

Chapter 18

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[Vivienne]

As we sit in her office, Rosita orders coffee and snacks for us.

"So, tell me all about yourself. What have I missed? Where have you been? How come it's so impossible to find you on social media? Because trust me, I tried, but no results."

She was right. I haven't been as active on social media as I would have liked to be. After marrying Caden, I took it upon myself to make him love me back. I thought if I dedicated myself to our relationship enough, he would finally acknowledge my love for him. But I assure you that didn't happen. Now that I think about it, I only humiliated and embarrassed myself.

But those days are gone. I'm no more the same Vivienne, and I swear to God, I never will be.

"Well, it's a long story," I tell her and she inches forward, cupping my hand.

Her eyes soften. "Oh, Viv. I hope you know that you can tell me anything you want. We are still best friends, right?"

I smile, my heart suddenly too full. "Of course, we are. That's why I'm here. Aren't I?"

So, I told her everything about my life with Caden. The past three years that I spent with him, waiting for him, hoping for him to change his mind, expecting him to treat me like his wife and not like some

## Chapter 18

employee he could summon and dismiss at his heart's desire. I told her everything.

When I am done, Rosita's whole face is red with anger. "That son of a bitch. If I get my hands on him, I'm going to break every single bone in his body! He used you! He used you like a doll to dress and hid you like a scandalous secret. How could he do that to you? And to think he cheated on you... you should sue him and get as much money as you can. Seriously, what is wrong with him? He's such a... such a..." she tries to think of a suitable insult for him and I know just what she wants.

"An asshole," I finish for her and she smiles, clapping her hands with excitement.

"An asshole! Yes. A Grade-A, fucking asshole!" She jumps from her chair and walks around the table, grabbing me into another tight embrace.

"I'm sorry so much happened, Viv. I wish you had come to me sooner. Maybe I could have helped in some way or the least I could do is provide moral support."

I sigh, shaking my head. "I had to learn from my mistakes, Ro. And I did. I'm never going back to him. Never. I'm done with the Lawrence family, for good this time."

"So, what do you plan to do now? You could start by divorcing that idiot. I know a great lawyer, in fact."

"I have my father's lawyer helping me with this. It's still in the beginning, but we're making progress. I think we could get a divorce

within six months. But there is so much more that I need to do. I have plans, Ro, and I want you by my side while I execute them."

"Anything, just say the word and I'm with you, one hundred and ten per cent. I will support you all the way."

I hug her back. "Thank you. That's all I wanted to hear. Thanks for being such a wonderful friend."

"No problem," she says as she pulls back. "But before we can proceed, I need to ask you one more question."

"Sure."

She takes my hand in hers, a worried look in her eyes. "I know you have decided to divorce him, but just for the sake of formality, I need to ask: Are you still in love with him? Can you really go on with your divorce or is there something holding you back?"

I am silent for a few seconds, considering her question. It's a good thing I don't have to lie or feel ashamed of the truth. I look directly into her eyes and give her an honest answer.

"I'm not. I don't love him anymore. I'm ready for the divorce."

She sighs with relief. "Okay, now we're on the same page. You are going to love your new life, Viv, and I'll make sure it will be an amazing one."

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[Caden]



I walk into the office, only to find a white envelope sitting on my desk.

I frown and check for the sender and recipient.

My frown deepens when Vivienne's name catches my eye.

I tear the envelope open, and various credit and debit cards tumble onto my desk.

"What the hell does this mean, Vivienne?" I mutter to myself.

There's a note inside the envelope. It reads:

"Now that I have decided to end this marriage, I think it's only right for me to return everything that belongs to you. I never used your money or cards. Everything I bought, I paid for myself. You probably won't believe me, but that's okay. I'm done trying to prove myself to you. See you never, Caden."

I crumple the piece of paper in my hand, anger coursing through my veins.

"Sasha! Get in here!"

Sasha rushes in, looking flustered. "Yes! Sorry. I didn't hear you come in."

I glare at her, and she shrinks under my gaze.

"Call the finance department and ask them to send me my last month's expense report. Now!"