

Husband With Benefits

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As the words, 'take off your clothes' echoed in her head, Nora's eyes were as wide as saucers, ready to fall off from her head! In fact, if she were a cartoon, her eyes would already be hanging out with springs. The man left angrily in the morning and then suddenly he returned home in the afternoon, which was surprising, but the moment she entered the door he asked her to get rid of her clothes.

"Uhh... it is the afternoon...", she pointed out.

"I know." He answered.

Was he using some strategy to distract her? Nora shook her head in denial and crossed her arms in front of her as she said, "We cannot do this and that! We need to talk."

Unexpectedly, Demetri's lower lip kicked up as he heard her words, "This and that? Where is your mind, Nora, hmm?"

Nora gulped at his words. He seemed somewhat different. Was this the direct result of their fight in the morning?

"Uhhh... what is going on?", she asked meekly.

Demetri shook his head and sighed, "I am not going to ravish you...for now."

Nora giggled nervously, "That is quite an old word..."

Tired of her delaying tactics, Demetri quickly walked to her. Before she could even draw a breath, Demetri's fingers had already slid into the waistband of her jeans and pulled her towards him. In the next minute, her shirt had been unbuttoned and her jeans were around her knees, and she was left blinking.

Even though she'd been with Demetri and he'd seen everything, and the clothes she now wore were much like a bikini, she somehow felt... exposed and vulnerable to him. She had the sudden urge to cover herself from his gaze. But she need not have worried, he'd already turned away.

As she noticed what he was doing, she forgot her feeling of self-consciousness and looked into the black suitcase that he had just opened.

First, he picked up a hair brush and summoned her closer. Curious as to what was going on, she stood close to him, waiting for his next move. Her eyes widened when he did show her what it was. "There is a hidden dagger in the handle of the hairbrush. Keep the brush in your bag at all times." As the black dagger glinted dangerously the light, Nora gulped softly.

He then threw the dagger aside and picked up something else...She had no idea what the black belt-like-looking thing was and continued to stare as Demetri went down on his knees. With his hand, he gently nudged her legs apart and wrapped the black belt around her thigh explaining, "This is a drop leg holster. It will fit a small gun that you can use against someone if they try to attack you. I'll teach you how to use the gun."

Next, he pulled out a cord and gently wrapped one around each of her upper arm. Nora frowned at the simple-looking cord wrapped around her arms with the small knot hanging and looked at him questioningly, "This is known as the monkey fist. It looks simple but the knot has a steel ball inside. Swing it at something or someone with enough force and they won't know what hit them."

Nora's eyes widened as he then placed a body chain around her, starting from around her neck to falling in a delicate pattern and crisscrossing over her body. As he wound a pretty chain around her, she could not help but wonder what this delicate thing could do.

"This body chain is the first weapon you should use in case you are under an attack. It is the most delicate looking but, in a struggle, this will be the most helpful to you."

It is equipped with a GPS system, pressure sensors and even a little powerhouse that sends out shockwaves to the person who is attempting to hold onto you, stunning them for a few moments. Other than this, the shoes have a push knife in the soles which can be extracted from the back, the cell phone cover has a tiny knife inside. It won't cause significant harm to the attacker but can delay them hopefully. This is the..."

Before Demetri could continue to explain the other weapons, Nora quickly threw herself at him, hugging him. Just this morning he had been against her plan to use her as bait. But now, he had actually brought an entire arsenal for her to carry around.

With a sigh, Demetri caught her in his arms hugging her back. All morning he had been hoping that she would change her mind but after this morning, he understood what she was going through. He understood her desire to shorten this torture of living in the dark waiting for the fall to come. So how could he stop her when he himself would have done something similar in such a position?

So, the next logical thing had been to help her carry out her plan. They would of course send multiple people around to protect her but even so he could not take a chance with her safety. So, he'd spent the entire morning consulting experts and getting as many weapons as possible so that she could carry them with her, on the off chance something unthinkable happened and the people slipped.

"Thank you for trusting me, Demetri." Demetri sighed and gently kissed her lips," It wasn't about trust, Nora. I just wanted you to be safe. Now, I need to teach you how to fire a gun..."

Nora bit her lip and questioned," But I don't know how to aim. I am very bad at it..."

"Then you will fire the gun from a close range. As long as it protects you, don't bother if the other person is killed or maimed. Understood? Remember if they are not dead or maimed, they will harm you. Do not hesitate."

As Nora nodded hesitantly, Demetri stepped back, his eyes taking in her from head to toe. He had made sure that she was covered with weapons all over. As he looked at the leather and chains wrapped around her, he sighed. His little kitten looked dangerous carrying all that... but she also looked so beautiful...

"Nora... come here..." Mesmerized by his expression, Nora walked closer to him and he gently started to take off all the weapons that he had attached to her, the change in atmosphere palpable. By the time, his hand gently caressed along the side of her thighs, as he unclipped the drop holster, Nora knew it was time for... this and that...

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The rhythmic hum of the bus served as a backdrop to the loud noise as the students slowly started to settle into the bus. The atmosphere was alive with loud laughter, ribbing among students and throwing of snacks at each other. Nora took in all of this with a glance before turning her attention to her novel. She was covered from head to toe with weapons and in no mood for this holiday.

She hoped and prayed that the risk she was taking this time would pay off. Even though she had already spotted the security that Demetri and the police had arranged for her, she found herself on the edge. The only way to calm herself was to immerse herself in the world of a book so that she would not be too worried about the danger to come.

Nestled in a corner against a window, she continued to read her book, when suddenly she felt a dip beside her. Turning her head to greet whoever was going to be her seatmate for the journey, Nora let out an "Oh..." as she realized that it was Sara who sat next to her.

Sara gave her a strained smile as she said," I hope you don't mind."

Nora shook her head and turned away but not before she saw Antonio who had turned around in his seat and was now staring at them with a frown. Suddenly she wanted to say something to Sara, about keeping her away from whatever argument she'd had with

Antonio. There were so many other empty seats around, but she simply kept her mouth shut. Maybe if she pretended to be invisible... She was happy when it worked and Sara also kept her mouth shut.

However, she should have known that her peace would be short-lived. They'd barely been on the road for thirty minutes when Sara almost moved onto her lap as she tried to read her book with her over her shoulder.

Lowering her book, Nora turned her head to look at her questioningly. Sara gave her a sheepish grin and fidgeted with her phone, "Actually there is nothing new or interesting on social media. And I thought the book must be really interesting that is why you were so engrossed..."

Nora frowned and glanced at Sara before slowly marking her page number and closing the book. "You want to talk..."

Sara gave her a surprised look which Nora interpreted as her wondering how she knew. Sighing, she pointed out, "You've been moving around on that seat as if there was an entire colony of ants under you."

"Oh..." Sara exclaimed.

"Sara, whatever it is you want to discuss, I am not the right person for advice. If you have problems with Antonio go and talk to him."

"But you were with him for so many years? You must know what he was thinking..."

"If I had known what he was thinking do you think I would have ended up being the one who was cheated on?"

Sara looked down at her hands after Nora's pointed question and sighed, "Fine, I concede that you have a point, but I do not have anyone to talk to. The other girls all want Antonio for themselves and if I tell someone that we are having trouble they will definitely take advantage to take Antonio from me. I cannot let that happen. Actually, we had not planned to come to this trip earlier and instead were planning to have a small getaway of our own. But suddenly Antonio started to insist that he wanted to go... and then we fought..."

When Sara trailed away after narrating her story, she looked expectantly at Nora who looked at her with an impersonal expression and asked, "Do you want some advice?"

Sara nodded, "Yes. There must be a way you would know how to talk to him after a fight. This is our first fight, please help me."

Nora sighed and turned back to her book before murmuring, "Then go and talk to him before other girls realize that he is sitting alone."

Sara looked at her consideringly, wondering if Nora was giving a piece of truthful advice or simply mocking her. Seeing that the girl was serious, she decided that maybe she could do it. Nodding her head decisively, Sara said, "You are right. I should go talk to him. Bye Nora."

Nora hummed in response to Sara's goodbye and kept her eyes glued to the pages of her book, however as she was left alone, she could help but feel the chill run up her spine. Antonio and Sara had added their names to this trip at the last minute.

She patted the chain around her neck to comfort herself. Could it be Antonio who had been behind all the attacks? She shuddered to think about this and quickly typed a message, "Antonio and Sara joined at the last minute."

The unease of this realization settled over her like a shroud. Her mother had always hated her so her wanting to kill her was something she had reconciled with. But why would Antonio do something like this? She watched covertly as Sara and Antonio interacted.

The scenery outside transformed, the city giving way to rolling hills and lush greenery. The group's excitement mounted, voices rising in anticipation of the weekend ahead while Nora remained focused. She would have to find a way to confront Antonio discreetly. If he was indeed the perpetrator, she would need to create an opportunity for him to attack her. Her future and the success of this plan depended on it.

Maybe she could use Sara to bring out Antonio's true intentions. For all his faults, he really seemed to dote on her. However, she could not tell Sara directly as the girl would never believe her over Antonio. She looked down at her mystery novel as another idea started to form in her head. She knew she was taking unnecessary risks but she was determined to get rid of the threat this time.

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