

## Unholy Gestures Chapter 07

I don't realise where I was going until I slowed down and recognised the path to the little clearing I go to during my night walks. As beautiful as the place is I don't think I've been there during the day.

Because I'd been with Cole all day every day.

I'm happy that I kept this little place from him, he is someone who knows my every move and if I had told him of this place this would be the first spot he would look.

I pushed past the little brush there was and walked to the far edge. I sat down and looked at my surrounding. From here was the sight of the city. Santorini. Such a beautiful place. I'd come here hoping to explore the culture. Fly to Athens for a couple days, walk around the wonders. All the ruins that hold so many stories that had been lost to time.

Being with Cole gave me all of these opportunities, I could finally learn who I truly was, and I was happy. Cole helped me become me.

I was no longer the anxious, overworked young adult moving to Melbourne to find a new life. I was running. I loved my family and friends but sometimes I felt suffocated. Claire followed me and we had stayed the closest of friends. Both stressed to the max but living together and having fun. Or what we called fun.

But Cole, I met him, and my life was turned upside down. He took me on dates, actually showed me the city and was the kindest person I had ever met. He helped me realise that there was a lot more to life than actually just going to work, earning money, and going nightclubbing some weekends. Spending time with people who really never mattered in life. He showed me how to become a flexible and carefree woman who still knew when to be serious. I love him. And I love the person he helped me become.

I trusted him with everything. More than I trusted Claire and Jax, he truly not only was my other half but my best friend. I don't know how to live without him. I don't think I could. Everything would remind me of him.

Except this clearing. I came here on night walks when I struggled to sleep. He knew I walked around at night but he assumed it was just around the block and back.

"ADDISON!" I heard a voice yell. I knew that Claire or Jax would find me. They know about this place and they know me. They know that I run, I run and find someplace safe.

I could hear the rustling of the brush being pushed aside as someone walked into the clearing. I didn't take my eyes of the ocean in front of me. I kept looking over the view, watching as the sunset in a burst of colour. Watching as the sky glowed from the suns slow course, going from a bright blue burning to an orange and yellow fading into a

gorgeous pink and eventually darkening the sky into a dark purple. Nearly how I'd see this area every night.

Claire sat down by my side.

"Jax told me everything. I'm so sorry Adi." I didn't say anything, I was afraid that if I opened my mouth, the tears that had stopped hours ago would come flooding back. The burn of my throat wouldn't let me forget. The ball of pain I only held back by silence.

"Cole is desperately searching for you, I had to sneak out of a window to make sure he wouldn't follow me." I manage a weak laugh, the image of Claire climbing out of a window was not something that I'd imagine but I could totally see her doing it.

"He's trying to explain and reason his way out of it. Celeste isn't taking any of it, neither is his parents or Dylan. Heath and Tyler however see nothing wrong."

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"That's because they try to get with any girl no matter their relationship status." I say dryly. I thought that those two had more respect when it came to cheating, especially when it came to their friends. Apparently not.

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"They sure are. They tried to get with me when I first met them. The only thing they have going for them is that they're funny and hot." She laughs. I have to laugh with her.

"Sometimes that doesn't trump dickhead though." I say after laughing.

"It should never trump dickhead. The second they grow old; they're no longer going to have their looks. They will just be disrespectful twats." I don't say anything, I'm just tired now. "Adi, you're going to have to come back tonight. You can't stay out here. But don't worry, it'll only be for one night. I had Jax book tickets for the three of us to leave tomorrow."

"I don't want to go back and see him. He's going to want to talk. I can't face him right now; I know I should let him explain but I can't. Not right now. Not after what I saw."

"We can sneak back through the window I left, and you can stay in my room tonight. And when we get back to Melbourne you can stay with me and Hunter."

"Thank you, Claire, I don't know what I'd do without you."

She grins at me, "crash and burn."

xX—Xx

I lay in the bed next to Claire. I could only stare up at the ceiling. I could hear the ruckus that was still being made downstairs, I could hear him attempting to make excuses. It

was a mistake, you're damn right it was a mistake, an unforgivable mistake, she doesn't mean anything, apparently neither do I.

I love Adi, only Adi, I would never. But you did, you did and you have no real reason why.

I couldn't stay here and listen to his excuses but Claire was laying next to me so I couldn't leave.

"How early were those flights, Claire?" I whispered, there was no way I was going to risk him hearing me. Even though there is a whole floor between us.

"Early enough that we should be sleeping now." Groaning she rolled to face me, "I know this is hard, I have no clue what you are going through and being here is hard, it's only 9 o'clock and the flight is for 4am. Try to sleep."

"I can't not with him telling everyone it was a mistake; he didn't mean it and that he loves me. If he truly loved me he wouldn't have even thought about cheating on me. and I don't think this was the first time."

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"Oh, A, I wish we could leave right now, I wish we could be back in Melbourne, in our crappy apartment before all of this started."

"I don't, as much as I hate what he did, if we went back to the start you wouldn't have met Hunter, I wouldn't have seen Jax again. I wouldn't be this person. I just wish he didn't do this. Or that he claims that he loves me."

Claire was cut off from responding by the door creaking open, "Good, you're both awake, I got sick of his whining, come on, lets get out the windows and leave, I booked a hotel for the three of us."

"Does it have to be out the window?" Claire whines. I look at Jax before laughing.

"Yes, you should be used to it, running away without me to find Addi." Jax laughs. Unfortunately that got his attention, hearing three people laughing when supposedly there was only Claire upstairs.

I could hear him running upstairs, I shoot Jax a panicked look and he just mouths at me to jump out of the window now.

I look to the already open window and see that there was a tree there and that would make it so much easier. I practically jump out of the bed and manage to climb over the windowsill before he makes it to the door.

I wiggle my body through the gap and grab onto a branch that is luckily able to hold my weight and let go of the building just as he pushes Jax out of the way.

He flicked the lights on in the room and fortunately it stopped just short of where I sat on the branch, I should be hidden as long as I don't move and he doesn't come over to the window.

"Where is she? I know you know where she is." He demands. I could imagine him frantically searching the room.

"Why would we tell you where she is, Cole?" Claire shoots back.

"Because she is my wife."

"Not for long, buddy." Jax says calmly.

I thank the God that I don't believe in for Jax being bigger than Cole.

"Do you believe that just because she is your wife you deserve to know where she is? Is this what you were like your whole relationship?" Claire asks, I mentally groan, now is not the time for her to be questioning him.

"I deserve to know where she is because I need to talk to her,"

"Need? Or want?" Jax interrupts.

"She's here somewhere, you two wouldn't leave her alone. Not after what she went through." He said, sadness soaking his voice.

Cole flung open the wardrobe, I silently scoff, why would I hide in there, hasn't he learnt anything? I'm someone who runs away from the house. Admittedly, I'm in the tree next to the house, but usually I'd go for a walk.

We had an agreement, if we got pissed off, we'd take a walk to cool off, collect our thoughts and then talk again. Get out point across with minimal fighting.

Maybe I should let him talk. If it goes wrong I can tell him I need to take a walk. It would calm us both down.

But then I'd have to climb out of the tree into the room, that would be a little awkward.

"Di, I know you hate me right now, but I have to talk to you. You know I wouldn't do anything like this, just give me a chance."

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I scoff, if I knew he wouldn't do anything like that, then why did he?

Cole's face appeared at the window and I realise that I said it out loud.