

Chapter 10: The Wedding

I awoke on the morning of the wedding with a yawn and a stretch, shivering as I realized that Piper had once again ended up entangled in my arms, and this time she'd taken all the blankets too. She groaned as she stirred from my movement, stretching her body and unknowingly rubbing against me.

I backed away, my eyes widening at her proximity. She sat up in bed, her eyes still half-closed. "What time is it?" she mumbled.

"Eight o'clock," I replied as I rolled out of bed.

She opped back down on the pillow. "Last night was a horrible idea."

"How drunk did you get?!" I asked, concern lacing my voice as I realized she could have jeopardized our entire arrangement.

"Barely even buzzed," she mumbled. "I'm not hungover, I'm just tired. We didn't get in until almost three."

I sat back on the bed, "Stay in bed, then. I'll bring you some breakfast in a bit."

"No," she said, "I'll get up." She sat up with a groan and stepped out of bed.

My eyes widened as I saw just how little she was wearing. Her oversized T-shirt barely covered what it needed to. "Uhh, Piper..."

She glanced down before shrugging, "They're just legs, Tate." She walked to the bathroom to shower and get ready for the day.

We descended the stairs for breakfast to a room full of tired, hungover family members.

"Everyone got sloppy last night, didn't they?" I boomed, earning groans from everyone. Apparently, Piper and I were the only ones who hadn't drunk excessively the night before.

We sat at the table for breakfast. "Okay," my mother mumbled as she nursed her Bloody Mary. "The wedding is at ve. We will be at the venue at three to make sure everyone is ready and accounted for. Understand?"

"Yes, ma'am," we all answered as we tried to ward o the aches of the night before.

I stood with Jason at the front of the aisle as music played softly in the background. I scanned the rows of guests, my eyes settling on Piper sitting in the second row in her light blue gown.

She oered me a small smile, and I responded with a wink.

I couldn't lie. I liked her. She was fun to be around. I was beginning to be glad I had hired her. She had de nitely made the last week easier.

"You found a good one," Jason whispered to me as he caught our little interaction. "I always thought you and Jamie didn't quite t. But Piper is fun, and she can hold her own against Josie."

I laughed, gripping his shoulder, "That is a special kind of skill, isn't it?"

"But seriously, man, I've never seen you more comfortable with someone," Jason whispered before the music began playing louder, and we straightened as the ceremony commenced.

I smiled back at him before glancing uneasily at Piper, suddenly worrying about how this would end and how my family would take it.

They seemed to all be forming an attachment to her, something I knew I couldn't let myself do.

The reception was loud and lively. I enjoyed watching how happy my sister was and was glad she had found Jason. He was a good guy, which among the wealthy Boston families is hard to nd.

"Ready for a dance?" Piper asked, extending her hand.

I rose from my seat and walked to the dance oor, spinning her before pulling her into my arms and swaying to the music. "You look nice in that dress," I murmured as we danced.

"Thank you," she smiled. "You do look very dashing in your tuxedo. Almost like you should be in a Bond movie," she winked.

I shook my head with a smile before twirling her, bringing her back into me as the song played on.

"Are you ready to y out tonight to the Maldives?" I asked quietly.

"I have to admit, I'm excited. I've never been anywhere besides Mexico and Canada. I'm looking forward to this trip," she smiled.

"Good. It should be fun, at least now that you're coming. I wouldn't have been able to bear it if I went alone," I replied.

She smiled softly, releasing me when the song ended. She took my arm, and we walked back to our table and listened to the toasts and watched as they did the traditional cake-cutting and parental dances.

At the end of the night, we returned to the house. It was late, and we were exhausted. I changed out of my suit quickly and walked out of the closet to nd Piper struggling with her dress.

I approached her with a chuckle and placed my hands on her shoulders. "Let me," I whispered as I undid the top latch and slowly lowered the zipper.

"Thank you," she murmured, her voice breathy. She walked to the closet and changed into travel clothes before we made our way downstairs to the car, our bags already in the trunk.

"To the Maldives!!" Ariana hollered as she hung out the window of her limo happily.

I rolled my eyes at her before climbing into our car to head to the airport.

The family slept on the jet, relieving some of their exhaustion. I took advantage of the quiet, catching up on some emails and memos from work.

Thankfully nothing big had happened in the week I was gone.

I froze as I felt Piper's head fall onto my shoulder, her chest slowly rising and falling as she slept. I brushed the hair from her face before continuing with my work.

I looked up to see my father watching us. He gave a small nod before leaning his head back and closing his eyes.

After a while, I did the same, resting my head on Piper's and falling asleep comfortably.