

## Broken 123

Chapter 123 Voice Of Warning AMY Back at the office, the world seemed to move a little slower. The hum of the computers, the muted conversations from the finance floor, the steady rhythm of Daniel's pen tapping against his desk; all of it felt strangely comforting now and it was like the universe had finally allowed us a moment to breathe. Truly breathe. Maybe because, for once, I wasn't constantly waiting for the next disaster to fall out of the sky. Daniel sat across from me, going through a report, brow furrowed in concentration. Every now and then, his eyes flicked up to watch me type, like he wasn't even trying to be subtle about it. After a few minutes, I sighed without looking up. "You're staring again." My voice was teasing and I struggled to hide my faint blush. He didn't even deny it. "I was just wondering how you manage to look that serious over an email draft." I turned my head toward him, arching a brow. "It's called focus. You should try it sometime." I lectured. "Focus?" he teased, voice dropping to that low drawl that always made my chest tighten as his eyes raked all over me like he could eat me raw from his position "Pretty sure I am." I tried not to laugh or squirm under his gaze. I really did but the corner of my mouth betrayed me as well as the tingling sensation between my legs that I tried to control by rubbing my legs together softly. "You're impossible." He leaned back in his chair, that faint, boyish grin softening the sharpness that usually lived on his face. "You like that about me." His voice sounded like he knew the state of my pussy underneath the table. "Not during work hours," I said, returning to my screen. But my fingers hovered over the keyboard longer than necessary, and my pulse had that quiet skip it only ever got around him. The space between us buzzed with unspoken warmth, that easy connection we were both learning to stop running from. We both froze when the office door opened without knocking. Mrs. Carter stepped in, looking as graceful as ever and elegantly composed, her presence always filling a room before her voice even did. A soft smile touched her lips as she looked between us. "Well," she said lightly, "it's nice to see happiness in this house again," Daniel cleared his throat, straightening his tie as if that could erase the warmth on his face. "Mother-" She waved him off. "Oh, don't start. I'm not blind, Daniel. And I was not born yesterday." I felt my cheeks heat, but her smile was gentle, almost wistful, it was a mother's quiet joy edged with relief. "It's been a long time since you've looked this at ease," she said. "Both of you." Her perfectly manicured hands gestured at both of us. Her eyes lingered on us for a heartbeat longer before she turned and left, leaving behind the faint scent of jasmine and the echo of her quiet blessing. Daniel looked at me, amusement flickering in his eyes. "You heard her." "I heard nothing," I said quickly, pretending to return to work.

He chuckled. "Sure. I heard nothing either." That evening after a brief intimate stroll, the air outside the estate carried the faint chill of early nightfall. The garden glowed under the soft light of lanterns, the scent of wet earth and roses drifting between us as we walked side by side. It felt peaceful in a way I didn't trust. It was too still, too damn gentle. Like the silence before a storm. But I couldn't voice that unease. I didn't want to ruin the fragile calm we'd finally found. "I keep waiting for something to go wrong," I admitted quietly, the words slipping out before I realized I'd actually said them. "I don't know how to exist without... chaos. Without trying to fix or fight something." Daniel slowed his steps, his hand brushing mine. "You don't have to fight everything, Amy." A brief pause "you really don't" I looked up at him, eyes catching the faint light. "But that's all I know how to do." He reached for my hand fully this time, fingers intertwining with mine. His grip was warm, steady, sure. "Then let's learn how to live with peace together." The words hit deeper than I expected. It wasn't just a promise, but it was more of a choice. One that scared me because peace meant vulnerability, and vulnerability meant the possibility

of losing it all again. Yet somehow, the thought didn't feel terrifying anymore. It felt... freeing. I smiled softly. "You make it sound easy

"It won't be," he said. "But it'll be real." He bent slightly, and when he kissed me, it wasn't rushed or desperate. It was full of promise, slow, grounding, and alive. His lips moved against mine with quiet certainty, and for a moment, the noise of the world just disappeared. The night air wrapped around us, cool and fragrant, almost like approval. The moonlight caught in his hair, and I thought this is what peace feels like. Not the absence of pain, but the acceptance of it. When we finally pulled away, I felt something unclench inside me. For the first time in a long time, the silence within wasn't heavy or guilty. It felt like home. Like somewhere I truly belonged. We turned to head back inside, fingers still intertwined. And that's when Daniel's steps faltered. His gaze shifted briefly toward the east wing, the one that overlooked the lower gardens. A shadow flickered across one of the upper windows. Just a blur, there and gone in a heartbeat. My brows furrowed. "What is it?" I followed his gaze, but by the time I looked, there was nothing. Just the faint reflection of lantern light on glass. He blinked, then shook his head with a faint smile. "Nothing. Probably just a reflection." But the way his jaw tightened told me he wasn't completely sure. Still, he squeezed my hand. "Come on. It's late." We walked the rest of the way in silence, pretending not to feel the chill that lingered behind us. The air suddenly felt too still, too cold. When we stepped inside, I caught one last glimpse of the window. The curtains moved slightly even though the glass was closed. I told myself it was the wind. But a quiet voice inside me whispered otherwise and I fought hard to ignore the loud voice warning me.