

Chapter 40 Her Part

I'm alone when I wake up. I need to get contraception sorted today. Getting ready, I walk down and find the house empty. Grabbing my phone, I smile and see Alaric's name.

Morning baby girl, I expect you to eat today and drink enough water. I'm not sure how long I will be, keys to the cars are hung up if you need to leave or go home. A x

I cook while updating Bex on things, although there is nothing to update.

After eating, I sit with the laptop and begin looking for work. I then start feeling sick. Walking to the kitchen, I grab a glass of water before sitting back down.

I ate too quickly. An hour later, I began my university work. The last thing I want is to not do it and get told I am staying. The phone ringing has me pick it up and answer.

"Yes?"

"Yes, baby girl?" I smile, hearing Alaric's voice.

"Sorry, I didn't look." Okay, I did sound rude.

"It's fine baby girl, did you eat?"

My eyes roll. "I did, Sir. I had breakfast and drank water." That was more because I felt sick.

"Good, I was just checking in. I will see you in a few hours." He ends the call, and I laugh. Okay, I want sex. Standing, I walk through to the garage and look at the cars and keys.

I'm not comfortable just picking. Taking out my phone, I hit Alaric's name.

Which car? You have too many.

I'm not about to get in any. Why does he have so many cars and bikes anyway? I feel like it's an obsession of his.

The second set of keys on the left, baby girl, take the Bugatti Chiron; it's closer to the doors and easier to get out.

My eyes roll at his message. I grab the keys and look at the cars. Which is it? I guess I need to ask. As I'm about to, another message comes through.

Metalic blue baby girl, stop looking at them like they will bite.

I turn and look around, how did he know? Another message comes through.

Lol, I've cameras, baby girl. I'll stop watching you now and do some work.

Rolling my eyes, I walk to the car and unlock it. I'm not comfortable with this. It looks expensive. The door opens, and my eyes roll. I like simple things, but these doors do not open like normal ones.

Getting in, I close the door and start the car. Okay, I need to do this. I can't avoid it and wait for Alaric to come back to take me. I should have driven here myself; then my car would be here. Driving out, I leave and go to a clinic. Stopping outside, I walk in.

An hour later, I walk out with more pills, this time not ineffective ones and condoms, so now he can't avoid fucking me. Driving back, I park the car and walk in.

I'm glad I did that, taking one of the pills I start cooking dinner. I need to check the replies for jobs in a bit. As I'm finishing putting food on the plate someone rings the gate.

Walking to the small screen, I look and groan. Hitting the button, I speak.

"Yes?"

"Hi Ruby, I left something the other night when is stayed. May I come get it, or you could bring it out?" Standing, I consider it. She can't do much I'm here. Hitting the button I turn off the intercom and wait.

A moment later, she knocks, and I open the door.

"Sorry, I realised that I left something in Alaric's room." Oh, great. Moving, I let her walk in but followed her. "I don't need watching, Ruby."

She is wrong, she does. I don't bother replying and follow her into the room, I watch he look under the bed and pick up an earring.

"They are my favourite." She smiles and walks out, I go to the door and open it waiting for her to leave. She turns and walks into the kitchen. Sighing, I follow her.

"You need to leave."

"Mmm, no, I don't." She sits and looks at me. "It's not your house, Ruby; you don't get a say."

"You're right, it isn't. But Alaric wouldn't want you sitting here." She needs to leave.

"How's your course going, Ruby?" She sneers the words at me.

"Great, now leave." I'm not getting into a conversation with her.

"Great? Are you sure?" She laughs and leans forward. "From what I hear, you're on a tight leash that might just, well, snap and end it all."

How does she know? I stare at her, and she laughs.

"Money is powerful, Ruby. I'm sure Alaric offered to fix the situation, and I'm guessing you refused. It's such a shame, as he could have easily fixed it."

"Just leave!" My words are loud, and I feel sick. The smell of the food turns my stomach.

"Oh, not yet. I'm not finished, Ruby; I want my money."

"It's not your money!"

Laughing she nods and walks into another room, I move and follow her. "You need to leave."

"And if I don't? Will you drag me out while I scream? Please do. His neighbours won't see him as perfect anymore. Maybe you will call the police? That would be fun, right?" She pours a drink and walks around the room.

I don't want to have to message Alaric to come back and get rid of her. Moving, I stand in front of the unit as she goes to open a drawer on it.

"I already know what's in there, Ruby; I checked that night I stayed."

"Look, just leave." I take out my phone and message Alaric.

"No thanks." She sits and smiles. "You know...Max was right." My body stills as I hear her words. "You really do need knocking down a few steps."

I don't reply; I just stand and stare at her. I won't even get into a conversation with her.

"You see, Jake explained you were his ex. He explained everything, and well, it was far too easy to find that video and track down Max. He wanted you to pay, and so did I. Then I realised that me ripping your life apart would make Alaric send me the money."

It won't because I won't let him. He's not paying her to leave me alone. My eyes stay on her, watching her every move, and she laughs.

"Oh, Ruby is trying to give me the silent treatment. Enjoy it, Ruby. I've got a plan. If this doesn't force him to hand over money, I have other ways."

Her smile widens more. "I'm not leaving Ruby. You can drag me out, but I will stay and wait outside for Alaric to return. How's the pregnancy?"

"Stay, wait for him." I've given up.

"You know...Alan Richardson doesn't take too kindly to people lying about his children."

Everyone knows Max's dad doesn't like anything bad said about them, truth or not. He ensured all of Max's brothers' issues vanished. I heard stories of the students who reported him, and they had nothing but hell since.

"You're not very talkative, Ruby. What if I tell you I met your parents this morning."

No! "Why?" What the fuck?

"Oh, I don't know, maybe to destroy that relationship a little more. Which I did. I hope you didn't want your parents to forgive you, as that won't happen now."

"Just leave." I'm done. She's using me to bribe Alaric, and I can do nothing to stop her.

She laughs and walks to me. "You were the perfect little church girl, Ruby. That was until you met my son." My body runs cold at her words. "Your parents sympathised with me. They told me everything. You were wild at sixteen, weren't you?" My head shakes at her words. That was different.

"They told you?" I fight back the tears

She laughs loudly. "Oh, they told me everything. A pastor's daughter turned whore." Her hand swings and hits me. Stumbling back, I regain my balance and see someone step in front of me.

"Enough!" I hear Jake, and he glances behind towards me.

"We were just talking, Jake." She laughs and walks away slightly.

"No, you fucking hit her, Beatrix! Just leave. Dad's on his way back now."

"You should be happy, Jake. What was it that you said? She destroyed your life and made you feel worthless and needs to be hurt." She replies and laughs.

"No, I fucking didn't!" Jake looks at me. "I swear I didn't."

I nod at him and smile. "I know Jake, it's fine." I won't trust anything she says.

"Just leave." Jake stays in front of me.

"Do you love her, Jake?" Beatrix asks, I watch as she finishes her drink. "You're protecting her," she sighs and glances at me. "It was a local thing, right, Ruby? How bad will things be if, let's say, everyone found out about your past? It's bad, Jake. You should really have been told." She chortles as she finishes her drink.

"I fucking know already, I've known all along. Why are you doing this to her?" Jake stares at her, confused.

"Why wouldn't I, Jake? He nearly sent me the money until that thing got involved. I wouldn't have had any issues walking back in here and playing the dotting mother and winning him around if he didn't love that piece of trash." Her hand points at me aggressively.

"Then I'll give you the money," Jake replies, and my head shakes. "You promise to leave her alone, and I will send you my inheritance."

"No, Jake!" What the hell?

"You don't have it, remember, you told me." Beatrix laughs and stands.

"I can have it anytime I want. I didn't want it. So if you want money, I'll give you it but you promise to stay away from Ruby and my dad." Jake's words are loud.

"How much is there, Jake?" She looks at him.

"Jake, don't fucking do it." I plead, hoping he listens.

"See it as me apologising for fucking up two years of your life." His words are quiet, my eyes widening as I shake my head. He turns and looks at her. "There's over one million, enough, so you don't need to come back."

"Jake, please." I implore.

"You don't deserve this, Ruby. She's using you to get to us, and it's wrong." He turns and faces me. "I know what happened, Ruby, and while the full story doesn't make you look bad if she only says part of it, it will destroy you." His words are whispered.

"How do you know?" I didn't tell anyone. He smiles slightly at my shock.

"Okay, give me a minute." Jake pulls out his phone and makes a call. Standing, I listen to him talk, shaking my head at him.

"Jake, remember I said about thinking things through and asking yourself if you should help people and are they worth it? I'm not fucking worth it." He can't do this.

"At least you realise you're not worth saving, reprobate." She laughs her words loudly at me.

"Leave now!" I jump at the loudness of Alaric's voice. I watch as he takes Jake's phone off him and ends the call.

"I'll be back, Alaric. It's such a shame you figured out the issue with your car." She laughs and walks out.

"You're here?" Alaric asks, looking at Jake.

"Well, you called, said your car had stopped, and you were worried about Ruby, so yeah. I might be fired though as I walked out when they told me not to." Jake chuckles and steps away from me. "She will need ice for her eye."

Alaric looks from him to me, and I watch Jake leave the room. I feel like I should leave, and then Beatrix can't use me to get money. This is caused by me.