

The Ruined Bride of Velvet Nights by Brick Moving Ant

Chapter 36

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- I dragged myself to school with puffy eyes, having skipped the morning classes,
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- I slipped into the classroom after the afternoon lesson had already started.
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- Zephyr’s eyes locked onto me immediately, a vein visibly throbbing at his temple,
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- Pissed about my ghosting him last night, he reached around from behind and grabbed my waist, squeezing hard enough to leave a mark.
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- I shoved his hand away, which made him slam his elbow onto my desk in retaliation.
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- My notebook crumpled, pens and highlighters clattering to the floor.
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- I said nothing, just avoided his touch.
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- I bent down to gather my scattered supplies. He pushed his tongue against his cheek, his eyes dark with barely contained rage.
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- Halfway through class, a commotion erupted on the track field below.
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- Someone had collapsed. Everyone rushed to the windows to see what the hell was happening.
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- The moment we realized it was Katherine Linderman lying on the ground, Zephyr’s entire body went rigid, and he roughly shoved me aside.
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- “Get the fuck out of my way!” he snapped.
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- Despite being on the second floor during class, he stepped onto my chair and launched himself out the window.
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- He slid down a tree and sprinted toward the field like his life depended on it.
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- He aggressively pushed away the guys trying to help,
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- Then cradled Katherine in his arms with unexpected gentleness as he carried her to the shade.
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- By the time the rest of us reached the field, Zephyr was performing mouth-to-mouth on Katherine.
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- His typical cocky attitude had vanished, replaced by careful, measured mogenesis
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- Like he was handling the most precious thing in the world. Even though it was jner CP, and us squealed and covered their faces. Zephyr was actually blushing too
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- Katherine let out a soft moan and finally opened her eyes.
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- “Zephyr?” Her voice was honey sweet and delicate. Zephyr gently brushed her hair from her face his eyes suddenly pools of tenderness and concern.
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- “I’m right here,” he said softly.
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- He took off his varsity jacket and wrapped it around her shoulders, lifting her in his arms
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- bridal-style.
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- The summer breeze stirred around them, creating the perfect romantic movie moment
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- The jock rescuing the beautiful cheerleader, treating her like irreplaceable treasure.
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- The squealing around us reached fever pitch.
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- I stood rooted to the spot, watching this nightmare play out in real time.
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- Katherine noticed me, bit her lip, and curled further into Zephyr’s arms with theatrical shyness weakly pushing against his chest.
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- “Zephyr, stop... your girlfriend is right there... this isn’t... right...”
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- Zephyr turned to look at me, all warmth evaporating from his eyes, replaced by icy disdain.
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- “Girlfriend? That fucking joke? Please.”
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- I opened my mouth, but before I could speak, Zephyr raised his hand to cover Katherine’s ears protectively.
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- “Listen, Johnson, don’t think you can say shit about anything just because I messed around with you a couple times.”
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- “If you ever make Katherine uncomfortable, I will end you. Got it?”
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- Katherine nestled against his chest, her seemingly innocent expression betrayed by a flash of

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- triumph as she shot me a subtle, victorious smirk.
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- My heart felt like it was being shredded, the pain unbearable.
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- Why?
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- If he wanted Katherine all along, why did he ever touch me?
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- Why use me to get off, then humiliate me in front of the entire school?
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- Calling me easy, assuming I was on the pill, playing with me like some disposable sex toy.
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- My body, my feelings, my self-respect.
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- Even our history going back years.
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- None of it meant a goddamn thing to him!
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- I had never felt such complete humiliation and shame.
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- Tears streamed down my face uncontrollably.
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- I gripped the edge of my shirt with white knuckles and turned away, desperate to escape before I completely fell apart.

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