It took everything in him not to bust the door down and snatch Willow out of there.

Memphis got in his SUV and decided he needed to figure his shit out. Memphis could handle loosing to his own brother, but not to

that guy. Probably cause he knew that he brother wasn't in the running anymore.

Tate pov

Tate slammed the door in the man's face and turned around,

"Your soon to be ex?" Willow shook her head,

"No that's his brother. My in-laws are decent people, now let's get back to work." Tate wanted to pry as to why it was the brother and not her ex that showed up but Willow played things pretty close to the vest.

His situation with the military was different than most. Tate wasn't called up often, but he had to be ready within twenty- four hours if he was. He decided to go back to school in hopes to elevate his lot in life when his time in the special forces was over. He didn't want to be a cop or work in security like everyone else. He just turned thirty and after being shot in his right arm he was thinking

of hanging it up. Tate wanted something different than men who normally left the service, of course his giant frame didn't help matters any. He had been approached by every top security company in the private sector at one point during his career. The money was good, but he wasn't interested in money. Tate looked back at Willow and watched her write something down completely oblivious to him staring at her.

Tate couldn't understand why he was drawn to Willow, she was the definition of closed off, hell she could barely look him in the eye. Tate suspected she wasn't afraid of him though, she seemed to be intimidated by him, but he couldn't figure out why. Tate smiled at her, was courteous, he did all the things that he did with every other woman that got them into bed.

Willow wasn't his type he was the first to admit it, but looking back at his ex's maybe it was time he needed a new type. Those

woman were the definition of high-maintenance and looking around at Willow's person and her home she screamed "the girl next door."

Tate shook his head confused, he didn't understand where any of these thoughts were coming from, hell she basically told him she was unavailable. She had been blunt about everything, didn't try any games with him. He didn't get it. Tate looked at her belly and thought maybe it was because she needed protecting. He was a sucker for a damsel in distress. Maybe she just needed a friend, he could do that.

"Okay do you want to go a little more into your background and why you joined the military?" Tate laughed, he really didn't have a choice. "I'm assuming it was because you are of a low socioeconomic background?" Tate looked shocked,

"Why do you think that?" Willow gave him a small smile,

“I’m a historian and haven’t you hear ‘a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight?’” Tate shook his head negatively, he barely had a high school education. What he was learning in his second year of college he never learned in high school. Tate was a foster kid, he didn’t remember much about his parents. Tate was placed with a nice older couple for several years until they were too sick to take care of him. Then he bounced around a lot until he finally aged out. The Raleigh school he went to after he left there didn’t teach anything.

When Tate “graduated,” he couldn’t read past an eighth grade level or anything else academically. The teachers didn’t care, they just kept passing the students. Tate had two options, well three really; sell drugs, work at some dead end job, or join the military. There were several of his buddies that joined the military and Tate followed along. In basic training he did exceptionally well and they flagged him for special forces. He loved

the military and serving his country and he spent his twenties all over the world. The only thing he regrets is one marriage to a woman that hung out in military bars looking to bag any man in uniform. His buddies told him that she was cheating on him, but Tate didn't listen. He returned home after some bad weather made a mission impossible. It was a hurricane. When he came home Tate found his wife screwing some SEAL that was getting his mission, apparently SEALs can operate in hurricanes. It was his house so Tate wished the man good luck and kicked his wife out and got a quick divorce as there was no kids.

“Okay, it's up to you, but I think it will draw in readers if you talk about it,” Willow said to him. Her voice brought him out of the past and he simply nodded. She went back to writing and he found himself focused on her again.

Tate didn't know why he was so drawn to Willow, he just knew he better not get too close. He still had around one year left on his military contract with the berets and they could call him up at anytime. Tate didn't plan on writing a book, but when he was shot around six months ago and sent back to the states one of his professors suggested it as he was dealing with PTSD. Then everything just came pouring out and when he was done making sure there was nothing classified in it he gave it to the professor that suggested he publish the damn thing.

When he went into the publishing office Tate thought he was going to hate everything about it, but Willow clearly knew her stuff about the military, even if she didn't know the acronyms. Hell when he entered basic half of the men had to have flash cards for all the damn acronyms.

The doorbell rang again and Tate raised an eyebrow,

“Your ex?” Willow shook her head,

“No that’s my uncle, he doesn’t like you over here.” Tate nodded, he met with this uncle James the first day he came over and the man was a Pitbull if he ever saw one.

“All right I need to get going anyway,” Tate stated as the door opened and Willow finally looked up. She handed him some papers,

“Here is what I managed to get done today, please work on them.” Tate smiled,

“Yes ma’am.” Tate looked at the man named James and gave him a smile as well, “sir.” The man ignored him and Tate left the small home in the Boston suburb. He checked his phone and saw his unit had invited him to have drinks at a local brewery. Tate quickly drove to the brewery downtown and after finding a place to park he met up with his unit inside.

They were all talking and laughing when he saw Smitty’s newspaper out of the corner of

his eye. It wasn't the newspaper, but the picture itself that caught his eye. It was a picture of the man he has seen at Willow's home. The man she called uncle which is why they had different last names. He grabbed it and saw the headlines "Billionaire to divorce wife over cheating and theft."

"Since when are you interested in the news Taint?" Smitty asked him and automatically Tate punched him in the arm hard for calling him by that hated knick name.

"Since I met that guy," Tate said pointing to James.

"You met a billionaire?" The sergeant asked scoffing at him. "Where?"

"At my editors house."

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 26

Willow pov

The next month brought changes for Willow and she did her best to bear them without stress for her unborn daughter. The first was at her ultrasound appointment when she decided not to inform anyone of, even Knox. She struggled with this decision the full week before the appointment. In the end Willow decided it was the best thing for her daughter when she remembered what happened at the last ultrasound.

Willow sat with the ultrasound tech for her twenty-four week appointment. Uncle James came with her to the sonogram to see the baby. She had no intentions of inviting her uncle, but she did ask his advice on the matter as he was a lawyer. She didn't want this decision to bite her in the butt if it came up in the divorce proceedings. Her uncle told her that since he showed no interest in the baby and missed the first appointment he didn't have a leg to stand on and the decision was ultimately up to her. Willow thanked him and then uncle James asked who was

going to be there with her and she replied 'no one.' He kindly offered to go and stated he would love to see the baby. Willow accepted as she had no one else to be there for her.

When her little angel came on to the screen her Uncle James marveled at the new technology and she couldn't help but laugh at him. Willow got to see her daughter again and once again it felt like a miracle. This ultrasound appointment wasn't as long and Willow was thankful since the way she had to sit on the bed always strained her neck. The tech did reaffirm that it was a girl as Willow wasn't one hundred percent certain she was carrying a girl, just a feeling she had. The tech showed her again that without a doubt she was carrying a girl and Willow finally conceded.

When the appointment was over her uncle offered to stay with her, but she declined. She was nervous going into her doctors

appointment since it was the first appointment since she had been in the hospital, but she had to do this on her own. Willow was worried if the doctor would give her more restrictions onto her.

The nurse called her back after waiting for ten minutes. The nurse took her weight and checked her blood pressure.

“All right the doctor will be in to see you soon,” the nurse said with a smile and walked out. The doctor quickly enough walked in and greeted her.

“Hey girl! I’m looking at your stats and they are awesome! Your blood pressure is great the ultrasound looks great, what about bleeding?how have things been?” Her doctor asked her throwing things at her all at once. Willow sighed heavily, as she was feeling a bit depressed.

“I think better, I’ve been meditating like you suggested. I also changed my numbers, I

deleted most of my social media off of my phone.” Willow told her doctor. Dr. Rayas smiled,

“Good I know it’s hard, but sometimes that’s the first step.” Willow nodded knowing that her doctor was right and that it was the best thing for her.

“I know it’s the best thing for me, I’m still a bit depressed,” Willow admitted.

“That’s normal, this is a big change, just if the depression gets too much just reach out to someone. Let me know and we will help you.” Her doctor told her and Willow nodded knowing her doctor was trying to help her.

The doctor checked her cervix which was painful, but it had to be done since her hospital stay and the bleeding. Thankfully she wasn’t bleeding and she seemed to be healing well. Willow was ordered to return in four weeks, ordered to call and go to the hospital if she had any bleeding. She was

still on light bedrest, but could move around a little bit more freely. Nothing crazy!

Willow's mood perked up hearing that she was doing well enough some of her restrictions were being lifted.

...

Willow got home that evening and finally got around to checking her email and with a sigh saw that she had gotten several messages.

The one that stood out was one from her lawyer, she quickly read through it and saw that she is going in front of a judge next week. She let out a deep sigh and tried to figure out her feelings. Willow practiced her deep breathing techniques and decided to shelf her feelings for now. She couldn't have another setback and end up in the hospital again. Willow couldn't decide how she felt as she felt an array of emotions; she was happy, sad, relieved, angry, and most of all tired. Willow felt this bone deep weariness

that will not go away when she goes to sleep at night.

She saw and email from both of her parents wondering why their calls weren't going through. Willow ignored them as she had since she got out of the hospital for the past several weeks. Honestly Willow was done trying to have a relationship with her parents as they had never had one with her in the first place. Her father didn't surprise her as he never had time for her growing up. It was her mother that cut her to her core, the two of them were super close and to find out that Willow was being blamed for aunt Diane's divorce really hurt. Willow also didn't understand it, how was she being blamed? Willow ignored most of the emails that were sent to her at least once a day. She would change her email if she could, but it was her work email and Willow literally couldn't do it.

Willow checked her other emails and saw one from Tate that caused her to smile.

Will,

Here is the newest addition you requested. Hope you like it.

Willow couldn't help the smile that curled her lips as she read Tate's email. Tate unfortunately hadn't been able to come by as he was doing something with the military. She had requested some background information about him growing up and after a lot of prodding as well as sending examples of other military books that have done so he finally relented.

Willow was a speed reader, she read those pages in five minutes and was reduced to tears in one. His mom was a drug addict and put on the system at a young age. Tate had a rough life growing up. Willow wished he was here right now so she could give him a hug, but as she thought about it Willow knew he

was the type that wouldn't want that. Tate seemed like the type that wouldn't want sympathy. She would give him a hug anyway, Willow thought with a smile. It was nice getting to know him as she got to know him, he seemed less intimidating. Willow hoped that one day she could consider Tate a friend.

...

When Willow was alone that night in bed she could finally indulge in her feelings of despair regarding having a daughter. While she wasn't necessarily wanting a boy, she just didn't want a daughter. Willow loved her child more than anything in the world, but life was so hard for women. She only had one good example of a strong woman in her life and it was her mother in law. Willow only had to look at the woman's sons and then she wasn't to sure of Mrs. Hayes was the best influence or not.

Her mother married for love yes, but her father definitely didn't treat her right. Her father spent ninety percent of his time at the office, the other five percent was sleeping and the other five was spent on his wife. Her mother saw no problem with the way he treated Willow. It didn't make sense until last year when she heard them arguing and it all became crystal clear. Her father never wanted kids and when mom became pregnant he wanted an abortion. Her mother refused as it was against her beliefs and after Willow was born mom got her tubes tied. Hence why she never had any siblings.

Willow was forced to have dinner with them once a week for his reputation only. It was always public and close to where he worked. Mom never noticed, but Willow did. Sadly Willow was made to grow up quickly as she was left alone quite often, her mother worked hard similar to her father. Willow used to look up to her mother, until recently that is. These past months is the most

engaged her father has ever been in her life. Her Mother let her father treat Willow like this her whole life.

Willow won't even go into the woman that is aunt Diane, other than that she definitely isn't a good role model for her daughter. Willow couldn't believe the woman she had known for so long turned out to be such a horrid woman.

She wished she didn't feel this way about having a daughter. Willow wished a lot of things about the way her current state of her life. She didn't know how to change the way she felt.

Willow wasn't much for religion, but she prayed that this feeling was pregnancy hormones and that it would go away. She was all her daughter had.

Tate pov

Sitting at the computer on base he looked over his notes before sending them off to

Willow. Tate wrote during the night when he couldn't sleep on his last mission. It was common for him as his mind wouldn't let him sleep. The constant threat of being shot tends to keep a person on their guard.

He did not want to write about his life growing up as he didn't a good one. Though when he was in the Middle East he realized his childhood wasn't as bad as others.

Oftentimes soldiers would give kids MRE's only to see the parents take them from the kids. Growing up in the foster homes he normally got to eat on a semi-regular basis. The kids he saw around the world did not.

These facts didn't change the fact that it was hard for him to write about his life growing up and his mother issues. Everyone has them. Tate didn't care about how the world viewed him, he was worried about how Willow viewed him. Willow was unlike any woman he had ever met before.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 27

Willow pov

Today was the day.

Willow walked up the halls of the courthouse terrified. She didn't care about alimony or child support, she was worried the judge wouldn't grant the divorce. Willow had read some judges make the couples wanting to divorce go to therapy to try and work it out. Willow just wanted to be free of Knox. She needed to put this God awful chapter of her life behind her and move on. Knox had put her through enough, she had almost lost her baby because of him.

She walked up the courtroom steps with Mr. Cohen on the left of her and Rowan on the right. When they got on the big hallway Mr. Cohen went to check which courtroom they were in. Willow sat down on one of those hard wooden benches and Rowan sat next to

her. Willow looked around nervously for Knox, but didn't see him.

"Nervous?" Rowan asked her and she nodded.

"Why?" Rowan reached out and touched her hand. Willow gripped his hand thankfully.

"I'm worried the judge will not grant the divorce." She told him truthfully looking up at him and she saw Rowan soften.

"Cohen won't let that happen, neither will dad." The reminder of uncle James made her ask.

"How's uncle James been holding up? He's been so worried about me that I forgot that he's going through a divorce too." Rowan looked away from her, but not before she could see the pain in his eyes. "That bad?"

"No he seems fine, it's just that" Rowan started but was cut off when Cohen came back.

“We are in court house number three we are up next.” Willow and Rowan stood up and they started to walk off but Willow grabbed Rowan’s hand,

“Hey your dad is coming over this weekend to celebrate my divorce. Hopefully. Why don’t you come over?” Willow asked before she could stop herself the words just came out.

“Really?” Rowan asked with hopeful eyes.

“As long as it’s just you, then yes.” Willow told him and slowly followed Cohen. Cohen stopped short of entering the court room and waited for her to enter before her. Willow walked ahead of Cohen and he ushered her to a chair. Willow sat down in her chair and everything looked as you would see on a court tv show.

There was two tables for each opposing side, there was an area for the jury, the judge sat up above everyone, and there was a spot for

the spectators. Knox and his attorney finally came in and Willow was beyond shocked by his appearance; he looked like shit. Knox was wearing a suit naturally, but everything else was just not the man who primps in the mirror every day for an hour before work. Knox caught her looking and Willow quickly looked away.

“All rise for Honorable Judge Trainor,” the bailiff said and Willow awkwardly stood up while holding her belly as did everyone else. The judge, who was an older man walked up to the judges seat and sat down. He quickly scanned the room and looked at her throughly enough to unnerve her.

“Sit,” he ordered and the bailiff started talking while everyone sat back in their seats.

“Docket number 894537 Hayes versus Hayes in the dissolution of marriage on terms of adultery.” The bailiff handed the judge a file

folder and the judge quickly read over the papers in the file.

“Can I speak your honor?” Knox’s attorney asked.

“No you may not,” the judge replied not even looking up from the file. The judge continued to read the paperwork,

“I see you are filing for a divorce Mrs. Hayes,” the judge said and Willow looked at her attorney who nodded.

“Yes your honor.”

“I see you have a list of requests.”

“Yes your honor,” Cohen answered for Willow.

The judge read through the lists of demands with a critical eye,

“Well there is nothing unreasonable here except one thing.” Willow’s heart was in her throat as he turned his eyes onto her. “You

are filing for full custody and sole decision regarding your child why is that Mrs. Hayes?” The judge looked at her with shrewd eyes.

“My Client-“ Cohen started but the judge cut him off.

“I want to hear it from Mrs. Hayes.”

“Well sir,” Willow started off very shaky voice. “We separated before we found out I was pregnant. When I told him I was pregnant, despite his initial display of happiness my husband hasn’t shown any interest in my pregnancy. Knox hasn’t been there for me to any of the appointments that he’s been invited to despite been given advanced warning and didn’t even show up when I was in the hospital after almost loosing our daughter.”

“That’s a lie!” Knox shouted out and the judge banged his gavel like in Law and order.

“Silence your client!” The judge looked back at her,

“Do you have proof of this young lady?” The judge asked and she nodded.

“Yes your honor.” The bailiff went to collect the documents from Mr. Cohen and handed it to the judge. The judge looked over the evidence for quiet a while before finally looking at Knox.

“The evidence seems to support your wife’s claims. Anything to say for yourself Mr. Hayes?” Knox was going to speak but his attorney spoke for him,

“No your honor.” The judge nodded and stated,

“Anything else the interested parties want to say before I make my statement?” The judge asked. It was silent for a moment before Knox burst out,

“Yes! I don’t want to divorce my wife! I want my daughter!” Knox’s attorney was desperately trying to control Knox,

“Forgive my client your honor.”

“Mr. Hayes you think you are the first man who graced this courtroom to have thrown away a diamond for some shiny glass? I see cases like yours every day. You don’t want to get divorced now that you are facing the consequences, but as such is life it’s time to grow up young man.” The judge looked at the papers, “I am not only going to grant every one of Ms. Steele’s requests I’m going to extend her alimony for a year given how reasonable the amount of alimony is and the discrepancy in the two’s pay. I will also raise child support once the baby’s born an additional one hundred and fifty dollars. Ms. Steele you have here you want to buy your husband out of the property correct?”

“Yes that’s correct,” Willow stated unable to believe her ears.

“Who put up the down payment?” The judge asked.

“I did, but we contributed equally to the mortgage equally once we bought the home.” Willow replied honestly.

“Is his name on the loan?” The judge asked.

“No it’s just my name and my uncle as he didn’t have credit.”

“That’s-“ Knox tried to say but he was silenced by his attorney.

“Mr. Hayes will receive what he has put into that home, not a penny more. You will repay him what he has paid back. If you need to make installments we can work it out, all right?” The judge stated kindly and Willow nodded. The house was only bought two years ago and the money her uncle gave her would cover it.

“All right, I think we have everything figured out. I will have alimony set up for you right

away as I'm sure money is tight for you Ms. Steele." The judge looked at her kindly and Willow was appreciative.

"Yes your honor. Thank you."

"Now while you may consider yourself divorce we can't actually declare anything until the child is born to have her name on the paper work, so when is your child due?"

"In the middle of February," she responded with a smile and the judge returned it.

"So your just past half way, I'll schedule you down for the beginning of March. Don't worry Ms. Steele only your attorney has to come we can do things by zoom if we need you." The judge accommodated her.

"Thank you, your honor." Willow started to feel relieved.

"It's a pleasure, Ms. Steele and I hope you and your daughter have a nice life." The judge banged his gavel like you see in the

movies and that was the end of her marriage as she knew it to be. She felt the weight come off her shoulders and started to feel free.

Knox pov

Divorced. He was divorced, Knox couldn't believe it. He also couldn't believe the terms of the divorce either. Knox was furious! He thought the terms Willow gave him were unacceptable, this was beyond that.

"This is outrageous! You didn't do anything in there! What did I hire you for?" Knox asked his dumbass lawyer.

"You got off lucky!" His attorney shouted back on the courthouse steps as he watched his pregnant wife walked away.

"You call that lucky? Three years of alimony?! High child support payments? She gets the house!" He was incredulous.

“Once again you are a imbecile! In most cases when a child is involved the woman gets the house outright, you actually get whatever you paid into it.” His lawyer told him.

“Ya well that’s only like twenty thousand dollars!” He hollered.

“Whose fault is that? You! You were a shitty husband and the judge knew it, which is why he extended the alimony and upped the child support. You got off easy, consider yourself lucky.” His lawyer tried to reason with him but Knox wouldn’t hear it.

“How did it go?” His mother asked as she, his father and Memphis walked up.

“Awful!”

“Good” his lawyer and him both said it at the same time.

“I have to pay child support and alimony!” He hollered.

“Not so loud!” His mother looked around like some one would over hear the family drama.

“Big deal, so did I. I still pay child support,” Memphis said with a shrug of his shoulders.

“Don’t let him fool you, he got off lucky. His ex-wife didn’t ask for much despite his high salary, the judge raised the child support when the baby is born. The judge also extended the alimony for another year, he at least gets what he paid into regarding the house.”

“Your lucky, Gina just took my house,” Memphis said. Knox just walked away in a huff as he was sick of people telling him that he was lucky. Knox sure as shit didn’t feel lucky.

Knox was barely hanging on by a thread, he was divorced, lost the only girl he ever cared about, probably going to loose his daughter, lost his home, he was inches being fired from a job that was secured through his

wife. Knox needed Willow to calm him down, but she didn't want to get within twenty feet of him, he didn't blame her. He hated himself too.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 28

The small party her uncle planned was today, but Willow honestly didn't have much to do with it other than inviting Rowan and Tate. Willow had mainly been spending her time on editing Tate's book as the publisher wants it in stores by November. The deadline is in a couple of weeks as it's almost the end of September now.

The two of them are making great progress, but they still have so much work to do. It also didn't help that Tate had to leave suddenly about a week ago. She just got a text from Tate saying he would be out of range for the next several days and he wouldn't be able to respond to messages.

Willow knew better than to ask questions, she was just his editor.

Willow was still working when uncle James showed up with caterers and food for tonight.

“Uncle James, I thought this was supposed to be a small party. The house can’t accommodate caterers like your house,” Willow cried frustrated. Uncle James held up a hand,

“They are just setting up the food and then they are leaving, all but one.” Willow let out a sigh but nodded,

“Okay that’s fine, how many people?”

“I only invited fifteen.” Willow groaned,

“That’s ten more than I wanted!” Uncle James smiled at her,

“You might be surprised.” Willow didn’t say anything else but went ahead and got in the shower.

She quickly washed and got ready. Honestly Willow wasn’t putting much effort into tonight as she was celebrating her divorce. Free of that cheating jerk. Willow left her face clear of makeup, quickly dried her hair, and put on a black sundress. It was the end of September, but it was still nice outside, hence having the party on the patio.

Willow was so tired of these parties, she had managed to escape them for years. It seems now she couldn’t go more than a month without having to be a some kind of a party. Honestly she was looking forward to celebrating her divorce from Knox. It had been a rough four months. She was ready to move on even though she technically wouldn’t be divorced until the baby was born. Willow put a hand on her belly and thought about the life within her.

Willow came out and was surprised to find herself happy with the amount of people at the party. She heard the doorbell ringing a few times while she was getting ready, but you don't rush a pregnant woman. She saw her boss talking to a few other of her work colleagues. Uncle James was talking to his brother, Rowan, and another business associate she had seen over the years as well as her lawyer. The real surprise was when she saw Knox's parents sitting on the lawn furniture talking quietly. Willow quickly looked around for either of their sons and breathed a sigh of relief when she didn't see either of them.

The door bell rang and that made Willow tense up thinking that it was the Hayes brothers. Willow waited impatiently as the door was answered by a caterer. Then she relaxed when she heard his southern accent.

“Willow! Where the hell are ya? I missed you!” Tate hollered. Willow smiled as it had

been at least a month since she had seen him in person. They had talked through Skype, but it just wasn't the same. Willow followed the sound of his voice and stopped dead in her tracks. Damn! Did he look good in his army fatigues. Tate gave her an easy smile and wrapped her in a bear hug and given how large the man was it did feel like a bear. He pulled back,

“When did you get back?” she asked him, Willow was still unclear as to where he was but she didn't pry.

“Just now, your uncle had send me an invite but I wasn't sure I could make it.” Some one has cleared his throat and Tate rolled his eyes.

“Oh this is Smitty, he didn't believe me when I said I met James Cunningham,” Tate stated. Willow looked to the other man and he was incredibly handsome as well, he wasn't built like Tate though. Willow was brought out of her checking out the man named Smitty

when Tate put her hand on her belly. That was Tate's thing he was obsessed with her belly.

"I see your bean got bigger." Tate said with a smile still rubbing her belly.

"I hear my name?" Her uncle James asked coming up to the three of them followed by Rowan.

"Wow! It's really James Cunningham!" The guy named Smitty said starting at uncle James.

"Yes I am, who are you?" Uncle James said a bit snobbishly.

"Uncle James!" She warned him and gave him a look. Her uncle James put out a hand.

"James Cunningham," uncle James gave the other man a shrewd look Willow had only seen him give his opponents. That didn't bode well for anyone involved.

“Sergeant Justin Smith, it’s nice to meet you.” The pair shook hands and Willow could see there was definitely a power struggle going on. That was never a good sign and she was right as her uncle simply dismissed the man known as Smitty and looked at her and Tate.

“I don’t like that one Willow tree,” then he walked off.

“He got a thing against men in the military?” Smitty said a little offended. Willow sighed heavily,

“If you knew anything about my uncle then you’d know that isn’t true as he donates to several veteran organizations. His favorites being K9 for warriors as well as several local VFW’s,” Willow said wryly. Tate looked a little embarrassed by Smitty who still had an arrogant look on his face. There was a tinkling of glasses before anyone could do anything.

“People really do that shit?” Smitty asked and Willow looked at him.

“In certain circles they do,” Willow walked off as she saw her uncle wanted to say something. Her uncle smiled he saw her,

“There she is. I threw this tiny gathering to celebrate the next phase of my daughter and granddaughter’s life.” Willow smiled at that.

“While I’m not truly her father I loved Willow Steele like my daughter since the day she was born. Since my son Rowan carried her into the house crying that she skinned her knee.” Willow looked to Rowan in embarrassment and he just smiled. “I kissed it better and I’m so happy than I can see you through to this next stage in life, I love you more than anything Willow tree,” uncle James raised his glass. “To Willow!” The small group did the same and Willow and went to her uncle and he surrounded her in a big comforting hug.

“I’ll always be there for you,” uncle James whispered in her ear. Willow looked at her belly and could only pray that was true. Willow returned to the party and looked to the food table finally feeling hungry for the first time in so long. Willow finally felt a weight off her shoulders now that she was divorced.

Memphis pov

He had to go pick up his brother from the bar apparently Knox was absolutely plastered. His parents called him and when Memphis asked why they couldn’t do it, they said they were busy. Memphis pulled up to the corner bar and got out. O’Malley’s was where everyone in the neighborhood had their first drink. Memphis was just shocked that his brother went to the old dive bar.

Memphis opened up the door and waved through the sea of bodies. It was packed on a Saturday night. He went up to the bar and was surprised to see Gina. There was an

awkward silence, he wasn't worried about Jackson. Gina was a lot of things, but she was a good mom.

"Hey, where's my brother?" He asked her not bothering with anything else. Gina gave him an odd look and then gestured to the end of the bar. He walked over to his brother and Memphis could tell that he was absolutely plastered.

"Hey b-b-b-bro," Knox slurred as his head rolled up looking at him.

"You ready to head home?" Memphis asked him.

"Don't have a home any-any-anymore," Knox slurred out and his head fell on the bar with a thunk.

"Look Knox I know you are hurting right now, but you have to get it together," Memphis had originally planned to take him to his parents. Memphis looked at his brother and was worried he would choke on

his own vomit if he was left alone. His parents had some party tonight if he remembered right.

“I’m I’m sorry,” Memphis hefted his brother out of his barstool and groaned at the weight. He worked out, but damn his brother was nothing but dead weight.

“Come on man you have to get it together,” he groaned as they started to trip and stumble their way out of the bar.

“Why is that?” Knox continued to slur.

“You have a little girl coming who is going to depend on you,” Memphis wasn’t sure if Knox would remember but he decided to tell his brother anyway. Memphis managed to her his brother to his vehicle after the long stumbling walk. Memphis tried to open his SUV, but his brother was absolutely no help. He finally got his brother seated and buckled when his brother finally spoke up. It had

been so long Memphis almost lost track of the conversation.

“If Willow lets me see her at all,” Knox clumsily looked to him. “You really think I’m going to be able to see my baby getting born?” Knox asked him and then started to cry. Honestly Memphis felt bad for his brother, but what in the world could he say at the point? Memphis got into the drivers side of the car and headed home.

Memphis listened to Knox cry and felt torn. He remembered when he watched Jackson come into this world and despite all the blood, gore, and poop it was the most amazing experience of his life. Memphis got to cut the umbilical cord to his son and watch as he was place on his mother’s chest. That day is still the best day of his life, he felt bad his brother would most likely miss it, but honestly it was his own fault.

Memphis pulled his SUV into the driveway and pulled his sobbing brother out of the vehicle.

“What do I do now?” Knox wailed and Memphis stayed silent. Once again Memphis didn’t know what to tell his little brother. While he wanted to say ‘you are a fucking idiot.’ Knox was still his kid brother so he put his brother on his couch and made sure he laid face down. Memphis waited until Knox fell into a restless sleep and went into his own room.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 29

Tate pov

He had to listen to Smitty bitch all the way back to base. They had to return back that night as they still hadn’t been fully debriefed. Technically the two of them were AWOL, but his CO was pretty chill which was shocking given it was the military.

Smitty was bitching as he was hoping to get on Cunningham's good side, but that clearly didn't happen. Tate listened to him mumble the entire way back to base. Tate didn't understand why Smitty wanted to be on the billionaire's good side in the first place as Smitty was a lifer. He was in his mid thirty's and had been in the army since he turned eighteen just like him.

What Willow said to him right before they left he hadn't been able to get out of his head.

Flashback

Willow pulled him into her room.

"Damn Steele, if I knew you wanted to get busy with me you could have called me over earlier," he teased her with his signature smirk.

"No it's not that," she seemed worried looking around like they were going to have sex or something. Damn he was only teasing.

“Look I debated saying something all night, but this Smitty guy is in your squad or whatever right?” Willow asked him and Tate couldn’t help but smile at her utter lack of knowledge of military lingo.

“Yeah he is.”

“Well I think you need to be careful,” Willow warned him causing him to frown as Willow looked around like she was going to get caught.

“What do you mean?” Then he remembered what James had said, “if this is about your uncle-“ he started to comment to defend his buddy but Willow jumped in.

“Yes it is, but then he told me when we were alone that I wasn’t to be around your friend at all.” Willow told him and Tate was shocked.

“Did he say something else to you?” He asked and Willow shook her head.

“Only that. Tate, my uncle is a self-made made and he got that way by trusting his instincts. He was also in the military as well.” That fact alone made Tate pause and Willow continued on, “I ignored him when he warned me about Knox being bad for me and look where I am now. I’m not going to do it anymore. I know you don’t know me very well, and I hope this doesn’t ruin our friendship because you are the only friend I have. I just worry about you as you are out there doing God knows what with some one who is giving even me bad vibes.” Willow quickly gave him a hug and he left the house with Smitty while James Cunningham carefully watching the both of them.

Flashback over

The two of them pulled up to base and went into the office with their CO to get debriefed. While what Willow had said repeating in her head.

In the last assignment a cache of weapons that was taken by the unit went missing. They were AK-47's and on the black market they were worth about 10-15 thousand dollars all together. It was clear it was some one from the unit, but no one had any idea who had done it. This kind of thing tore apart a unit, as it meant you couldn't trust anyone on your team.

Tate hated to think it was Smitty, but this honestly made him think about it. That night when he was alone in his place he put in a call to one of his buddies who left the service. His buddy was currently working in cyber security. He had him run Smitty's financials, it would take a couple of days to get everything.

Tate decided to show up to Willow's place the next day as if the previous nights conversation never happened. Tate knew she probably didn't sleep the previous night worrying about what she told him. Willow

was sensitive like that and honestly he loved that about her. He knocked on the door and heard her yell,

“Coming!” Tate smiled imagining her waddling to the door. Willow’s belly had popped out quite a bit the last few weeks since he had been gone. He thought she looked so adorable. He always wanted to be a father, it just never happened for him. Now he was approaching thirty and living through this woman he really didn’t know that well. Of course he did a basic background check on her, but what did a background check really tell you about a person?

Willow opened the door while he was lost in his thoughts, he came back to himself as he saw she had a nervous smile on her face.

“Hey Tate, come on in.” Tate greeted her as he always did and wrapped her in a big hug and rubbed her belly. He wanted her to feel like nothing had changed, as it hadn’t from

his perspective. She was just looking out for him.

“Have you been feeling the baby kick at all?” Willow smiled as the two of them entered the house and walked to the living room.

“Just little flutters here and there like the doctor said, nothing more than that.” They quickly sat down and started to get to work on his book, that’s deadline was rapidly approaching.

Willow pov

She was surprised that Tate showed up and pretended like everything was normal between them. Willow was afraid that he was going to be mad at her for what she had told him, but she couldn’t just ignore it. That man gave some bad vibes off of him the other day, just from the way he stared at her unnerved her.

The two of them worked all day only stopping for her frequent pee breaks.

“Man I’m starving, want to go out to eat?” Tate asked around four in the afternoon.

“Well I have dinner plans with Rowan tonight, he’s closing out his internship and I wanted to help him celebrate.” Willow informed Tate and he nodded and then headed into her kitchen looking for food. Rowan’s internship had lasted longer than most and has been back at school for a month, but was still finishing up the last hours of his internship. When Willow asked about it apparently they made an exception for him as he was also taking summer classes online.

Willow didn’t mind that Tate was currently eating her leftovers from the party as she had told him on day number one to make himself comfortable. Tate was hesitant at first, but the two of them had shared many long days working on his manuscript and eventually he became comfortable in her

home. Willow was glad to see it, hopefully it meant he had become her friend.

“No problem I will drop you off,” Tate called from the kitchen. “Got anything good to eat?” He asked as he was done with the left overs.

“You mean other than what you just inhaled?” Willow laughed.

“I’m a growing boy! I need all the food I can get!” Tate told her with a flourish to his musclebound arms and Willow just laughed.

“The housekeeper just restocked my kitchen,” Willow said trying to go back to work, but she was distracted now thinking about tonight. Willow was nervous about the dinner as she hadn’t been alone with Rowan in over ten years, well other than the meeting where she told him about the affair. They were meeting up in a place near his law firm so it was down town, but she couldn’t help but think about the last

conversation they had in high school. The last time Rowan said some truly hurtful things to her. He told her that she was fat, ugly, and he didn't want to be her friend any more. Willow stopped talking to him after that, they only talked in front of their parents for appearance sake. It cut the knife in every single time. He was her only true friend, or so she thought.

Rowan approached her last night and suggested to celebrate both her divorce and the end of his internship over dinner. Uncle James was there and he thought it was a great idea and she was cornered. God she hated this, she wished she could stand up for herself. Willow had no choice, but to accept. Tate came out of the kitchen with a plate piled high with food and Willow couldn't help but smile.

“What? I'm a growing boy?” He said with a handsome smile.

“I can see that.” Tate was in fact a big, big boy. Like the song.

“What time are you meeting this douche?” Tate asked still eating, how could he still be eating?

“Six,” Willow said and looked at the clock realizing it was time she needed to get ready. “You sure you want to drive me?” Tate knew she hated driving downtown, it came up when she saw his monstrous truck.

“Not a problem,” Tate said waving her away.

“You need to get to work,” Willow said as she got up and started to get ready. Willow took a bath this morning as she had been dealing with headaches and some round ligament pain. She didn’t want to take too many pain medication, so she took a bath to try and ease the pain.

Willow quickly fixed her hair and put on a dress as it was still hot out despite it being the fall. She put on her trusty leather jacket

in case it got cool later on in the evening. Honestly she didn't put much effort into the dinner, but she wasn't slumming it either. She walked out of her room and told Tate she was ready.

“Wow Willow you look great!”

“Thanks!” Willow gave him a small smile as he looked at her with kind eyes and a big smile.

The two of them headed out and Tate helped her into his truck and turned on the massive engine.

“You sure you're okay taking an Uber home?” Tate asked her. Willow nodded as they headed out of the neighborhood.

“Yeah I'm fine, I appreciate the ride.” Willow felt her phone vibrate in her pocket so she pulled it out.

Ro: I'm sorry, Regina found out about the dinner and she invited herself. I understand if you want to back out.

Willow received the text just as Tate pulled into the parking lot of the restaurant.

“You have got to be flipping kidding me!!” Anger flared up in her hot and heavy.

“What? Did I hit some one?” Tate asked frantically checking to see if he hit anyone in the tiny parking lot.

“No,” Willow said defeatedly as she handed over her phone. Tate quickly read their conversation thread.

“So is this the slag that slept with your husband?”

“Slag?” She asked and he shrugged. “Yeah that's her. Please take me home.” Tate sat there for a moment and then said,

“No you need to go in and stand up for yourself. Show her that what she did meant nothing to you.”

“But it did! It almost destroyed me!” Willow cried out and Tate let out a sigh. “And what show up and be a third wheel, it will be like high school all over again.” Willow could feel her heart rate starting to pick up knowing that her bully was in there. Willow took deep calming breaths to try and get back on level.

“I’ll go in and be your date.” Willow looked at him surprised,

“Tate no one would believe that you are with me.”

“What why?” Tate said looking confused.

“Look at you and look at me.”

“I am, so text that jerk that you will be there.” Willow sighed and nodded as Tate got out and opened her door.

My Husband Cheated with My Bully Chapter 30

Rowan pov

Today started out as such a good day, how did it end up this way? How did he find himself in these situations?

It was the last day of his internship, which he loved working with Cohen. Excluding the fact that the man was a world renowned lawyer who everyone knew by name alone. The man was a genius and was teaching Rowan things that he himself would probably take twenty years to learn on his own. Rowan felt incredibly lucky that Cohen had taken him under his wing.

Rowan had one semester left of classes and then he was done. Well technically he still had to pass the bar, but he wasn't worried. He always aced his exams. His exam was scheduled for next month, while he wasn't worried about it didn't mean he wasn't

studying his ass off. The office had a going away party for him, which was great and it truly felt like he made connections other than from his last name.

He left for his home thinking about tonight. Rowan didn't know why he asked out Willow for dinner last night. She just looked so radiant last night and he had felt jealousy watching her talk to Tate. Rowan knew he had no right to feel jealous as he was still technically with Regina. Rowan couldn't help it, as he watched Tate rub her belly he wished it was him. He had so many regrets when it came toward his treatment of Willow, it ate him up inside.

Rowan knew it was low for asking her to dinner in front of his dad, as dad had been helping her out quite a bit recently. Rowan had been happy to see their bond had been restored.

Rowan himself had went to his father privately and tearfully admitted that his

mother had manipulated him for several years. He apologized to his father for the way he had been acting. His dad wouldn't hear a word of it and told him it wasn't his fault. His mother manipulated them both for years. Rowan left his childhood home feeling so much lighter, but still mad at his mother. That incident was several days ago and he was focused on tonight. Rowan got home and quickly jumped into the shower, imagining how tonight would go in his head. He would apologize and try to get back to being friends. Well maybe acquaintances would be a better goal. It didn't matter, apologizing was key. The rest he could figure out.

Everything was great, until he stepped out of the shower and there was Regina sitting on his bed half naked. She seemed to know of his plans, and hell maybe the witch did. Regina could have cameras all over his house. It had been so long since Rowan had cared about anything, until Willow had walked back into his life. Rowan ignored her,

but she continued on about how she was excited for their night together and how they hadn't been spending enough time together.

Regina showed up and he felt like he had no choice but to take her to the restaurant. She pestered him about his plans and he told her that he had dinner plans. He reluctantly agreed to taking her to dinner with him, the restaurant wasn't nice, but it wasn't a dive either. Regina started complaining the second they walked into the restaurant.

Rowan quickly texted Willow giving her the updated change in plans and praying.

Honestly Rowan wasn't sure what he was praying for, for her to come or to cancel. He was embarrassed by Regina's choice in clothes, the words that came out of her mouth as she complained, just everything about her was an embarrassment.

The second Willow walked in he knew that this whole thing was a mistake, just inviting her to dinner. In his head Rowan thought he

could finally have some one-on-one time to catch up with Willow. However, looking at her walk in and then looking at Regina he knew that was never going to happen as she was threatened by Willow. Regina had always been threatened by Willow, which is why she bullied her. She was radiant, Willow radiated an earthly love and beauty that everyone responded to.

Willow walked in with that damn huge guy and the second she sat down Regina started in on her, just like old times.

“Willow! It’s so great to see you! Wow you are gaining so much weight!” Regina said and Willow looked ready to cry.

“She’s pregnant bitch,” the man stated in an icy voice that reminded Rowan of his father. Rowan felt so much embarrassment at that moment for not being able to stick up for his friend. Tate helped Willow sit down at the booth and he quickly sat in next to her

rubbing her belly. Jealously hit him in the chest.

“It’s good to see you Rowan, Regina,” Willow said with a small smile. She really was an amazing woman, he was really seeing why his father wanted him to marry her all of these years. The waitress came, took their drink as well as their food orders and walked away. Regina needlessly harassed the waitress about the menu and Willow had to intervene several times. Embarrassing.

“So when did you two start dating? Aren’t you still married to Knox?” Regina asked and Rowan couldn’t stop his groan.

“Regina!”

“My being married didn’t stop your from fucking him now did it Regina? While you were engaged to Rowan no less,” Willow shot right back with fire in her eyes.

Ugh things couldn't get any worse could they? Rowan wanted to hide in the corner and die.

Willow pov

The dinner went as she expected, the second she and Tate sat down Regina started being passive aggressive. If that didn't get under her skin then Regina was outright hostile. Willow did her best to stay calm and civil but the comment about dating some one else when she wasn't technically divorced got under her skin. She wasn't nervous like she expected herself to be, she actually found herself to be angry. Willow snapped back and the politely excused herself and went to the bathroom. She didn't miss the look of triumph on Tate's face and the look of embarrassment on Rowan's.

Willow returned from the bathroom and froze in her tracks. Honestly she couldn't believe what she was seeing in front of her.

“Willow?” She heard Rowan walk up to her.
“Willow?” Rowan called to her again and she quickly silenced him as he started to apologize.

Willow placed her hand over Rowan’s mouth and he just gave her a questioning look.

“Look,” Willow gestured over to the couple in the booth. There sat Aunt Diane and Willow’s father having a very intimate dinner.

“You never know it could be,” Rowan tried to defend the two of them but stopped when they started kissing. Willow was in shock, but Rowan quickly pulled out his camera and started taking pictures.

“Send that to me would you?” Willow asked still numb. Honestly she wasn’t even that surprised, after these last few months nothing surprised her any longer. Willow turned around and headed back to the table. She was just so done with the drama. Dr.

Rayas was very clear that she couldn't handle any stress without the possibility of losing the baby. This night has been nothing but stressful and so had been the past several weeks being under the deadline. Willow walked back to the table and saw the food had been brought to the table. Willow tried to act normal, but what she had seen just rocked her foundation. She felt the gears shifting in place and Willow didn't know what to do against the change.

“What were you two doing in the bathroom together?” Regina asked and her voice was laced with suspicion.

“Don't worry we were just talking,” Rowan stated dismissively. Regina snorted,

“Oh I know Rowan would never sleep with you,” Regina stated as her fork moved the salad around her plate.

“Which just proves intelligence isn’t hereditary,” Tate commented as he was devouring his food.

“What does that mean?” Rowan asked and Willow looked around for the waitress. Willow finally waved at one that caught her eye.

“Your father is the smartest and shrewdest man I think I have ever met,” Tate stated.

“Can I help you?” The waitress asked.

“Check for me and him please?” She asked and the waitress looked and apparently could feel the tension as she just nodded and started to walk away.

“Boxes too please,” Tate threw in.

“Are you saying my RoRo isn’t smart? He’s going to graduate from Harvard Law school in a year and then we are going to get married,” Regina stated enraged and Willow

felt some hurt at her using the childhood nickname she had given him.

“Yeah what a prize a cheating wife,” Tate said in between bites. Regina let out a shock of outrage and then looked at Rowan,

“Are you going to let him talk to me like that?”

“He’s not wrong,” Rowan said with a shrug and Willow couldn’t help but laugh.

“So I’m not a prize?” Regina asked and Rowan’s silence was deafening.

“Come on lady your nothing more than a child throwing a tantrum right now, how is that a prize. Not to mention your full of Botox and your skin color is in no way natural,” Tate told her finishing off her burger. The waitress came back and Willow simply handed over the debit card not bothering to look at the bill. Regina started letting out little huffs.

“Rowan!!”

“Come on Regina we both know why I’m with you,” Rowan stated with a sigh. Willow was confused by that comment but didn’t say anything as Regina was so enraged that she let out a little shriek and stomped out of the restaurant.

“Class act,” Tate commented as he boxed up her mainly untouched dinner and the waitress returned. Willow made sure to leave a large tip to the waitress and apologized as she had seen the waitress apologize to other tables.

“Well...” Willow trailed off.

“It’s been fun,” Tate cut in and stood up shaking Rowan’s hand quickly. “Let’s double date again sometime.” Willow managed to wiggle herself out of the booth with Tate’s help and slowly walked out of the restaurant.

When they were back out on the road Tate had started laughing,

“What?” Willow asked him.

“Man that woman is batsh.it crazy!” Tate stated still laughing and his comment made Willow laugh too.

“Thank you so much for coming with me tonight,” Willow said and looked at him.

“Anytime babe,” Tate responded and she blushed. Tate helped her into his gigantic truck and he took off back to her home.

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Willow laid down that night and pulled up an email from her boss. The publishing house was impressed with the sample chapters of the book and if Tate’s book did well there was a job offer for her. They were offering Willow to be a full fledged editor, but the downside was that she would have to move. The offer wasn’t in Boston, it wasn’t even in

Massachusetts. Willow initially ignored the potential job offer as she wouldn't want to leave her family.

Though after the past couple of weeks she realized what would she truly be leaving behind? Willow's only support system was her uncle James. Her in-laws were supportive of her, but if push came to shove Willow was sure they would choose Knox just like Memphis did.

Willow knew the affair of her father and Diane was going to blow up and have a huge fall out, and honestly she didn't want to be around for it. Her mother had two people in this world and they were Diane and her father. Willow knew her mother was going to come crying to her. while it may sound bad, Willow was still hurt her mother didn't show up at the hospital for her and she didn't want to deal with her mothers drama. Willow had too much of her own she was trying to escape from.

Willow rubbed her belly thinking of how her life wasn't a healthy environment for her daughter.