

Chapter 43 - Submitting to My Best Friend's Dad by Scarlett Rossi

"Becca!" The sound of banging woke me up in the middle of the night, and with much reluctance, I climbed from my bed and made my way towards the front door. At 2:00 in the morning, there had better be a good reason for someone to wake me, but when I looked through the peephole, I was shocked.

Allison stood on the other side, beating her fist against the door as if she owned the place and wanted in. I was done with her bullshit, and more than anything, I just wanted to be left alone.

Yanking the door open, I stared at her with narrowed brows and clenched fists. "What the f*ck do you want?"

"What do I want?! What the f*ck are you doing in my apartment?" she scoffed, trying to push past me.

The feeling of anger boiled over in me, and I had finally had enough.

Shoving her back, I watched her stumble. "You assaulted me!" she shrieked. "I'm—"

"Shut the f*ck up, Allison. I want you to think about this for a moment because you're really getting on my last f*cking nerve. This isn't your apartment. It's James' apartment, and you are not married and haven't been in years... you're trespassing. Want to continue?"

She stood, opening and closing her mouth before stomping her foot. "You're ruining everything. I don't understand why you won't just f*cking leave. You're not welcome here."

"Leave?!" I screamed at her. "I f*cking tried, and he made me stay! So if you have a f*cking problem, take it up with him, and leave me alone, damnit."

My outburst seemed to catch her off guard because there was nothing but a stunned expression on her face as she seemed to take everything I said into account.

"That's not true—"

"Just stop it," I said, cutting her off. "How you're acting is pathetic, and honestly, you need to take shit up with him because none of this, from the beginning, was me. It was all him."

"I don't believe you—" she laughed. "There is no way.."

"You don't have to believe it, but it's still the truth. You need to leave me alone."

She stepped towards me, but I held my grip on the door, prepared for whatever she was about to do. I wasn't a fighter; I had only been in one physical fight in my entire life, but if this woman wanted to go, then we could go.

"I'm going to let you in on something, Becca," she spat with a smirk on her face. "If you don't stay away from him, and find yourself on the next flight home, I will destroy your entire future... starting with Yale."

Fear ran through me with her words. It was the one thing I was worried about her doing from the beginning, and James had kept reassuring me that nothing like that would happen. He told me I had nothing to worry about.

"F*ck you, Allison. You can't scare me," I replied through gritted teeth.

"Oh, no? The thing is, I can... especially with all the information I recently found out about you. Do you think they would want to be affiliated with a student who was caught in such a scandal if it made the news?" she said, crossing her arms over her chest.

She was right, though. They wouldn't want to be part of anything like this, and if she wanted to, she could ruin my life. Just as I told James could happen.

"If that is something you want, then perhaps you should convince your ex-husband to stay away from me because he is the one who is chasing me. Not the other way around."

With my grip on the door, I slammed it in her face and locked it.

The tears that poured down my face were uncontrollable as I slid to the floor and cried. There was no way I could allow myself to lose everything I had worked so hard for because of a man. Even if I was in love with him, was all of this honestly worth it?

"Becca..." A soft voice said from the other side of the door. "It's Allegra, sweetie. Please open up."

As much as I didn't want to, I didn't want to be left alone. Slowly moving aside, I reached up, unlocking the door so she could come inside.

"Oh, sweetie—" she said when she took in the sight of me.

"What are you doing here?" I asked her. "Don't you have a full night of fun?"

"What?" she laughed. "No, girl. I left not long after you, and the neighbor called me to tell me about the commotion. I ran into Allison on her way out, and she got a taste of what I had to say."

The look on Allegra's face made me chuckle through my tears.

"I don't know what I'm doing. That's so wrong. They have been divorced for years. I don't understand it," I replied, wiping my face with the back of my sleeve.

"You did nothing wrong, Becca. Honestly, I was surprised by how James acted at the event. He is a strong-willed man and usually puts his foot down with things."

"Yeah, well, I guess I'm not enough to stick up for," I scoffed, shaking my head.

"No, I don't think it was that. I think it was the fact there were so many eyes upon him, and he didn't want to cause a scene at the event. He is one of the top contributors every year," Allegra sighed, shrugging her shoulders.

Perhaps that was the truth, but at the end of the day, he should have said something last night and he didn't. Instead, he agreed he shouldn't have brought me there.

"Well, according to James, he agreed with the notion he shouldn't have taken me there last night, and instead of coming here after the event... you can see he went home."

Standing, I made my way towards my room, with Allegra following behind me. I wasn't sure what to do, but now that Allison knew I was in this apartment, I didn't want to stay here.

I didn't want to have her constantly harassing me and following me around. It was a complete invasion of privacy, and I knew she would keep to her word and try to ruin things with Yale for me.

She was just that kind of person. A sadistic, twisted individual who took pleasure in tormenting others even if she won't get anything from it.

Pulling out my suitcases, I started going around the room, collecting my things. There was no way I was staying here, and considering James hadn't arrived yet and it was almost 3:00, I doubted he would be.

"What are you doing?" Allegra asked as she watched me pack.

"I'm leaving. Allegra, I am not playing these games with him. I care about him, yes, but I don't have time for this drama. This wasn't what I signed up for when I came to Miami."

It wasn't what I signed up for. I didn't ask for him to want me.

Even if I didn't stop it from happening.

"Becca—" she said again as she grabbed my wrist to stop me. "Don't do this."

"Why, Allegra? Is he here right now comforting me? No, he isn't. You are, and I'm grateful for it, but this is just too much for me. I should have enough money to book a ticket back home," I replied, zipping up my bag, and pulling it off the bed past Allegra and towards the door.

"Don't be silly. You don't need to book a ticket," she said again as I collected a few things from the living room.

"So you're expecting me to keep putting up with all of this, then?"

Rolling her eyes, she smirked. "No, smartass. I'm suggesting that instead of letting them ruin the rest of your summer, you just come stay with me until the day you leave. You can ignore him if you want, and me, you, and Neal can have fun instead."

"The last time we tried to do that, he followed me to Velvet," I sighed, remembering the night he showed up in Velvet and told me I was his.

Just thinking about that night made me want to cry. Everything about the way he treated me and possessed me broke my heart because it was one thing about him I fell in love with.

Who was I kidding, though? How could I honestly talk about love with him when I had only been here a few weeks?

"I don't know. He will know that I am there." I sagged my shoulders in defeat. "Why can't my life just be easy?"

"Life isn't meant to be easy, Becca. Now come on. We can take your stuff up to my place, and the good thing is... I have the room still ready for you," she said with a smile.

"Isn't Neal using it?" I asked, with confusion.

"No, he is in another room. I do have more than two rooms, Becca," she replied teasingly, causing me to smile.

Of course, she did. I suppose part of me just wasn't thinking straight.

"Okay, let's go then," I said, forcing a smile to my face. "You're right. I shouldn't let this drama get to me, and I only have like two weeks left, anyway. So I should make the most of it."

With excitement, she took my large bag and began walking down the hall. However, I found it hard to take the step I needed to pass the threshold to the apartment.

Turning around, I let my eyes cast over the place, and the enjoyment I had experienced being here with James came back to me. He had done nothing but treat me like a princess, even though I never asked him to.

The idea of having to let go of him tore at me. The conflict weighed heavily on my mind as I tried to understand what the hell I had gotten myself into.

Was I really going to be one of those girls that clung to a man who had more drama than a TV sitcom, or was I going to stand up for myself and remind people I knew my worth.

Taking a deep breath, I pushed through my feelings and closed the door behind me. When I turned, I found Allegra was waiting patiently for me at the end of the hall, and while I never would understand why she was so kind to me, I was grateful.

Without having her around, I don't think I would have been able to handle all of this. Dealing with the drama from Tally and Allison was mentally exhausting, but every time something happened, Allegra was there to pick me up when I fell.

She was becoming the friend I had always needed, and I was grateful for that.

Perhaps, with her by my side, I could get through everything after all.