

## Chapter 29 Back Home

I left and messaged Alaric to let him know. When I got home, I walked into the kitchen. Bex and Ivy looked towards me.

"You left on our girl's night!" Bex glares at me.

"Oh, come on. You didn't even notice. I told you this morning." Ivy laughs. "You were that drunk and didn't notice she disappeared."

"Fine, I didn't notice, but you left for Jake!" Bex stares at me in disbelief.

"I did, yes. He apologised, explained what happened, and what changed."

They stare at me. "You took him back and stayed." Bex looks at me, shocked.

"No, we spoke. He left, and I waited to speak to Alaric. I stayed last night with Alaric, not Jake."

"So he stopped ignoring you?" Ivy laughs.

"He had no choice; I was at his when he walked in. However, I did realise that my timing in saying we should take a step back made it look like I had used him for revenge."

Ivy laughs. "I told you that. You did it the moment Jake knew. Now, why do you have Alaric's car?"

Oh, of course, they would notice. "I was at his business; he gave me the keys to come back and will drive my car back later." I sit with them and explain that things are sorted.

We're going slow, but sorted.

"Ruby, do you want to help me?" I turn to Ivy, confused. "Just say yes."

Hell no, is she crazy? Just say yes! "I'm not saying yes before I know what you want my help with."

"I fell out with Oliver, but he will talk to you. He's at a party."

Wait. Does she really want me to find Oliver? "Ivy, if you fell out, then you need to talk to him."

"I can't. I was annoyed and told him to block me because I never wanted to speak to him again. So he has, and well, his friends won't let me in the house."

Laughing, I nod. "What did you argue over?"

She looks down at her hands. "Sam messaged me, and I spoke to him; it was innocent, but I lied to Oliver about who was on the phone, so now he thinks it's more than it was."

My eyes widen. "Why would you lie?"

"I panicked! He found it weird that one of my best friends at home is a guy and an ex. Please." She looks at me with puppy eyes.

"Fine, I will walk around there now." Standing, I walk out, and Bex joins me.

"Two will work better than one; if he tries to run, I will stop him." I laugh and nod at her words. We walk in to the house, and I look around; I find Oliver sitting with friends. He looks hurt.

He smiles at me but then glares at Bex. "What did you do?" I turn and look at her.

"Threatened to kill him if he didn't unblock her, so he blocked me."

"Go away. You will make it worse." I push her away and walk to Oliver.

"If you're here for Ivy, don't waste your time." He stares at his drink.

"Ask me anything about Sam; I know everything." He looks at me. "I can tell you easily, Oliver. It's been six years since they dated. They grew up together; she ended things with him. They still talk once a month and maybe see each other twice a year."

"He's her ex."

I nod at his words. "Yes, come on, Oliver. You're here; he's about six hours away. She fucked up lying about who it was. She panicked. Are you really going to let a guy who is six hours away push you out of the relationship?"

He stands, and I follow him through the kitchen. I watch as he hands me a drink and leans onto the counter.

"I don't care that it's her ex. She lied, and that hurt—not as much as her flying off the handle and telling me to block her."

Nodding, I understand how he feels. Alaric blocked me. I also know why she did it, though.

"Oliver, has Ivy told you about the relationship she was in after Sam? The guy called Harry?" His head shakes.

"I won't get into it, but it wasn't good, arguments were bad, really bad. It means Ivy panics when there are arguments or shouting. Her telling you to block her was safety; she blocked Harry, and he just got new numbers; she changed her number, and he found out. You need to speak to her."

What she did was wrong, but I know her issues with trust and Harry cause it.

"See, she hasn't told me. She barely told me anything after she left Sam." He rubs his face and sighs.

"Because she lost her life with Harry for over three years. You're the first guy after Harry; I'm not saying anything else; speak to her, Oliver." I can't fix this. Only they can.

"Thanks, Ruby." He hugs me, and I watch him walk out. Ivy should have told him about Harry by now. Standing, I turn to leave.

"Hey."

I stop and look at Max. "Hi, Max." Moving, I go to step around him, his body moving in the way.

"So, you and Oliver?"

My eyes widen. "No! He's with Ivy." What the hell?

"You looked cosy." He leans into me.

"We were talking; now move." I step around him, his body moving and blocking my path. He pushes the door closed. "Max, move."

"Make me Ruby." He stands smirking.

"Move!" I push past him to get to the door, but his hand grabs me.

"Oh, come on, Ruby, you used Oliver and Jake's dad for revenge, so why not use me?" He moves to kiss me, my hands pushing him back. As he pulls me closer, the sound of my top ripping makes me panic.

He forces his mouth on mine, opening mine; I bite against his lip, hearing him scream. His hand pushes me back before swinging and hitting my face. My head hits off the side, and I groan, watching his body fall forward.