



## Chapter 19

Aaron POV

I felt like a train had wrecked me when I woke up in the morning. There was a pounding headache, and I pinched the middle of my forehead to alleviate the pain. But it was useless. These headaches were becoming constant, and I didn't even know the bloody cause. Every day I woke up with them.

At first, they were like a dull thud in my skull, which I ignored. But now they were a pounding headache every fucking morning. I reached my bedside table for my pill and popped it in my mouth before heading for a shower.

As I showered, yesterday's events flooded in my mind. When Venus had gone to the bathroom and hadn't returned for a while, I knew she was suffering silently. So I went to find her and was not happy to see her with Vicky. The two sisters had been at loggerheads since the fiasco. It had been only two days since father announced my engagement with Venus, and it was a lot to take in, but I was slowly convincing myself that this was the right thing to do.

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I returned with a towel wrapped around my waist and picked up my phone to call Venus. However, the moment I did that, I saw Vicky's face smiling at me. It had been my wall paper for the past few months. Feeling like I was betraying Venus, I changed it to her picture. I have no idea why I liked it better. A smile came to my lips as I fondly looked at her picture. Just then, the phone buzzed with Nathan's name flashing on the screen.

"Hey buddy!" I said, walking to the wardrobe. I planned on meeting Venus at school today instead of going to meet Vicky. Why was I feeling so refreshed? And why was it that Czar was goading me to go to Venus instead of Vicky? Strange.

"Did you see the news?" he grumbled. "Who would go so far to damage your and Venus's reputation?"

"Nathan, calm down. What are you talking about?"

"Just switch on the TV!"

His anger prompted me to switch the TV on. And when I did it, I wished I hadn't. "Fuck!" I rasped. The news featured a video of Venus dancing with two boys, and I angrily intervened by punching them. As if that wasn't enough, in the next clip, a

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picture of me kissing Vicky flashed. A growl ripped my throat as I hurled the remote at the other end of the room. "Find out who leaked these pictures," I commanded Nathan. "And when you come to know about that person, bring him or her to me." I had a violent desire to crush the person's head and squash their brain.

"Okay," he said. "But there's one more thing."

"What?" I barked, wearing my shirt.

"Vicky is extremely upset. She has been throwing a fit. Crying since morning." He hesitated for a moment. "Man, I didn't know that you and Vicky were involved, else I wouldn't have—"

My brows creased. "Go on," I goaded him, wondering what he wanted to tell me.

He let out a sigh. "I thought she liked me. She has called me home because she is feeling low. I am planning to take her out."

I remembered the photo she had posted on her social media in which she was on Nathan's lap. It was posted to make me jealous. Honestly, I was jealous as hell, but right now I couldn't care less.

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"Save it, Nathan," I snapped. "Just fucking find out who fed this info to media." I disconnected the phone, dragged my pants up and, without combing my hair, I rushed out. The burning need to call Venus and tell her that everything was going to be alright was intense. So I called her, and just as I had guessed, she was crying.

"Aaron..." she whimpered.

"Don't cry," I replied, my chest caving for my fiancée. "I'll see that this shit is taken down."

"Who could've—" she sobbed, words getting lost on her tongue.

"Venus, I don't know. But stay at home. I'll be there in a few, okay?" I disconnected the call and ran right into mom and dad. While dad looked furious, mom was stifling a smile. "That news—"

"I have put my people to take that news down," dad said with barely controlled anger. "But how could you cheat on your fiancée?" he shouted. "And how could Venus— Fuck!" He slammed his fist into the nearest table that cracked on impact. "Both of you get your shit together, else I am going to confine Venus in this home until you are married!"

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I balked. Venus hated confinement. Without a word, I walked out and zipped to Venus's home. The pill I had eaten wasn't working. My headache had dulled, but it was still there.

When I arrived at her place, I noticed it was very quiet. Vicky opened the door for me. Her face scrunched into anger. "What the fuck do you want?" she shouted, walking away. "You have ruined my life. I hate you. And I hate that bloody sister of mine."

I walked in, not liking how she talked about Venus. "I told you earlier that this is not in our control, so you can't blame Venus for everything. Where is she, though?" I asked, glancing everywhere.

Ignoring my question, she yelled, "So you're going to dictate how I should feel? Well, okay. I am going to marry Nathan, and let's see how that works for you."

I clenched my fists on the side. Why was it that in Vicky's vicinity, my jealousy returned with full force? Just yesterday she said that she would back away, yet here we were—back to square one. "I think it is best for you to move on," I replied in a low voice, unsure of what I was saying.

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She turned and started crying. "We both could have a beautiful life together, and you ruined it."

It was too late for her to say those words. "Did you watch TV today?" I asked. Why wasn't she mentioning it? Somehow, my headache was gone. Perhaps the pill worked nicely this time.

"Yes, and I am glad that your truth is out! And if you're insinuating that I was the one who leaked the info, then no—I have been wallowing in my misery, and don't have time for it." She let out a cry and went to her room, glancing over her shoulder, beckoning me to follow her.

I had an intense urge to go after her. Instead, I went to Venus's room. Her room looked like she had packed and left. Panic seized me. What happened next, shocked the hell out of me.