

-Brie-

I spotted Aubree seated in the waiting area... her eyes fixed on her phone's screen.

I shook my head and doubled my steps. I inquired about some information from a nurse who was passing by.

Aubree cleared her throat and I looked away from the nurse.

"Yes Brie, I am very fine. Thanks for asking and you don't have to thank me for getting your little hellion here in time."

"Look Aubree, don't call my son that. We're not in a good place right now but don't drag my son into this."

"Oh shut up. You know mean no harm by that," she told me.

She looked in a direction and stood up. I followed her gaze and it was Beck.

"Hi," he said to me.

"Is he okay?" I asked, avoiding his gaze.

"The doctor said everything is normal now. We got here in time."

I let out a huge sigh of relief.

"Thank God!" I whispered, rubbing my temple.

"Whose child is this?" we heard a nurse ask.

"Mommy!" Roman stood up from the wheelchair and ran up to me.

"Hey, hey, hey slow down champ."

But before Beck could finish he was already hugging me tightly. I buried my chin in his hair.

"I'm so sorry for not being there baby. Are you okay?"

"Yes. Can I have some candy now?"

I chuckled and planted a kiss on his forehead.

"How subtle" Beck chuckled

Roman grinned.

"Excuse me...is there someone here to fill the boy's forms?"

I looked up.

"Yes, I'm his mother."

"It's okay Bee. I'll do it. Just stay here with him."

I nodded and he walked away.

"I'm sorry I scared you again Mommy."

I shook my head.

"I promise I'm not going to leave you alone again okay?"

I smiled at him.

"I'm never going to be so careless again!" I added and he hugged me.

"Oh finally, mother!" Aubree shouts.

"Oh thank goodness you're alright!" Mom cried.

"Grams!" Roman ran up to her.

I sighed as my father made a beeline toward me.

"Darling..."

I hugged him.

"Daddy."

"We're sorry dear."

"No Dad... I'm sorry. I should have just hurried back from the mall. Then at least my son wouldn't be alone and I wouldn't have to be in Aubree's debt."

He smiled at me and kissed my temple.

"Breanna sweetheart."

"Mom no it's fine!" I stopped her shaking my head as I pulled away from my father's hug.

She sighed.

"I'm going to get him some candy. I'll be right back" I said and walked o .

Reaching the vending machine I realized something was missing.

"Oh no, no, no. Not today!" I groaned.

"Well you're in luck" someone chimped in.

I turned towards the voice.

"What are you doing here? I thought you were gone. You drove away."

"No, you practically jumped out of the car before I stopped."

I chuckled.

"What are you doing here Aiden?"

He held out my purse and I dropped my head.

"You forgot this."

"And you drove back here to deliver it?"

"It was worth the drive."

I smiled.

"Considering I never le ."

I laughed. I loved this side of him.

"I wanted to see how you were doing..."

I arched a brow.

"I mean your son. How's... how's he doing?"

"Everything's fine now."

He moved forward and handed me my purse.

"Thank you."

Our fingers brushed against each other's skin and he moved closer. I closed my eyes.

"Aiden... I can't" I whispered.

"Shushhhh!" he whispered back holding out his finger against my lips.

I opened my eyes. He cocked his head a little as he removed his finger.

"Thank you, Breanna. You made today the most amazing day."

"You already have an amazing life going on you know?"

He chortled.

"My life's pretty boring."

I smiled.

"I can work with that" I whispered.

He reached out and stroked my cheek. I closed my eyes and nuzzled into his touch. I locked my other hand with his free one.

"Hey Breanna, Roman is waiting for the candy. What's taking you so..."

I pulled away from him and turned to see Beck standing there watching us.

Oh God!

"Beck!" I called out.

"Beckett Lewis" he suddenly introduced moving closer to us. "And you are?"

"Aiden Corleone. A pleasure to finally meet you" Aiden said holding out his hand.

"Oh no I don't mingle with assholes responsible for nearly killing my son."

"Beck!" I scolded.

I heard Aiden chortle and I turned to him.

"I'm so sorry about that Aiden. Just please try to ignore him."

"He's the one you were with huh? Instead of looking a er our son during this time of the season, you were going around being a whore."

"Sir, I am going to ask you to mind your manners. I will not allow you to speak to her in that manner."

"Or else what?"

"Beck! Stop it! Mr. Corleone please."

"Oh so now it's back to Mr. Corleone?"

I ignored Beck's taunting.

"I think we should go talk somewhere else."

"You are not going anywhere you tramp!"

Beck grabbed my arm and Aiden acted fast. He took Beck's arm and caused him to loosen his grip on me.

"Touch her again and I swear I'll—"

Beck caught Aiden o guard and punched him, sending him to the ground.

"No!" I cried and ran up to his side.

"She is my wife and I will do whatever the hell I want with..."

It happened so fast. Aiden was o the ground and I began to hear terrible groans. I turned and he was on top of Beck; punching the life out of him.

"She... is not... your wife... and you ... will show her respect!"

"Stop it! Both of you please!"

Finally, there was a loud whistle, and security men rushed in to separate the two of them. Tears began to form in my eyes.

There was chaos everywhere now. My Dad rushed in with Aubree trailing closely a er him. She saw Beck and rushed over to him.

"Oh, my love!"

"Breanna what happened?" my dad asked.

"Mommy, where are you?"

"No, no, no, no Roman honey get back. You don't have to worry" my mother stopped him

"But Grams, what if Mommy's in trouble?"

"Your mom is fine. Grandpa and Auntie Aubs went to get her. C'mere."

From the corner I stood, I watched her pull him away.

"Brie sweetie talk to me. It's dad" he said shaking me gently.

I tried to spot Aiden. I caught him pause at the exit door for a while, meet my eyes, then walk out. I closed my eyes and the tears fell.

He's gonna fire me.

"I covered for you and saved your ass today and you let your little lover beat up the father of my unborn child? What is wrong with you, Brie?!" Aubree launched towards me.

The paramedics caught her in time before she got to me. I didn't even plan to move out of the way.

"How far are you going to go to get back at us huh?"

"Aubree that's enough."

"Dad, that man le the man I'm marrying on Saturday half dead! Don't Aubreeme!"

"Miss, I am going to ask you to come with me to the station for a statement," a police o icer who had arrived not long ago and gotten the rundown from the security personnel said to me.

I nodded.

"You might as well go ahead and lock her up!" Aubree screeched.

"Ma'am this is a hospital. If you do not keep your voice down," I will ask you to leave or lock you up for the night" the police o icer cautioned.

My sister glared at me and followed the nurses as they wheeled Beck away. I sighed.

"Breanna..."

"Daddy, don't worry. I'll be fine. Don't tell them anything... especially Roman. I'll be back soon. They just need my statement."

"But..."

"I promise, Daddy."

"O icer, I'm ready now. Let's go" I said, slinging my purse across my shoulder.

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I scrolled through the estate websites, taking down notes.

"Mommy?"

I looked towards the door.

"What are you doing awake at this hour?" I asked glancing at the clock.

"I couldn't sleep and it's so cold in my room" he answered closing the door behind him. "Is it okay if I sleep in here with you Mommy? Please?"

I looked at his adorable face and grinned.

"Of course my love" I replied getting up.

He jumped into the bed and I tucked him in, kissing him.

"Do you wanna hear a bedtime story?" I asked.

"I'm too old for bedtime stories Mommy."

"You're nineyears old" I chuckled.

"Nine and two quarters, Mommy" He giggled.

I smiled.

"Can I have a big goodnight kiss instead?"

I smiled and peppered his face with tiny kisses.

"Go to sleep okay? I love you."

"I love you more Mommy."

I smiled and watched him d o to sleep, smuggling with his plush astronaut figure, before returning to my desk.

"Next website" I whispered taking in a deep breath.

My phone vibrated. I answered without checking the caller.

"Hello?"

"I thought that man had done something to you... I would have come back and gladly ended his life."

I laughed.

"Hey you," I said so ly. "Trust me, he's in no state to move right now."

"Hold on," he tells me.

The call ended and I frowned a bit.

"Okay."

My phone's screen lit up a er a while and this time it was a Skype call.

I chuckled.

"Hey you," he said so ly. "Are you okay?"

I nodded.

"Are you?"

The lights in his room turned on. I gasped.

"Oh, my goodness."

"I'm fine"

"Fine? That doesn't lookfine. Have you seen yourself in—"

"Breanna... relax. It's just a tiny bruise."

"Tiny? Have you actually seen it? Aiden, you should get it looked at."

I got up and started pacing.

"Deep breaths. It's fine. I promise. I got someone to bring your car back. The keys are with your dad."

I smiled.

"Thank you, Aiden."

The silence that followed was deafening.

"Look Breanna..." he started, breaking it.

"You don't have to apologize Aiden."

"No, but I did. I heard what he called you... I couldn't just stand there and watch him disrespect you like that."

I stared at him and he let out a frustrated sigh.

"I'm sorry."

"And I'm sorry for my ex-husband's behavior. I just..." I trailed o , short of words.

He smiled.

"I'm glad that's been cleared up. Goodnight Breanna."

"Yeah good..."

He hung up.

"...night."

I turned o my phone's screen.

"Oh bumblebee" I whispered to myself.

I move back to my study desk only to hear voices coming from downstairs. Glancing at Roman's sleeping figure in my bed, I snuck out.

"Mom? What's going on?"

My eyes fall on the man standing there.

"Em?"

"Hey there little sister!" he grinned.

"Emmett!" I cried realizing my brother was standing in front of me.

"That's me."

I jumped up to hug him. He laughed and twirled me around.

"Oh wow, you're lighter than I remember."

I smiled as he set me down.

"That's because you're used to carrying a seven-month pregnant lady" a voice came from behind me.

I turned around.

"Surprise!"

"Nia?"

She laughed and threw her arms around me. I felt something move.

"Oh my goodness the baby moved!" I laughed.

"They love their auntie already" she smiled giving me another hug.

Her words sank in and I pulled away.

"I'm sorry... they? Again?" I asked and looked between her and Emmett.

"Surprise!" they cried in unison.

"Just don't tell mom... or anyone else" Emmett quickly added.

I gave them both a hug.

"Oh I'm so happy for you guys," I said. "Where are the kids?"

"Try driving down here, making pitstops at Burger Palace and pizza places," Emmett said.

"They're asleep" Nia answered. "Oh, I missed you, Breanna."

"Me too," I said taking her hand.

"Pregnancy sucks" she groaned. "I don't have control over my own body anymore."

I laughed. I would have given birth by now if not for the accident.

"Hey, I'm sorry about the baby," she said quietly when she noticed the look on my face.

Emmett rubbed my back.

"It's okay now," I told them.

Nia grinned.

"I can't wait for the party. But can we do the spa thing first? My feet are killing me."

I settled down beside her.

"What spa thing?" I asked pouring her some water.

"Thank you. You know the spa thing. And the party. The whole reason we're here."

Huh?!

"I'll be right back," I said and stood up.

"Hurry back. We've got a lot of catching up to do."

I walked to the kitchen and found Emmett with Cora.

"Please tell me you told your wife why you're reallyhere."

They looked up at me and Cora stood up.

"I'll go to bed now," she said and hugged Emmett.

"Goodnight sweetheart," I said kissing her temple.

I watched her walk o .

"I couldn't, Brie."

"Oh, my goodness. Emmett"

"I didn't know how she'd react. She's pregnant for crying out loud."

"That's no excuse."

"Hormones Brie. Hormones. Sometimes she doesn't even let me get some."

I frowned.

"She's seven months pregnant, Emmett Andrew Nolan."

"You weren't bothered when you were pregnant with Roman."

"It's not the same!" I laughed.

"Yes, it is! It's hard. I'm a man you know. And sometimes L..."

"Well then be that man and go tell her the truth. I'll help you."

He nodded.

"Okay."

"What are you two doing here?" we heard Nia's voice from the living room.

"Well I guess that cat'out of the bag" Emmett chuckled.

I rushed back to the living room and stopped in my tracks when I spotted Aubree and Beck. He walked upstairs to his room.

"Answer me."

"Honey, calm down," Emmett said to his wife.

"This house belongs to my parents. I can come and go however I damn well please" Aubree answered.

Nia chuckled nastily and looked at me.

"Are you hearing this? Look, you better watch your tone with me, you little tramp."

"Or else what?" Aubree challenged.

Emmett stood between them.

"Breanna a little help?" he asked.

I snapped out of it.

"Right. Nia, come with me."

"But Breanna."

"It's okay."

I pulled her into the kitchen.

"What is going on here Breanna? Have you all lostyour minds?"

"Nothing. Just calm down."

"Why are they here? Why did that man... why is your sister here?!"

"Nia, please calm down."

"If I do, will you tell me what's really going on?"

I sighed.

"Fine."

"Okay go on. I'm calm."

"Sit first please."

She took a seat and I sat across from her.

"Well?"

I hesitated.

"Nia, why don't you just wait till Saturday or even tomorrow?"

"Breanna Lucille Nolan!" she roared and stood up. "Remember I am still a hundred percent Ghanaian and I don't liketo be aggressive!"

"Okay, okay, okay. Sit down please."

She gave me a look.

"Please?"

She reluctantly sat.

"What's on Saturday?"

I looked at her.

"Well?"

I remained quiet.

"Look Breanna. I will walk back in there and beat the hell out of that little girl if you don't tell me what's going on."

"They're getting married."

She froze.

"Who's... hang on. What?!"

"Aubree and Beck. They're getting married."

"But... but..."

"Hey, it's okay. By Saturday they'll be gone. We can even have that spa day you were talking about."

"Breanna" she whispered looking at me.

My eyes frantically searched her face.

"What? What is it?" I asked, worried her water had broken.

"Are you okay?"

I calmed down.

"Nia, I'm fine."

"No, no you're not."

"Hey, I'm okay," I told her. "Seriously. Don't worry about it, I'm okay."

She frowned.

"But I'mnot!" she said and stood up before I could stop her.

"Wait, where are you going?"

"To give her a piece of my mind" she replied calmly. "Aubree Isadora! Get down here right now!"

Oh boy.

What's up peopleeee?

I know I know...

I've been gone longer than promised.

But take my word for it this time. I'm back to stay.

It's October! All must be forgiven.

My birthday's coming up soon too. So I will be good and try to update more.

Here and on my other stories.

Please don't forget to vote.

Thanks for reading! 🍷

Until the next chapter...

Stay safe.