

# You Once Called Me Wife

## Chapter 2

"I don't know what you think you know but there's nothing going on." he says quickly.

I pull my phone out and pull up the picture I took of him kissing her hand. The picture shows him there with his ring off kissing the hand of another woman.

"This should jog your memory. You can tell me, you know that no one important is just a spam call." I seethe out.

At this point Chris must understand that his lies are catching up to him because he rubs his hand down his face. It's all there for me to see when he looks back over at me. The guilt, shame, and something else is there all over his face.

"I never meant for things to end up like this. I was going to talk to you about it soon. I was just working up the courage to tell you." he says.

"Tell me what?"

"I'm leaving you. I fell in love with Opal and I want to be with her." He says rubbing his hand across the back of his neck.

It's worse than I thought. He's cheating and in love with the other woman. He's leaving me just like that. No trying to work things out or therapy. He decided that we were over without me even knowing something was wrong.

"Better get packing then. I want you out of the house. I assume you're not going to try and take my dead grandparents home from me, right?" I say with all the venom I can muster.

Chris sighs and looks at me. I think he was expecting me to beg him to stay. I'm not interested in begging someone to be with me. If he thinks that I need to degrade myself by begging him after all that he's done. I can't imagine asking him to stay knowing that he wanted to leave and give me up like we were nothing.

“McKenzie, don’t be like this. You know I would never do that to you. I know how much you love this house. I’m not a monster.” Chris says standing up and walking toward me. I put my hand up to make him stop.

“But fucking around behind my back makes you a saint? Don’t kid yourself here Chris. You are a monster. Maybe not one that would beat me or still my home, but you’re one who crushed my heart and soul. So yeah a monster. Now pack your stuff and get out. I’m sure Opal will love to have you at her place.” I tell him as I walk around him.

I go to the bathroom and close the door. I can’t stand the thoughts of looking at him another minute. I’m hurt, angry, and for some reason slightly ashamed. In a small town people know about what everyone is doing. If this had been going on for any amount of time like it was today then someone knew about it. Someone knew and never said a word to me. That thought alone cuts me like a knife.

I had never seen Opal before yesterday, so that means she’s not originally from here. So the people that saw my husband running around with her would have known me before her. I’m a loyal person naturally. Even if my worst enemy was in this situation I would have told them about it. I wouldn’t want to be left in the dark. But that is exactly what everyone did.

My thoughts turn dark as I think about whether my parents and best friends knew about this. Surely they would have told me. I’ve always prided myself on being able to be a good judge of character. I surround myself with people that I know are loyal. Well I thought I did at least.

I stop this line of thinking before I get myself down into a hole I can’t get out of. Just because Chris is a lying dog doesn’t mean that everyone is. My shattered trust in him shouldn’t shake my trust in others. I may struggle with romantic relationships the rest of my life but everyone else hasn’t done anything that I’m aware of yet. Time will tell who I can trust and who I can’t.

A knock comes at the door and I shutter. I don’t want to talk to him or see him. The thoughts alone make me both murderous and nauseous. There has to be a way to get through this night. Once he’s gone I can call my girls and parents to find out what in the hell has been going on.

“Kenzie, I need to get my stuff from there.” Chris’s voice comes out soft. He only sounds like this when he’s guilty about something. He sure as hell is guilty this time.

"I think you and your girlfriend can afford to spring for a new toothbrush and some soap. I'm not coming out until you're gone." I answer him in an even calm tone.

It's quiet for a few minutes but I'm not dumb enough to think that he has left. I can hear his breathing on the other side of the door. I imagine he's rubbing the back of his neck trying to think of what to say that won't make this worse. The thing about Chris is that he always wants things to be perfect. He doesn't do well with conflict and he always tries to make things right no matter what.

"Kenzie I didn't set out to hurt you. I need you to know that. It just happened and I can't turn my back on her. I love her too much for that. I'm sorry."

I soon hear the front door close and his car pull off. I sit there on the toilet and think about what he said to me. I have my feet on the lid and I'm curled up in a ball rocking back and forth. I don't know what's more prevalent, anger or hurt. Those two emotions are so close in the way they burn themselves into you. Most of the time you can't feel one without the other in my opinion.

He loves her too much to turn his back on her, but he can easily do that to me. He didn't mean to hurt me, but chose to do this anyway. He had to know that this would ruin me. How could it not? Yet he knowingly had an affair and announced he was leaving me for the other woman.

I'm still surprisingly tear free when I text the girls and my parents that I need them to come over now. I told them I'm not physically hurt but I need all of them. Ten minutes later I hear three vehicles pulling up in my driveway. They all head up the porch together and I open the door for them.

They must sense that something terrible is wrong because they head to the living room without saying a word. I know that I must look off because I can feel how tight my face feels and I'm clenching my hands constantly. Once they sit down and stand there in front of them ready to tell them what has happened. I pull out my phone and pull up the picture of the two who ruined my life. I handed it to my dad.

"Chris has been having an affair with a woman named Opal. I saw them today and took that picture. When he came home I confronted him and he told me he was leaving me for her. My question is did any of you know?"

My question is answered by a resounding No! yelled out by all the people in the room. None of them have ever lied and I don't think they would start now,

not with this. My mother stands and pulls me into her arms. Still there are no tears to be found in my eyes.

"I've seen this woman around town for a few months. I saw them having lunch one day but it looked just like a business thing. There was nothing going on that I could tell. I spoke to Chris and everything." my friend Annabeth says.

"You guys didn't hear any rumors or anything?" I ask as I pull away from my mom.

"Nothing. Why wouldn't someone tell us if it was this out in the open?" Erika, my other friend says.

"Because who do most people in this town bank with?" My dad says. There's an edge to his voice that I've never heard before.

"You're right, who would want to go against a Weston in this town? They control all the money basically. Sure they've never done anything that would make you think they could be petty but this is their son we're talking about. They'd do anything for him." my mother says, shaking her head.

I can see that this is taking a toll on all of them. Everyone in this room had always gotten along with Chris. He and my father would watch football together on Sundays while my mom and I cooked together. The girls had always liked him since we were in school. He was one of the good ones they would always say. He had us all fooled into thinking he was something he isn't.

My dad stands and starts walking to the door. The look on his face is purely murderous and I'm scared to think of what he's going to do.

"Dad?"

"Alex, where are you going?" My mother says.

"Stella, that asshole has keys to this house. I'll be damned if I'm letting him get back in here. I'm running to the hardware store to get some things to change the locks and make it safer here." With that he walked out the door and left.

I have a feeling things just got messier.