

Small Town Girl

Author not credited

STORYPDF

Complete English text · US Letter reading edition

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About this edition

This StoryPDF reading edition contains the complete English text, with its original paragraph and section order preserved.

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Chapter 1

Just like every other day after my job as a waiter, I proceeded to the locker room and changed back into my casual clothes. Being a waiter isn't anyone's dream job, it isn't what I love to do but I have no choice because I need to provide for my daughter and me

After changing back into the clothes I wore to work this morning, I grabbed my handbag and make my way out of the restaurant building. I work in a restaurant but yeah, I work as a waiter.

Coming out of the restaurant building, I turned to my right and began to work down the road to my daughter's preschool which was a few minutes' walk away from where I work.

My lips curved into a small smile when I remember my daughter. Her name is Mia, she looks so much like me. She's smart and she's my life. She's my source of motivation and I promise myself to always do my best to give her a good life, a life far better than mine.

Moments later, I arrived at Mia's preschool. I was talking with her Teacher when I heard that very familiar voice.

"Mama," Mia said excitedly before running up to me.

I smiled, crouched down to my knees, and spread out my hands, ready to hug her.

"My love, I missed you," I said as I embraced her into a hug and kissed her forehead.

"Miss you too mama." She grinned at me.

I rose to my feet with Mia on my lap. "Were you good to Aunty Maya today?" I asked my little girl, referring to the teacher who was standing in front of us.

"Yes, mama." Mia nodded her head and I kissed her cheek for being a good girl.

I talked some more with Mia's teacher, picked up Mia's backpack and lunch back then my daughter and I made our way home.

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The smile on my face turned into a frown when Mia and I stepped into our home. Everywhere was a mess, it was the exact opposite of how I left it this morning. Thanks to my baby daddy who was always giving me so much works to do. He couldn't care less about personal hygiene and I'm honestly fed up with him. He never helps with cleaning the house, running errands, or doing dishes and laundry. Instead, I have to remind him all the time where he has to place his shoes and dirty clothes.

He never helps with anything, not even to watch over Mia when I had to run errands. He doesn't pay Mia's school fees, I buy groceries most of the time, I pay the house rent. He only gave me the part payment of our house rent a few times.

I do not know what to do, maybe we should get separated but I don't want my daughter to grow up without a father but as things are going now, I think getting separated is better because I can't let my daughter see the mess her father makes every day. God this is not how I want my life to be, my life is even better before I met him when am with my parent.

"Mama, why are you crying? Are you hungry?" My daughter brought me out of my thought and wipe away my tears I did not even know that is there

"I am fine my baby, I am not crying something enter my eyes that is why there is water in my eyes

I take her to the living room to watch kids TV and clean the entire house then make food us. How I wish to go back to my life before I came to California, I am not rich but am happy with my family

Flashback

My name is Bella, I am from Nigeria, I am 18 years old, I am the first child of my parent and I have 2 younger brothers, we are not rich but my parent still affords to put food on our table and send us to school until when I finish high school.

One day my dad comes back from work and said he want to talk to me after dinner, after dinner I went to meet him and I saw my mother also with him, I had a feeling that this is not going to end well because I can see that my father face change when he saw entering the living room.

"Bella please forgive me for what I want to say to you, I know it is always your dream or goals to finish your school without any delay and find a good job, and get married to the love of your life but am sorry to tell you that I afford to pay your college fees now so you have to wait for me to sort out your brother's fees," my father said sadly

After what my father said it is like everything around me just stops because I always say nothing will disturb my education till I finish College.

"Please dad and mum I know you are trying for us but please how much is the college fee? I will go out and find any job and you can add it to the little you want to give me for my College fees" I said already crying

"Did you think that College fee is little money? How many months did you think you can work that will complete the whole fees? We don't want you to start college now and drop out halfway because of school fees. I promise you that I and your dad will try our best and you will not wait for long" my Mom said

I don't know what to say or do, I said thanks to them and went to my room, hug my pillow, and cry till I fell asleep

The next day I wake and all that happened yesterday replay in my head and I cry more, after some more crying I wipe my tears away and have my morning prayer after I stand up and head to the bathroom to clean up myself and look forward to what will happen today. I saw my dad on the dining table having breakfast about to go to work, I greet him good morning and sat beside him

"Dad, I am thinking that I should find some work to do at least if I can't go to school I can find some work to do better than sitting at home without doing nothing," I said

As I said that I can see that his face change and what to say something

"Dad I know what you want to say but I am not working because of saving money for my school I just want to do it to make myself busy, please daddy," I said

"Which work did have in mind that you want to look for?" He asked me

"I have a friend that works in a restaurant as a waitress and she said I can come and meet his boss and see how things go" I reply him and he nods his head positively.

When I wake up this morning, I saw my friend missed call and I called her back and explain everything to her so she said that she has someone that has a restaurant and the person need a girl to work as a waitress and I said I will take the offer but I have to lie to my dad that my friend work there so he can allow me to go.

"Ok, you can go and check the place and talk to the boss but if the place is not good or the work is too stressful believe me you have to stop the work. I just agree for you to go because you will not be bored at home and I will come and check the place myself and talk to the owner "my dad said

I agree with all that he said and said thanks to him for allowing me to go and check things out in the restaurant and work there.

As soon as I finish my breakfast I get my things from my room and call my friend to let us meet and go to the restaurant. When we get there I meet the owner of the restaurant and we discuss all the necessary things and he told me the time and the payment and everything went well. He said I should start the next day which I am very grateful for. When my dad comes from work I explain everything to him and my mum and they said ok if that is what I want but I should take care of myself, they also said that if I see that the work is very stressful I should leave it.

Chapter 2

I wake up early morning to meet up with the time for work, I say my morning prayer and head to the bathroom to do my usual routine, after that I went to the dining table I met my mum, my dad and my brother are about to go to school, I greet them and sit to have my breakfast and after I finish my breakfast I say my goodbye to them and my parent wish me good luck.

I get to work on time and I met other employees that are working there and the owner introduces me to them. I start working and some people that come to the restaurant give me tips and the work is somehow stressful but I just have to do it, it is better than sitting at home without anything. That is how my work is going and sometimes I take an extra shift if one of my colleagues did not come, the owner will ask me if I can do it.

After several months of working, I later enjoying going to work, one day after I come back from work, I met my Aunt at home and I am so happy to meet her because it has been like 5 years that have seen her, she is living in California. I sat beside her and we talk about a lot of things until she asks me which years am I in College, then my mum explains everything to her and she feels so bad because she knows how I like going to school because I believe that if one is not well educated, no one will allow you to work in a good company. I don't know about other people but that is my own belief, when am I high school my school mate that are from rich families normally abuse the kids from poor families and I am also among the student that are abused. So when the night comes we have our dinner with my Aunt and she went back to her place.

After one week that my Aunt came back from California, she called me on phone and ask me when I will be at home that she wants to have a conversation with my parent and she want me to be there, I told her that I will be around on weekend and we talk about something

During the weekend, my Aunt came to our house as she promises and my parents are also around, my mum made some snacks for her, after greeting and eating the snack, we gather in the living room to discuss.

"Jenny what did want to discuss that make you gather us all together?" my dad said

"Ok, I will go straight to the point, what I want to say is that maybe you can allow Bella to follow me back to California, why I said this is that first, she can apply for a scholarship there second she can work and received good payment more than the payment she is receiving from the restaurant here, even she can do two jobs with shifting time and the little I and my husband have we will support her for her school fees," said my Aunt.

I won't lie I like the idea and I am smiling right now but now I am looking forward to my parent reply most especially my dad because since I was born they never allow us, I mean me and brother to go on holiday or to visit anybody and stay more than 2 days, my dad will say I don't know what is happening there or what they are doing for you, so stay here with me, he will take us out to park, watch movies, and eat ice cream sometimes my dad takes us to some restaurant to have family dinner and sometimes with our mum alone.

My parent did not say anything my Aunt continue and she faces my dad since he is her brother. She also understands that my dad may not agree.

"Brother, I know that you have never allowed your kids to go out on a holiday or anything but I just want to help and I can understand that you are trying your best for them but at least my living in California today is not by my power or my money, it is by God grace and your support that make me study and live in California today, please brother take this as if I am returning the favor to your kids and Bella is not a baby anymore she is now 18 years old now, some years after she will get married, no matter what she will leave and also applies to her brothers when they grow up to be a man and they will get married and living in their own house with their family, so please I want you to think about it very well and I want to hear a positive reply," my aunt said

"Please dear I think what your sister said is good and it will be an opportunity for our daughter to experience new things and it will good for her education too, when she gets there and she is financially good she will also help her brother, please," my mom also support my aunt.

"Dad please I know it is not easy for you to let me go far away from you but see this as an opportunity for me, as your sister said you are the one that sponsors her to travel, please see it as if she is returning the favor back, I promise that if I can cope with the situation there I will come back," I said

I don't know what I am saying, I just say anything that comes to my mouth just to convince him to let me go.

He let out a long sigh "All of you did not give me any chance to say no, even my dear wife support this and I can see that Bella is also happy to go, so why will I not agree, no problem but please Jenny if you see that she cannot cope with everything or the work make sure you let her come back home" my dad said

As soon as he said that I went straight to him and hug him and I can see my dad is holding back his tears but my tears fall and he wipes them out I also hug my mum for the support.

"Thanks, Dad, thanks mum I really appreciate this for allowing me to follow Aunt Jenny, thank you once again" I also went to my Aunt and thank her also for this

"No problem dear please make sure you know what you are doing, think of where you are coming from and please make sure you listen to your Aunt and her husband," my mom said happily

I am so happy right now, my aunt said I can go because she has something to discuss with my parents, I thank them once again and I head to my room to call my friend that introduce me to the restaurant, her name is Sophia, we went to the same High School. I explain everything to her, she is so happy for me.

Some hours later after all the discussions, I heard a knock on my door and I said come in, it's my Aunt

"Can I talk to you, Bella?"

"Yes, please come in and have your seat," I said to her and make some space for her on my bed because I am sitting on the bed.

"Bella did you like what I said that you should follow me?" she asked

"Yes, I don't like it but I love it, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity," I said

"I am sorry for not discussing it with you first because I know my brother he may not allow you that is why I don't want to tell you first and later he did not agree, that is why I told you all at the same time"

"You don't need to be sorry, you are right, thanks once again" I move closer to her and hug her

"I want you to give me your passport or if you don't have you go and do one because I need it to get your visa and ticket. Prepare yourself and get everything you will need, we will be leaving as soon as your visa and ticket is ready" my aunt said

"Thank you so much for everything I am very grateful and I promise that I will be a good girl and I will never disappoint you"

After two weeks, I went to the restaurant where I am working to resign and get prepare, when I get to the restaurant I tell my boss that did he remember that I will stop working today. I already told him about leaving when my aunt mention my traveling so it just remains 2 weeks to get my salary then, so today is my payday so I will not come to work again, I already told my colleague before.

After today's work, I said my goodbyes to them and went home. When I get home my Mom bought a lot of this for me that I might need and preparing my bag in case.

Some weeks later

We are at the airport saying my goodbyes to my parents and my brothers, we already had our emotional goodbyes at home that all of us are crying, me, my mum, my dad, and my brothers. I hug them last time and we (I mean me, my Aunt, her husband, and her 2 kids) head to the plane.

Chapter 3

3 years later

A lot has occurred during these 3 years, my aunt and her husband help me a lot during those times, now I am in 2nd year in college. When I first get here, I get a job and save money, like almost 1 year after I got here, I get admitted into college, I study business management/Accounting. After 6 months I get admitted into College my Aunt and her family relocate because of work, they suggest that I should follow them that they will get a transfer letter from the College but I told them that they should not worry about me that I will manage myself. After a lot of discussions, I was able to convince them.

Here am I today, I am going to school and after that, I will go to work in the afternoon and on weekend I do 2 jobs a full day with shifting times, along the line I meet my boyfriend his name is Jack Thompson, he is from Arizona and he is 28 years, he works as a Marketing Manager in one good company, he is a very caring and lovely man. I met him when I am in the first year in college like 2 months after my Aunt left, I told my Aunt and my parent about him, and sometimes he calls them and they talk. I sometimes spent the weekend in his house or pass the night at his house.

2 years later, today is my graduation day, we celebrate and everything went well. In the night my boyfriend said he has a surprise for me. He told me to come and meet him at one restaurant. As soon as I get there I enter the restaurant the decoration of the restaurant is so amazing I am thinking maybe there is some occasion or the restaurant is always like that. A waiter come to me and show me to our table but I am surprised because I did not say anything to him or say my name or who I am looking for, I get to our table, I saw my boyfriend and he pulls out a chair for me to sit, he orders food as soon as we finish our dinner, the waiter bring cake I think the cake is to celebrate my graduation but as soon as the waiter opens the cake the word written on the cake "Please will marry me" make me happy before I could face him to say something I already find him on his knee with a nice ring and said he word again and I said yes. After the proposal, he said I should move in with him and I accept. I call my Aunt and my parent and told them about the proposal and they are so happy for us. One month after the proposal we went to visit my family and I am so happy to meet them.

2 months after, I get a good job as one of the staff in the accounting department in a good company. I am so happy right now that my life is to go the way I want not knowing that my struggle or lets my battle just begin.

I am working and everything is fine until one day Jack called me that he has something to discuss with me after dinner then I said ok.

"Bella I am thinking that we should plan our wedding and I want to tell you when we get married you will have to stop working so you can take care of the house and our kids," Jack said looking serious because he knows how I love working, am thinking that why will be getting married and having kids going to disturb my work because I don't understand

"It is good we should start planning our wedding but how will that one disturb my work," I asked

"Bella this is what I want and you have to accept it as that" Jack said

"Excuse me, you can't just tell me that I should stop working because it is what you want, at least give me a good reason for me to stop working," I said

"The reason why I said that is because I don't want the work to be disturbing you from your home responsibility," said Jack

"Please Jack since the time we are together almost four years now till we get engaged you never mention anything like this for me and you know how I love my work and it is the same work am using the salary to help my family back home, so you can just sleep and wake up one day and tell me I will have to resign from my work because is what you want or because it will disturb my responsibility as a wife," I said angrily

"Bella that is what I want and you have to stick to it," he said and head inside the bedroom

I don't know what to do or say I should sit there like a fool because it is like all the air in my lung just went on vacation.

It's been 2 weeks that Jack told me about leaving work and I don't have anyone to talk to, I don't have friends because he said he doesn't want that because they will be teaching me bad things, the time he said that is when I am in 3rd year in College, sometimes my school mate come to my house for homework or just to hang out. I should have suspect that he will demand more. The only best friend that I have in school and traveled out of the country after our graduation but we still get in contact with each other but is only when I am at work that I talk to her. He has not given me any reason apart from what he said the last time but I have feelings that there is more to it. I can't sit at home without doing anything.

I am still at work and I am feeling tired right now, I don't know why maybe because I have not eaten lunch but I don't have any appetite for eating. I am cut of my thought with the ringing of my phone checked the caller and it is my best friend Annie.

"Hello babe, how are you doing? I miss you so much," she said happily

I replied to her and I explain everything to her about what Jack said and she said what am I going to do now

"Honestly I don't know because if I sit at home what will I be doing all day? How will I be able to send money to my parent, it is not that they ask but at least I know how my family is but I am just doing it to help them with my brother's school fees and sometimes they use it for groceries. I replied to her

"Talk to him and explain all this to him and tell him that how will you be sending money to your parent and all other things, hey babe don't let this bother your mind because I can see that in your voice, sit him down and talk to him, I will just advise you to sort everything out before you proceed for the wedding preparation," she said

"Thanks, I will do that" I reply and we said our goodbyes and hang up

I am preparing dinner and I hear the front door and I know that it is Jack, I went out of the kitchen and greet him, he made his way to the bedroom to freshen up after that we had our dinner. We are sitting down in the living room because I already told him that I want to talk to him.

"Bella, what is it that you want to tell me?

"Please don't interrupt me until I finish, what I want to say is that, when I resign from my work, how will you manage the bill, you know sometimes I pay for some bill and groceries, now that you said I should resign from work, first how will you manage the bill alone with your salary? Second, how will I send money to my parent? Third, when we have kids, some bills will increase and we will need to buy baby stuff like diapers, baby cloth, baby food, toys, and so on. So how will you manage it with your salary?

He is just looking at me, he did not say anything, he heaves a sigh and said "I will manage everything don't worry about that and you can tell your parent that you want to resign from your work and you won't be able to send them money to them every month that once in a while, so whenever I get my salary, after deducting all our bill and other stuff if there is some money left you can send it to them. Even before you start working, is there not anything they depend on before you start sending money to them, they should go back to that thing or the business and your dad is working so they should manage on that" He said

"Excuse me Jack, my parents are not beggars that you will send some leftover money to them, so please have some respect because I never abuse or say anything bad about your parent. Even if they are working it is my responsibility to take care of them either by sending money to them or anything to them. Because I get married does not mean I should forget my parents or I should forget my background" I said angrily

"It is man responsibility to take of their parents, so you are a woman and your responsibility is to take care of your home, husband and kids," he said

"Who told you that a woman can't work and take care of their parents & their home? I think there is more to this that you are not telling me, because Jack your sisters are working and they are married, have you ever hear that their husbands are complaining that there work is disturbing their home? One of your sisters is working in a very big company as an assistant manager and the other one has her own clothing business. So are telling me that your sister never gives your parent anything, even when we went there for family dinner, I saw them not one or two times that I saw them bringing foodstuff to them, so what are you now telling me?" I said

But his face changed I don't know maybe he is angry or sad, I think there is something else that he is not telling me. I think someone has swap Jack I know before to another person with the same face. Because this not the Jack I know before.

"Yes, it is true, that is what their husband want but for me, this is what I want and that is final, so tell your parent that you won't be able to send money to them anymore, they should find another way of getting money or your brother can go don't worry never mind," he said

"Excuse me Jack, this is the second time you insulting my parent, please I won't take that anymore, never in your life insult my family again because" before I finish my statement he gave a hot slap.

"Never said those statement to me again," he said and left

I sit down there and cry because I don't know what to do, I think there something he is not telling me because since I moved in with him, he never get home before me, I make sure that the dinner is ready before he gets home, if I have a lot of paperwork to do at work, I make sure that I work very fast or I bring the work home to finish and I am thankful to God my boss understand, so I don't know why this is happening now. I just have to leave him for now not to provoke him more because I am feeling tired and sometimes I feel like throwing up.

Chapter 4

It has been 2 weeks after our argument, though the next morning he apologizes to me. I am in my best friend Annie's house now, she has come back, the next day when I told her that Jack slaps me I called her and explain everything to her because I need someone to talk to and I can't tell my parent or my Aunt. So she came back because of me and right now I am in her house, you will be thinking about Jack, well he is at work now and I am supposed to be at work also but I get one day leave without him knowing.

"So babe (that is the nickname Annie calls me) you said you always feel tired or sometimes you don't appetite of eating and sometimes you throw up, hmmm babe when last did you have your period?" she said

"Wait, wait, I think I am screwed, you are right it has been a long time," I said

She quickly gets up and said I should wait that she is coming back now" she said and went out.

After 20 minutes she came back with 3 different pregnancy test kits and told me to try it but in my mind, I wish I should not be pregnant, I don't why but I don't want it now. I collect them from her and get inside the bathroom and use the kit and after 3 or 5 minutes, the result is out but I am scared to check it and I gave them to Annie to check and she nods her head positively.

"What am I going to do now?" I ask

"First you need to see an OB/GYN to get to check up and then see what happen next," she said

I told her if I can go now because I am feeling weak, If I can get any medicine for that, she drives me to a nearby hospital and I get an appointment, the receptionist told me that I should wait for my turn.

After some minutes I heard my name called I follow the nurse and tell my friend to follow me inside, I know it is Jack that supposed to follow me but I want to confirmed very well before I tell him. When we get inside the doctor's office, we saw a woman in a doctor's coat and she welcomes us and told us to have our seats.

"Hello I am Doctor Emily, nice to meet you, Miss Bella," she said wondering who Bella is among us.

"Hi, Doctor Emily, nice to me you too, I am Bella and this is my friend Annie," I said and she greets my friend

"What are your complains?" She said and get her note or note pad I don't know and start writing something as I told her about my complaint.

"I am feeling tired and dizzy for some weeks now and I did a pregnancy test with the kit and it is positive, so I want to confirm not be a false alarm," I said faking a smile

She said ok and starts to ask more questions about my health and all that and she runs a series of tests.

"Congratulations Miss Bella, you are 6 weeks pregnant and everything is alright with you and the baby, she said and prescribe medicine for me.

She explains how I will take them and other necessary things, we left and head to the pharmacy to get the medicines.

"So where did you want me to go? Should I drop you home?" Annie said while driving

"No, take me to your house and please order pizza for me," I said, the earlier I accept my situation the better

She drives to her place and we already get the pizza, after finishing the food and we sit down to talk

"I am keeping this baby, even if Jack did not want it or happy about it," I said I don't know where the courage comes from but I am sure that everything will be alright by the grace of God.

"That's good babe, no matter what I will be with you," she said

I decide to keep the conversation about the baby short because I don't want to think about anything that will stress me or my baby. So we decide to watch movies until the time for me to go home.

When I get home as usual I cook dinner and Jack came back from work and heads to the bathroom to freshen up. After dinner I went to him he is in the bedroom with his phone.

"Jack please can I have some minutes of your time," I said sitting on the bed beside him

"Ok, I am all ears" dropping his phone by the bedside table

"Jack, I have been feeling tired for some time now and today it is not good at all, so I went to see the doctor and it was confirmed that I am 6 weeks pregnant," I said he stand up immediately and what he said next made me feel like I should jump on him and scratch his face with my nails

"WHAT! Not a good time, I mean I am happy of course but not now, we still have a lot to do like our wedding and I invest in some business recently, with my salary now how can we cope with the baby?" he said running his hand through his hair

"Jack so what are now telling me to do" He never mentions to me that he invest in some business.

"I mean I want you to I mean I am happy but now I invest in some business now so if we can" I did not let him finish his statement

"Jack I can't abort this baby if that is what you are trying to say and wait what business are you talking about because you never mention anything about business to me in this house?" I asked him

"I will tell you but not now and I did not tell you to abort the baby, I mean that how come, how did that happen," He said I think this guy is crazy is like I should slap him maybe it will reset his brain.

"Jack you are asking me how it happens, well I will tell you if your brain is not in its right position. Baby or pregnancy happens when you have sex and you and I did a lot of that" I reply him but I don't know what push to be talking to him like that, I can't just say I am regretting that I know this guy, the person that gives him the name Jack made a big mistake, the person should have named him "Jerk" instead of "Jack" because he is such a jerk.

"I know we had sex bit I mean you are on birth control and I use a condom and whenever we don't use a condom I try to pull out, it is not the right time at all," He said

"I don't know what you are telling me to do but I am not going to abort this baby and secondly I will not stop working anytime soon whether you like it or not since your salary is going to the business you are doing, I am taking the responsibility of this baby because I can't abort it," I said

"I did not say you should abort it but ... I mean I am just saying that it is not the right time" he said

"You must be stupid then because I don't think you know what you are saying, I don't understand what you trying to say but either you want this baby or not either you are happy about it or not I am going to have this baby and that is final. I went to the guest room and cry my eyes out.

My phone ring and I see that it is my friend that sends me a message, I reply to her and explain what Jack said and he tries to calm me down. Jack cannot hear what I am saying because I know his mind is not settled right now because he will kill me if he knows I am talking to my friend.

"Annie I don't know what to do, I think if I told him about the baby he will be happy maybe things will change that he is going to be a father but he said it is not yet time, when will it the right time to have a baby? We are engaged about to get married" I said tears rolling down my eyes

"Bella please no matter what happen just believe that one day everything will be alright and stop crying just thinks of your baby, you should sleep now we will talk tomorrow," She said and I said ok.

We said our goodbyes, I cry more and drifted to sleep.

Chapter 5

The next day I wake up, I realized that I slept in the guest room, I say my morning prayer and went back to our room but to my surprise, I did not meet Jack in our room so I decided to take shower and decide to make breakfast I wonder where he is because today is Saturday, maybe before I finish breakfast he will come back, but making breakfast is like I don't know how to describe it because the smell of the food makes me want to throw up but I manage to make the breakfast because I don't want him to come back and not meet any food. After I finish making breakfast, I went to the bathroom to throw up, I don't feel like eating anything but I force myself to have a cup of orange juice.

After one hour Jack came back and he seems like he is coming from the gym or running, I greet him good morning but he did not answer me I decide to leave him maybe he did not hear me or he did not want to answer me anyway that is his problem like I said earlier I want to be free from stress because of my baby. Later he came out already freshen up and decides to set the table for him but he did not say any word, he finishes eating his breakfast and heads back to the bedroom. When I see that he is out of sight I tried to reply to Annie's text because she is been sending messages to me since the time Jack comes back. I explain everything to her and she said I should not fight with him because of the baby, maybe I should leave him for now after some time he will come around, so she said she will go back next week so I should try and fix a day so that she can see me before she goes back. I said ok and end the chat because I don't want Jack to know that I am talking to someone. I talk to my parent and my Aunt but I didn't mention anything that is happening between me and Jack to them.

During the weekend Jack is ignoring me, so I decide to play along, now I am at work following my daily routine, I call my friend and told her I will come and visit her on Wednesday because she is going back on Thursday. As usual, today went by and end well, I am at home just finish preparing dinner and Jack is in the bathroom.

Now we are in the living room, I decided to break the silence.

"Jack, why are you ignoring me since the time I told you I am pregnant, let's try to figure things out, running away from the problem does not solve the problem Jack," I said he just sit there looking at me as if I am speaking in French and he did not understand.

"You are the one that did not understand me, this pregnancy is not what next now, how about our wedding and the business I am talking to you about how will I cope with all this and baby on the way?" he said

"You did not tell me before about you getting into business not until the day I told you I am pregnant, which kind of business is that"

"Yeah, I want it to be successful before I tell you, I will let you the detail at the right time"

"Ok no problem, I have a doctor's appointment in 3 weeks, will you like to accompany me and this time we will be able to hear the baby's heartbeat? I asked him and he said ok

"Ok, when the date comes let me know," he said and I said thanks to him

I met my friend today, he takes out to eat and we had a nice time, she bought a lot of things for my baby, she wants to give me some cash to have in case I need some things but I did not collect it, from her so she use to buy a lot of things for the baby and he manipulates me that she can't return them or she throws them away, I don't have any choice that to collect it, my friend is from a rich family, but she never let me feels that we are not from the same background because she told me that she did not work for the money she is lucky to be born in a rich family.

When I get home I put all that Annie bought for me in the storeroom and went to prepare dinner. As usual, he did not talk to me much, I think since the time I told him about the pregnancy he becomes distant from me, all the care I expect from him during pregnancy is not there, he is not even asking how I am feeling or how is the baby doing.

Today is the doctor's appointment and we are now inside the doctor's office, the doctor asks me a lot of question and I reply to her, she told me that I should lie down on the bed and removes my blouse from my belly. She put some gel but the gel is too cold and she runs something like a wand on my stomach and she shows us the ultrasound picture of the baby on the screen, he or she is so tiny and within a second we hear the heartbeat and tears welled up in my eyes I looked at Jack face I can see some smile on his face, after all the necessary things we went back home and to my surprise Jack told me that I should not prepare dinner that I look tired that he will order take out and ask me what I want, I told him pancake and waffles. He asks me that waffles and pancakes during dinner and I said yes, that is what I want to eat and if he can buy it for me, OK and if not, there is no problem, he said I should not worry that he will get anything I want. After dinner, I take my medicine and went to sleep.

Chapter 6

I am now 5 months pregnant, my mood swing is not good at all and my food craving is bad I always crave roadside food or canned food, I feel tired every time, whenever I want to eat Jack did not sit with me because my food is weird, sometimes I eat fries with chocolate, toast with ice cream, bread with boiled egg and ketchup.

I am still working though, because Jack did not contribute much to this pregnancy, he always gives me excuse because of the business he invested in but he did not tell me the details about this business.

"Jack I want to go and visit my parent, I don't maybe you want to come with me," I said sitting in the living room after having dinner.

"No problem you can go and I don't want to go, I have a lot of things here to do, and extend my greeting to them. When are you going?" He asked

"I want to go during the weekend and I will come back the next weekend, I will take a week leave from work tomorrow," I said

When I get to work the next day I apply for leave and I get it, I also tell my boss that I am going to resign when my pregnancy reaches 7 or 8 months because I need to save a lot of money, I pray to God that I can be able to work till that time and safe delivery because sometimes I feel tired, weak and dizzy and it is now happening continuously.

I am now on my way to my parents' house, I just get out of the airport, I am inside a cab, I told them I am coming but I did not tell them the day because I want to surprise them.

I reach for the front door and knock, I can hear my mum voice saying who is there I did not say anything I just wait for her to open the door, immediately she opens the door and saw me and my baby bump she screams and pulls into a hug and next thing I hear that my mum is crying, I pull away and see her face before I could say anything I hear my dad voice asking my mum what happen to her that makes her scream when he reaches the front door and he saw me he hug me and tell me to come inside.

"Bella my precious daughter how are you doing? How is Jack? Why did he not come with you and how is my granddaughter in your belly? Hope she is kicking very well?" my dad asks, yes I am having a girl

"Hey dear, one question at a time, let her answer one question before you ask another," my mom said and wipe her tear.

"Dad, Mom I am fine as you can see, Jack is busy with some work that is why he is not coming and your granddaughter is fine" I answer looking around for my brother but they said they are out with their friends and if they know I am coming today they will not go anywhere.

"But Bella are you sure there is nothing wrong between you and Jack because now he is not like before again, he rarely calls us and when I call him, he will not pick my call and when he picks he will say that he is busy that is why he is not able to call or pick our calls," my Dad said

"Dad, everything is fine, you know is not easy going to work and having a pregnant woman at home, keeping up to my mood swing and my weird food and the preparation of our wedding is there, that is why everything will soon be back to normal," I said I don't want to let them know anything, I am going to fight for myself for the sake of my daughter.

I spend a good time with my family, my mum gives me a massage every night and rubs my feet, she prepares a lot of food that a pregnant woman supposed to eat to keep the baby and the mother healthy, my brother always takes me out for a walk every evening, they keep up with my mood swing every time. This is what I supposed to experience with Jack.

My mom enters my room and I was cut off my thought and she sits beside me and wipes tears away from my eyes that I don't know is there, as soon as she wipes my tears I move closer to her and cry on her shoulder. She sits beside me not saying anything just patting my back.

"I am sorry mom for ruining your clothes, I don't know why I am crying I think it is part of the pregnancy hormone" I move away from her and saying rubbish I don't want her to know anything

"Hmm... Bella, did you think I am a baby? I am your mother and I know when you are angry, sad or happy, I know that there is something wrong between you and Jack but if you don't want to tell me, no problem but always remember that I am here for you, I will listen to you whenever you want to talk about it" my mom said

"Thanks mum, I am sure everything will be fine soon," I said and we discuss some other topic, I don't want to tell her anything now maybe everything will be fine later, I don't want them to have bad feelings or bad intention toward Jack.

She left me and went to her room because it is already night time, I called Annie and we talk a lot, she told me that she is deciding maybe she is come back to California to settle down finally, she is a model and she has her own fashion company, she wants to quit modeling and base on her fashion company, we talk of other things then say our goodbyes.

The next morning my parent and my brothers said they have a surprise for me so I should not come out of my room, so they brought breakfast and lunch for me in my room. After finishing my

lunch my friend brought a nice dress for me, my friend that introduce me to the restaurant when I want to work, her name is Sophia, I have not met her since I came to visit my parent.

When she opens my room door I don't know she is the one, as soon as she opens the door, she screams my name and jumps on me.

"Wow, I am so sorry my peanut(referring to my baby bump) I hope I did not hurt you? How are doing Bella? So if your mum did not call me that you are around, you won't bother to call me or check on me" Sophia said

"I am so sorry, that I did not come on time, but I can't go back without checking on you, I will still come or call you, you should know that," I said

"No problem, I forgive you because of my little peanut" She kneels in front of me and kisses my belly "This is your dress for tonight," she said

"What are you guys planning? I can't understand, today is not my birthday, I have not to get married so today is not my wedding anniversary please tell me" I said making a funny face

"That face of yours can't deceive me, it is better you get prepared and see by yourself because I am not telling you anything, it is called a surprise if I tell you now it is no more a surprise," she said bringing out makeup set from her handbag

"You know I am " she cut me off before I say anything

"Stand up and get ready before I kick your ass"

"Watch your language girl don't let my daughter hear you" she started laughing

"Oh Mother hen, my peanut can't hear anything, so get inside that bathroom and have a good shower," she said

I get inside the bathroom and have a quick shower, after the shower Sophia do my make-up and I get dressed, after getting dress up, we took a quick selfie, then my mum come inside

"Wow my baby is so beautiful"

"Mum I am no more a baby, in some month now I am going to be a mother myself so I am not a baby," I said

"No matter how big you are, no matter how many children you have, you are still my baby," she said and she told us that after she gives Sophia a missed call we should come out.

My mum went out of my room so I and Sophia are discussion about what I missed when I went to California, she told me about herself, how she works and sponsor herself to go to college, she told me about her boyfriend, after like twenty minutes of talking, her phone rings, she said it's my mum

meaning we have to go out, we step into the living room, the light is off, everywhere in the living room is a little bit dark I can see that there more people and soon everybody shout SURPRISE, after that the light was turned on. That is when I know that they are given a surprise baby shower.

Chapter 7

I am so happy about this surprise soon I started crying and my mum and my friend hugged me and trying to calm me down, I am thinking how nice it will be if Jack is here.

"Bella Congratulations," my parent said

"We decide to make this small baby shower for you, we know you may not be able to celebrate this since you said you don't have a friend and we call Jack to inform him, maybe he can come to join this but he said he is busy that he can't come. Please just enjoy yourself," my Mom said

"Thanks, mum" I said

Some people congratulate me and they gave gifts, the decoration is so nice, everything is in pink even my dress is also in pink color but I don't have any idea that the surprise they are talking about will be a baby shower, there are one big cake and a lot of small cupcakes with a different word on them, there are a lot of pink balloons on the wall, with pink onesie on the wall with the word "mini mummy" on it. We have a lot of fun and enjoy ourselves, later in the evening everybody leaves one by one, I thank my parent, my brother, and my friend Sophia for all this surprise I really love it, I made a video call with Annie and she is very happy but she is sad because she is not here with me.

I am in my room checking all the gifts with my mum, I get a lot of gifts that I don't even think I need to buy anything again with the stuff Annie bought for me before she goes back, my mum help to pack everything so that I can take them with me when I am going back.

I spend the rest of the week with my family happily, that I forget about the problem I have with Jack, I extend my leave at work because I am enjoying my stay with them.

I am on my home, I am inside a cab now, taking me home, I spent 2 weeks with them I called my boss and he said ok, that he understands. I really enjoy myself to the extent that I forget my problem with Jack, I wish we could figure things out.

I am standing in front door knocking hopefully Jack will open the door because today is Saturday, he will be at home but after like 10 minutes of knocking I decide to find my keys and open the door but as soon as I open the door, I went back outside to check the apartment number maybe I entered the wrong apartment but the key I have open the door so I am in the right place but the living room is like a trash bin as if nobody has clean this house for like 3 months, I tried to call Jack but he did not answer me, there is a lot of dirty dishes on the coffee table, on the kitchen counter and there are a lot of trash bin bags that are supposed to be disposed of and there are shoes and clothes on the floor in the living room and there are some shoes by the front door.

I don't know what to do I went to drop my luggage inside our bedroom but that is another living hell, the bedroom is so smelling that I had to first throw up inside the bathroom and open the window, there is a lot of bottle of beers on the floor in the bedroom and a lot of dirty clothes on the floor, please did I use more than 2 weeks with my parent or maybe I don't know the calculation of calendar. I tried to call Jack on the phone but it is switched off, I tried several times but it is saying switched off, I don't know what to do, I am scared maybe something happens to him, I called his sisters but none of them find him, his parent told me that maybe he went to sleep in his friend house, his parent ask me that what did I find at home or maybe anything suspicious and I told them how smelly and stinking the whole apartment is and they told me that maybe he has gone to sleep in his friend house because I should know by now that Jack is so lazy that he can't do anything called house chores, maybe he can't handle the dirtiness anymore. I end the call with his mum and change my cloth to get to work despite being pregnant and jet lag.

I am so tired but I can't leave the house like this, so I start from the bedroom I first get the trash bag and dispose of all the beer bottles and other alcoholic bottles, after that I remove all the clothes and shoes on the floor and the take out bags and plate that inside and I remove the carpet because I can't handle the smell of the carpet, is either I take it for dry cleaning or I throw it away, I remove the bedsheet and the pillow cover, I sweep, scrub and mop the floor, I clean the bathroom and I went out to the living room and I did the same after I finished that I head to the kitchen and also the same but there are some times that I have to take rest like 10 minutes before I continue cleaning, after like 3 to 4 hours of cleaning and get back inside and take rest I tried to call him but it is switched off when I check the time it is almost 7 in the evening and I am very hungry.

After I finish eating, I decided to check the guest room maybe it is also dirty but to my surprise, Jack is there sleeping on the bed and there are some alcohol bottles on the floor but wait, what made Jack into drinking alcohol like this, yes he drinks before not like this. I decide to move closer to him and wake him up but wow he stinks like a reel of alcohol but wake him and he opens his eye but when he saw me and he started to say a lot of negative words and abusive word to me like "Hey bitch you have come back, you are such bad luck, I should know that you are such a piece of bad luck when everything is turning upside down for me since you never listen, I told you not to keep the pregnancy but you insist on keeping the bastard, that is what makes me want to make more money but see now everything went down the drain, get out idiot" after all that he said he slept off again, all that he said hurt me that I just stand there crying and don't know what to do and I don't understand what went down the drain, I wipe my tears and try the clean the guest room while he is sleeping. Maybe he did not know what he is saying maybe because of alcohol. I move closer to him to remove the dirty clothes that are on the bed beside him but he turns around and slaps me.

"You and the bastard in your belly are bastards, both of you are bad luck" He stand up and grab my hair tightly and slap me again

"Please Jack you are hurting me," I said to him crying and begging him to leave me

He curses me, calling bad names, he said if I have listened to him and abort the baby all this will not happen. He leaves me and told me to get out but he did not tell me what happens to him. I went inside the bedroom and cry my eye out till I fall into a deep slumber.

I wake up to some noise and did not know where it is coming from, I stand up and see what is happening and I check the time and it is 8 in the morning, but when I get inside the living room, it is Jack that is talking on the phone but I decide to leave him and went inside the room I say my morning prayer and went inside the bathroom to fresh up. I look at my face in the mirror and I saw a black spot below my eyes and another big black spot above my brow.

After another crying session in the bathroom, I take shower and went back inside the living room and meet Jack inside the living room drinking and I snatch the bottle from his hand.

"Jack what is happening to you, why are you behaving like this, when I get home yesterday all the house is in a mess, and this morning you have started drinking which you did not do before, what is happening"

"Shut up you bitch, you are all the cause of this, if you have not decided to keep this baby, what will happen will never happen, idiot" snatching the bottle from me and drink

"Jack please stop insulting me and what has my baby has a concern with what happens to you"

"Ok you want to hear, I will tell you bitch" He moves closer to me and grab me by my hair and push me to sit on the chair,

"Please don't hurt me, think of my baby," I said to him and he raises his hand to slap me again but he looks at me and lowers his hand.

"I told you that I invested in some business or like want to invest in the business so I put all the money I have into the business but that is before you said you are pregnant but when you said you are pregnant and you said you want to keep the baby so I borrow money from my boss and put it on the business since the baby is on the way and I told you to resign from your work, but I later know that we are scammed, the company we want to do business with is already bankrupt so they use our money to pay some of their debt in the bank and there is no evidence because the document they issued to use is fake. He said tears flowing from his eyes

"WE? How come you are WE? I don't understand"

"Not only me, me and my friend and we met some other people there the day" he said with tears

"I am really sorry about that but what has my baby has to do with the business?"

"If you do not decide to keep the baby, I won't borrow more money to invest, if you had listened to me, all this will not be happening, now my salary is no not enough because I have some debt to pay to 60% of my salary will be going to be debt I owe," he said

"Excuse me, Jack, I am really sorry about your loss but first you did not tell me anything about the business not until recently, second me and my baby did not have anything to do with you borrowing money, third it is your mistake that you supposed to find out about the business you want to do very well before investing on it, fourth don't put your mistake or your fault on me and my baby, we" He smashes the bottle on the floor and breaks into pieces

"Any more word from your mouth and you will regret it," he said and went out

I just stand there like a statue for about 10 minutes not knowing what to do. I stand up and clean up the broken bottles and sit in the living room and I started crying and thinking how my life turn out like this,

Soon my phone ring and it is my Mom calling and I pick up, she ask about my baby and I told her we are fine, she also told me that my brother will send me the pictures of the baby shower to me I said ok and we talk more and then hang up.

I did not mention to her how Jack treat me today because I don't want them to worry about me.

Chapter 8

I went to the kitchen to prepare dinner so that Jack will be able to eat when he comes back, I don't want to fight or argue with him because of my condition and the way he is angry now he can do anything if I make him angry and I don't want him to hurt me.

After setting the table, he comes back and walks straight to our bedroom I greet him and he just nods his and I told him that food is ready, he turns around and sit on the dining table and eat.

When he finished eating, he went to the bedroom and I follow him because I want to talk to him

"Jack please I want to talk to you"

"What did you want?" he said not looking at me

"I want to tell you that Tuesday is my appointment with the doctor so I want to tell you that maybe you"

"No, I am not coming if that is what you want to say" he cut me off before I finish my statement

I just try I know that he will not follow, the only time he follows me is when I first told him that I am pregnant and the time the doctor reveal the gender of our baby, since then he never follows me again if I call him, is either he said he is busy or he said he is tired even if the doctor appointment falls on a weekend and I came back home from the hospital, is either I met him sleeping or playing game or watching TV. I leave him and when to sleep.

In the midnight I feel that my stomach is paining me and I wake him up but he shout at me that can't I leave him to sleep or am I the one that will first get pregnant, I said I am sorry that I don't know how I am feeling, he said is he the doctor? if am not feeling ok, I should go and see the doctor and I should never wake him up again when I have any complaints.

I stand up and move around the room maybe the pain will relieve me because I don't know what to do and the time now is 3 am, nowhere to go, the pain later relief me and I went back to sleep.

"Good morning boss" I greet my morning, I just resume to work this morning

Bella good morning how are you doing?" he is looking at my belly because it is bigger than the last time he saw me

"I am fine and good" I reply him

I went to my office and start my day well and everything went well, my friend Annie called me and we chat a lot after that I continue my work, when I get home I try to prepare dinner and we eat but

he did not talk to me and to my surprise he did not sleep in our bedroom, he went to sleep in the guest room, I just leave him and continue my food.

In midnight while sleep I feel stomach pain, I have to stand up and move around sometimes I drink water, I just don't know what to do later the pain relief me again, I decide to sleep again since tomorrow is my appointment with the doctor I will tell her I how am feeling.

In the morning when I wake up I saw Jack taking some of his cloth to the guest room, I think he wants to sleep separately from me but no problem, I feel tears in my eyes I just wipe them away and say my morning prayer then decide to go to the bathroom and do my normal routine in the bathroom, when I finish I went to make breakfast but that is when I notice that Jack has left for work, I just make my own breakfast and head to work.

Today at work, my brother send me the baby shower pictures and all the pictures are very nice. Later Annie calls me, now she calls me every day to know how I am feeling and we talk and chat I sent the pictures to her and she said they are nice. I check the times and I notice that soon it will be my appointment time, so I finish my work and leave work.

When I get to the hospital, it is not yet my turn so I sit down in the waiting room, soon I hear the nurse call my name and I stand up and follow her to the doctor's office.

"Hi Bella, nice to see you today, how are you feeling?" The doctor said using her hand telling me to lie down on the bed to check the baby

"Hello Doctor Emily I am fine" After checking the baby I sit on the chair in front of the doctor

"So did you have any complaint?" I reply to her saying yes

"Most of the time I feel dizzy and tired but now for the past few days now I am feeling chest pain and stomach pain," I said

"Ok, we have to run some tests and see what is happening," I said ok and she said I should follow her, after some series of tests she said I should come back for the result and to see what next.

When I get home, I eat my food because I already bought takeout food when I am coming from the doctor office while eating I chat with my friend because she told me that when I come back from the doctor office I should report back to her what the doctor said, she said I should not worry that everything will be alright. I thank God that at least I have someone to lean on which is my friend, she may not be with me but she is there for me whenever I have someone to talk to. When I finish my food that is when Jack enters I greet him and he went inside maybe he has eating outside I don't know because I already send a message to him that I can't cook dinner this night. He did not bother to ask about what the doctor said but I am fine with it.

I clean up after I finish eating and make sure everything is in a good place, then I went to bed say my prayer and drifted off to sleep.

Thank God I wake up today, I said my morning prayer and went inside the bathroom, I feel pain again at the midnight and it is unbearable, I cry holding my stomach, I went to the guest room to call Jack but he did not answer me, I am sure that he is hearing me because Jack is not a heavy sleeper. I take the pain relief medicine the doctor prescribes for me but I still feel dizzy and weak. I lie down on the bed and sleep.

In the morning, I prepare breakfast and went to call Jack that breakfast is ready because I can still hear that he is inside, I greet him and he responds then start eating. He did not even bother to ask me why am I knock on his door at midnight. when we finish breakfast I clean the dishes and head to work, when I get to work I get all my work done, and later my friend calls me we talk for some time.

When it is time for me to go home, I went to the supermarket to get some groceries and I get home to prepare dinner, after dinner we walk to our respective room and I say my prayer then sleep. The next morning Doctor Emily call me that the result is out I should come and she set an appointment for me, after work, I went straight to the hospital. I am in the hospital waiting for my turn, soon the nurse calls my name and I went inside the doctor's office and she told me to sit down. She is looking through some papers and I sure it is my test result because my name is written on it but her face is not happy as before when I come for my appointments or check-ups.

I am scared right now because I don't maybe the test result is good or bad.

Chapter 9

"Hi Bella, how are you?" Doctor said

"I am good but the stomach pain is getting worst," I said feeling nervous because of the result

"Ok Bella, why did your fiancé not follow you," she said but I feel more nervous because she knows what is happening between me and Jack maybe what she wants to say is not good

"He is busy," I said

"First of all Bella, y... you let me start this way"

"Please doctor tell me anything and everything so I can know what to do next, please I don't want anything to happen to my baby and I don't want you to hide anything from me about my health," I said looking at her

"Ok first of all Bella you have to stop working because now your baby is so stressful and you are now in seven months and you need a lot of rest," she said worriedly "You have anemia and there are some complications with your pregnancy" immediately she said that I let the tears I am holding back since to fall, she then stands up from her seat and sit beside me and hold my hand

"It is not serious if you use your medicine regularly and you can give birth naturally if not you have to deliver through caesarian I mean surgery" she releases my hand then hug me and pats my back to calm me down

When I get home, I prepare food to eat to take the medical doctor to prescribe for me, my phone rings I check the caller and it is Annie because when she called in the afternoon I told her that I am going to hear about the result from the hospital and she told me she promised to call me back in the night when I get home, I pick up the call and explain everything to her, her first statement is "Oh my God" she told me a lot of things to encourage me that everything will be fine, she also said she is sorry that she is not here with me, we talk a lot after that and hang up. After dinner, I told Jack that I want to tell him something

"Jack please I want to talk to you"

"What"

"Some days ago that I told you that I am in pain and it happens every midnight, so my doctor run some test, I went there today for the result" I raised my head up to hold my tears " doctor said I have anemia and I have some complications if am good before delivery I will deliver naturally if not I will have to go through surgery to deliver my baby," I said letting my tears fall

"Oh I am so sorry for that, please don't cry" he sits beside me and hold my hand "What did she say that you should do?"

"She said I need a lot of rest and I should take the medicine she prescribes for me regularly then there won't be any problem" I reply him

"Ok no problem, make sure you should take your medicine regularly as the doctor said, everything will be alright," he said

"Thank you," I said

"Have you get the medicine or I should go and get it now?" he asked

"I have already get it on my way coming home, Thank you"

After our conversation, he went to his room and I clear all the dish and clean the kitchen I take a bottle of water with me because the doctor said I should make sure to drink water regularly, she also lists the food I can eat and food I can't eat. I must not eat salty and spicy food. I went to my room and say my prayer then sleep.

I did not mention to him that the doctor said I should working because he will say that he already told me before to stop working and he may cause another argument.

Two months later

I am walking up and down the hospital hallway, I am having contraction every twenty minutes and Jack is also with me, Doctor Emily said I have to dilate up to 10cm but my water has not broken yet, the pain is unbearable that I am trying my best to do some exercise for the water to break, she said I can give birth with normal delivery, Jack is beside me walking with me. I am happy that he is with me right now, the time now is 11 am.

I feel the first contraction at 8 in the morning when I want to prepare breakfast for Jack, yes I am still preparing breakfast and dinner for him but if I said I can't that I am tired he will not say anything when I feel the first contraction, then the pain increases so he drives me down to the hospital. I lie down on the bed because my leg is paining me and I am feeling weak then the doctor gave me an IV drip, still the pain did not decrease, one of the nurses check my baby in the scan and said she is fine. After 5 hours doctor Emily said she will have to break the water by herself and put one long rod inside my vaginal and I feel wetness underneath me. I try all best and do some exercise, after another 4 hours, I reach 10 cm.

"Bella now your baby is feeling weak you have to push now," she said

"Ok" I try to push again

"Breath in and out three times the relax a little bit and then push when I told you to and one of them is pushing my belly down

"Ok," I said feeling weak

"Now push," she said

Haaaaaa I push soon I hear my baby cry a little the doctor said she is weak that is why she did not cry louder and put her on my chest I look at my baby face then tears fell from the corner of my eyes and I said "Thank God" and she cut the umbilical cord since Jack is not here with me, he said he can't stay with me that he is scared, I saw my baby and she is so tiny and cute, she has the eye color of Jack grey eye, when she looks at me all my worries fly away, then one of the nurses take her away to clean her and instantly I fell asleep

I was discharged after four days due to the complication and I am very weak, Jack's mum and sisters came to visit and help me in a lot of things. I call my parents on a video call and they saw their grandchild since they can't come they don't have money to come and I also don't have that amount of money to send to them.

After 3 months of given birth to my beautiful daughter Mia, she is my life she looks so much like me but has the eye color of Jack. She's my life. She's my source of motivation and I promise myself to always do my best to give her a good life, a life far better than mine. Things did not get better between me and Jack but he plays with his daughter when he comes back from work, but when I want to do something like cooking or cleaning and I tell him to look after her he will say he is tired that he can't look after her is either I should back her (in my country Nigeria we put our baby on our back and put wrapper to secure the baby not to fall down) or I put her in her pram and set her beside me in the kitchen, it is like we are stranger living in the same apartment, I always feel suffocated at home but my daughter keeps me going. I told him that I want to start work that he should pay for Mia's daycare because I don't have enough money with me anymore because I spent all on baby stuff like food, diaper, clothes, toys, and some other things, but he said he don't have money to pay for daycare because he is paying the house rent and he still have some debt to pay. He treat me like a nobody, I don't have any say in whatever he does but if I want to do anything I have to tell him or if I want to go anywhere I have to tell him first even if I went to the supermarket only not any other place without calling or telling him first and he knows about it he will be so angry. He can't take the responsibility of her daughter but he wants to make a decision about my life, idiot fellow.

He said I should not work that he did not want me to work then after he pays his debt he will provide everything for us but I told him that I can't sit at home and I will also want to send money to my parent and there are some things that I will need urgently and he will not be around, but he insists that I should not work, he said I am meant to take care of the house.

Annie came to visit me and she is so happy that the meet her goddaughter, for the time she is here I feel relaxed that I have someone to talk to and when she is going back, she gave me money to spend, I am so happy and I thank her for all what he has done for me I told her that I will surely repay her back, she said she did do anything for me but for her goddaughter Mia.

Chapter 10

I am dressing for my daughter and I also want to get dressed we are going to Jack's parent house for his parent's anniversary.

We are now inside the car on our way to his parent house, when we get there, his mum is so happy to see us and she takes Mia from me and I went to greet his father and his sisters, they are so happy and they keep on chatting and my so-called fiancé is also happy and the way he is talking to his family as if he won a lottery, soon one of her sister come and sit beside me and said why am I looking at his brother like that, so you are looking how handsome he is.

"When are you getting married?" getting married is not in our plan right now I thought

"Very soon," I said

"I am so glad that he is happy that he has moved on with his life" I am curious about what she said but I want to know more

"Yes, it is true, I am also happy about that," I said

"He is really sad that he has to lock himself inside his apartment for one week," she said I still don't understand what she is talking about

"Really, wow I don't know he suffers to that extent but all that he told me he did not say that he locks himself up to a week," I said trying to let her talk "Lily can you tell me what really happens because he told me part of it but I think he is still not free to talk about it?" it is the curiosity that wants to kill me now

"It is her wife, Evelyn"

"Wife???? They get married?" I asked surprised, Jack was married before

"Yes, he is married to her did he not tell you" I nod my head because I don't know what to say

"Evelyn is his first love in everything and her also, they met in the first year in college and since then they started dating and everything went smoothly for them mum and dad also like her, after their graduation, my brother proposed to her and they get married both of them started working but in a different company but in the meantime Evelyn get promoted in her own work and they increased her salary, her salary is more than my brother salary, soon they started having argument whenever they need something at home Evelyn will buy it, even when they go out to get something she will pay and my brother said he did not like that, even his salary is not up to her salary he should be the one to pay. It is so serious that they argue every day and night. To cut the

story short my brother catches Evelyn with another man but she did not feel guilty she said that both of them are not on the same level anymore, they get divorced and my brother is so sad that she said she will never allow any woman she wants to marry to work." She said

"If he keeps on believe in that he will never get married because one woman do like that does not mean another woman will do the same," I said

"This stupid belief of him make him and Linda (Jack second sister) fight for almost a month that they did not talk to each other because he said her husband should not allow her to work because she is the assistant manager in her company that she is working soon she will be arrogant to her husband and her husband also is listening to this conversation. Then Linda told him that did he want to destroy her marriage? If your wife does that does not mean I will do that or another woman will do that" she said

"Really" Is the only word I said

"Mom and Dad always talk to him not to stick to that stupid believe of his, but he never listens but since you are working before you gave birth to Mia maybe he has changed" Changed indeed you guys don't know that I am the one suffering from what his ex-wife did to him

"Yes," I said

"Hey Bella why are you crying?" she said and wipes away my tears

"Nothing I am fine," I said an excuse myself to the washroom

I cried for some time then wash my face and Jack told me we are going home that I should get prepared, everything is silent inside the car, you wouldn't believe that this is the same Jack talking and laughing with his family a while ago is the same Jack that sit with me now. I am debating maybe I should tell him or not.

I am taking a shower for Mia to let her sleep then maybe I will talk to Jack, I can't believe that Jack was married before, I can't see any traces or anything related to him been married before, wow this guy is good in hiding things.

He is in the living room playing game, I decide to talk to him

"Jack I want to talk to you" I am so nervous right now what if he gets angry

"What?" he said harshly to the extent that I am so scared to talk to him

"Jack, who is Evelyn?" he turns his face immediately as if he has speed on his neck and his face is like fire

"What did you mean by who is Evelyn?" he said

"I am asking you"

"I don't know who is Evelyn," he said dropping his gamepad and walking to his room but I stop him

"Jack, why don't you tell me that you have married before?" I said and he standstill

"It is not necessary to tell you, it is not I am seeing her again," he said

"So this is the reason that you don't want me to work because your ex-wife is arrogant to you because she is receiving more salary than you," I said crying

"Please just forget about it" he said walking away

"You can just believe that because one woman did that to you then another woman would do the same, that is called selfish, because of what your ex-wife did to you, you don't want me to work, you won't want me to pursue my career, I can't just sit here at home doing nothing. What if I am the one that was married before and did not tell you what will you do, I am sure will break up with me immediately" I am just saying anything I like because I can't believe he was married before and did not tell me

"So are you telling me that you want to break up with me? Then go ahead you are free" he said shouting

"Really? So you did not see any big deal in all this, I mean hiding for me that you are married before, then you are selfish, I think your ex-wife make a good decision for divorcing you, or else she will be stuck to a big for nothing old fool like you" Immediately I said that, follow a hot and dirty slap from Jack

Then he went to his room and slams the door, I crying for some time before I went to the refrigerator to get an ice cube for my face. Am I making a good decision by still staying with him, I don't want my daughter to grow up without a father. If I get to break up with him now I don't have money to rent an apartment by myself now, my daughter is 3 to 4 months old and I can't leave her with him and go away. I don't know what to do.

End of flashback

Chapter 11

2 years later

I am working as a waiter because I did not get a job in any good company despite being a graduate because they said after graduating I did not work more than 6 months and I have 1 year and almost 6 months break and that is when I gave birth to my daughter, all the company I went for interview are saying the same thing that I did not have more working experience even I went back to the company I work for before I gave birth because my boss said if I want to work again I can come back but the company has merged to another company and even my former boss is not there anymore

I am still living with Jack but we are like a cat and mouse in the house but whenever he wants to start any fight or argument I did not reply to him if my daughter is around I don't want her to have a bad memory of us.

I prepare food for dinner for Mia and prepare her to sleep but I did not see Jack anywhere when Mia sleep I go back to the kitchen and prepare her lunch box for the next day and all the necessary things I suppose to do and went to sleep beside my daughter.

The next day I prepare breakfast, after finish preparing breakfast I wake Mia up and dress up for her to school and I also get dress up for work but I check in Jack's room that breakfast is ready but he is not there, where did he go early in the morning or he did not come home at all, I don't know.

I am at work and my phone rings I quickly pick it up because it is Jack's Mom and she said when I will get home because she wants to talk to me and it is not the matter to talk on the phone, so I tell the time I will get home and hang up. I went to pick up my daughter and head home because I am nervous right now I don't know what Jack's mom wants to tell me because she has never called me like that before.

As soon as I get home I prepare food for Mia but I still can't see Jack at home because the house is the way I left it this morning because if Jack was here it will be so messy.

"Hi Mum" I greet her as soon as she enters

"Hi, how are you doing?" she said but to my surprise, she is not the only one, Jack's father and his sisters are also here

"Hi dad" I greet him and also greet his sister but I am more nervous right now, is something happen to Jack or I don't know

"Where is Mia?" one of his sisters ask me

"She is inside the room watching the cartoon," I said and they all seat on the couch "please did you like anything to drink or eat," I asked

"No no we are fine," Jack's mom said and look around as if she is telling them to agree with her and they all say the same that they don't want anything

"Bella we are here to talk to you and we won't want you to take this serious" Jack's father said

"Please hope there is no problem and where is Jack because I have not seen him since yesterday? I said

"Bella Jack has left the country and he also said he has broken up with you" one of the said

"Wait, did he told you to tell me that he has broken up with me? I don't understand," I asked

"No he said we should tell you that he is sorry that he break up with you and he left the country," his Mom said

"Why did he do that? Why can't he tell me himself? He is such a coward" I said and tears fell from my eyes, one of his sisters sit beside me and pat my back

"We are sorry and he also said we should tell you that he is sorry" I did not say anything I should sit there and cry

After some minutes they all left and they said if I need anything I should come to them and their door is always open to us. Should I be happy that I am free from this relationship with him? Or I should be angry that I am now a single mother? I don't know, I am glad that they did not take my daughter away from me.

6 months later

Today my daughter is 3 years old and we celebrating with Jack's family and my friend Annie is also here, we are celebrating in his parent house, for the past six months has been tough around no matter how bad he is, I really miss him having him but I have to move on, now am a single mother of one but not ready to mingle.

"Hey babe what is happening?" Annie sit beside me

"Nothing it is just that seeing his parent makes me remember him," I said

"Just forget about him and start a new memory, both of you are not meant to be for each other," she said and hug me

I have rent another apartment because I can't afford the apartment I and Jack are living before, I rent a cheap one to able to have enough money left for other stuff, after Mia's birthday we spend some days with Annie before she travels back, we talk a lot because, since the time I gave birth

when my daughter was three months that is the last time we saw each other, she even offer me to follow her where she is living maybe I can find a job there but I said no that I am fine, I don't want to be a burden on her if I am the only one it will be nice but I have a daughter, it is better to maintain our friendship like this.

After all the interview I went to they all reject saying the same thing, yes I am still going for an interview because working as a waiter is not an easy job, I decided to sit down in a park not far from my daughter school to receive fresh air and think what to do next. Thinking about my life from the beginning when I came to California to when I met Jack till today, a cry of a baby brought me out of my thought, I look in the direction where the baby is I saw a couple not far from where am sitting trying to calm their crying baby but all in vain, even the father of the baby is dancing on his knee for the baby while holding some toys and the mother also is trying her best to calm the baby but the baby did not stop crying, I look away from them but the cry did not let me think of anything so I decide maybe I should help at least but what if they ignore me or they send me away.

"Hi, my name is Bella, can I try to help with your baby?" Both of them look at me but later the mother pass me the baby

"Hey boy, why are you crying? You know mum and dad love you, why are you crying" I said to the baby that is when I notice the baby is a boy

I first check his diapers and her mother said that she just change it then I put her on my should and start singing for him and pat his back am also dancing, I throw him up a little bit and still singing, after 10-15 minutes of my display he stops crying and I collect the food from his Mom's hand and feed him after feeding him I place him on my should and he burps and sleeps then I put him on the pram.

"Thank you so much, Miss Bella, I don't know what to say but to thank you," his mother said and hug me

"Thank you so much Miss Bella and we are sorry for the trouble," his father said

"Please call me Bella and I have a daughter like him so that is not trouble and please excuse me I have to go now" I check the time and it is time to pick Mia from school

"Please just manage this for the transport" The baby's father gave me money

"No please don't bother I can't take that from you please" I kiss the baby on the cheek and wave my hand to his parent

I am walking to my daughter's school, it is like 20 minutes' walk from here, so when I pick her up we will take a cab back home.

Chapter 12

I am playing with Mia in the living room as today is weekend, suddenly my phone ring and I check the caller but it is an unknown number.

"Hello, please is that Miss Bella," the caller said

"Yes, it is me, Bella"

"From Nat Group of Company, you have been accepted to work in our company as a secretary, we need you to bring your original certificate on Monday and start work and I will send the address to you now," the caller said

"Ok, Thank you so much," I said and the caller hung up

But come to think of it I have never gone for a job or interview in the company she said now, so why will they call me when I did not even go there, the lady on the phone said she will send me the address, what if they are kidnappers or armed robbers. 'Shut up what did you have they want to steal from you' my subconscious said. It is true I will try and see what will happen.

Today is Monday, I have dropped my daughter at school and I already called my boss at the restaurant and give some excuse that I won't be able to come today, so inside a cab and show the address to the driver, soon he drops me in front of the company and it is wow, it is a tall building almost like 20-25 story building and when I step inside it is so nice, I stand there and looking at the building until someone taps me on my shoulder.

"Please how may I help you?" A lady said

"I am sorry, my name is Bella Williams and I get a call that I should submit my certificate today," I said feeling nervous

"Ok, take the elevator and go to the 30th floor and you will someone there, you talk to her," she said and I thank her

I get inside the elevator and press number 30 on the elevator button as she said and as I step out of the elevator I saw a lady in front of me sitting behind a desk.

"Hi, how may I help you?" she said politely

"Hi I am Bella Williams, I get a call on Saturday from your company here that I should submit my original certificate today to start work," I said

"Okay, please give me some minute," she said and pick up the phone and talk to someone

"Please come with me" I follow her

Soon we reach in front of an office door and written Nate Robinson CEO in front of the door and she knocks and we heard come in, she opens the door and told me to go in and she went back to his desk

"Hello," I said as soon as I see the person, I am sure he is CEO as written on the front door typing on his laptop and face down and I quickly look around the office and it is amazing.

"Please Bella sit down" The boss knows my name please God let me come out from here alive, I look up and the where the voice is coming from but he has not yet looked up, I sit down as he said and immediately he lookup

"How are you doing? Thanks for the other day" he is the baby father I help in the park the other day

"I am fine and no problem," I said looking confused as to how did he know that I am looking for work and how did he find my number?

"I am sure you will be surprised as to how I get your number, well the other day as you left, you forget one file and inside is your CV and I get to see your number in there and I see that you are looking for work," he said

"Oh, thanks" is the only word that comes out from my mouth

"You know what I can only offer you a job as a secretary as I don't have any vacancy that meets your credentials as stated in the CV as an Accounting graduate and it is only a secretary vacancy that is available as my secretary resigned last week and the lady you see outside is my PA so if you don't mind" As if I will mind at least I have a good job, that is ok by me

"Thank you, I don't mind sir" Sir is necessary at least he is now my boss

"Ok, but if you don't mind can I ask you a few questions and some personal questions?" he said

"Ok, sir no problem"

"Why did you let your first job and why don't you work since then till now that you are looking for a job because in your CV it stated that you have worked last like 4 years ago," he asked

"I left my job then because I am pregnant and after almost 2 years that I gave birth I decided to work again but no one wants to employ me because I have only 6 months experience of working before I gave birth and almost 2 years break" I reply him

"Ok I am sorry for that," he said

"No problem"

"Are you married?" he said looking at my hand maybe he is looking for a wedding ring

"No, I am a single mother, my Fiancé broke up with me," I said

"Oh, I am sorry" he collects the original certificate from me and looks at it

He told me about my salary and the time I must resume work and time to get off from work, He then presses the phone and talks to someone, soon the lady that brought me in step inside, he told her to show me my table and explain to me what I am going to do.

Chapter 13

Working as a secretary is a little bit stressful but is better than working as a waiter, my work is to type all the meeting report and receive incoming calls and some other things like that but if the PA is here, her name is Anna, she helps me to do some work, my first day of work is so hectic, there are some files that yet to be completed and meeting reports that have not yet type at all, I manage to do some of them that day. Now it has been 2 weeks that I am working there but the father of the baby I saw that day in the park is different from the man at work, his PA said when he is at work, he is so cold but outside of work, he is nice and cheerful, I think that is very good.

After three weeks of working here, I am now used to it and everything went smoothly, I am so happy that I have good work, I call my friend Annie and she is so happy to hear that. Now I can send money to my parent and have enough money left to buy things for my daughter and myself.

After a hectic day at work, I am playing with my phone because my boss and his PA have gone out for a meeting, soon I saw one lady coming out from the elevator and she stands in front of me.

"Hi Bella, how are you?" the lady said but I don't know how she knows my name

"Hi Ma'am, I am fine, how may I help you?" I think I saw her before but I don't know where

"Don't you remember me"

"I don't think so You are the boss wife and also the lady in the park, I am so sorry" I apologize to her immediately.

"My name is Natalie, how are you doing? How is your daughter?" She said sitting down on the chair in front of me

"Thanks, we are both doing fine and how is your baby?" I asked

"He is fine, his name is Jason"

"That is a lovely name, Mr. Nate is not around now, maybe you will wait for him or" she cut me off before I finish my statement

"I am here for you Bella, I am glad you are working here because I want to invite you to my son's birthday next weekend and I want to bring your daughter also but before that, I want to invite you to come with me during this coming weekend for shopping you can bring your daughter also not as my husband secretary but as a friend" Inviting me as a friend maybe I did not hear very well

"Me???"

"Yes you or you don't want to follow or come to my son birthday," she asked me smiling

"No no no, not like that, I will come," She asked for my phone number and she also gives me her own phone number

"Ok then I will accept that as yes"

We talk a lot more, she asks about me and she also talks about herself, soon my boss arrives and she went to her husband's office.

Soon I get off work and went to my daughter's school to pick her up, we went home I make food for her and help with her homework then went to bed.

Today is Saturday that I will follow my boss wife shopping, my boss wife called me this morning at 10 am to get dressed, I get dress and now dressing up for my daughter because Natalie (my boss wife, told me to call her by her name not ma'am or Mrs. Robison) has called me again this morning at 11:30 am that she is on her way to pick me up, I tell her that I will meet her in the shopping mall that she should send the address to me but she said she will pick me up by herself.

"Good morning Aunty," my daughter said as soon as we gt inside her car

"Good morning my dear" she put her on her leg and kiss on her cheek

"Thanks for coming with me today" she is referring to me

"No problem," I said and play with her baby that is on his car seat beside me

She told the driver where we are going and soon he drives off, when we get to the mall she bought a lot of takeaway gift for the kids that will attend the party and she also asks for my advice on some things, we discuss the food, the design of the cake to make and all other kinds of stuff pertaining to the party. Sometimes I wonder that doesn't have any friends? that she chooses me to do all these things with her? But I keep my wonder and thought to myself. She mentions the design of the cake again and I told her I can help her with the cake because I can bake some snacks like cake any type of cakes, cookies, doughnuts, biscuit, pies, and some snacks also from my country like meat pie, puff puff, chin chin and all that, I learn everything from my Mom and I sometimes bake it for my daughter, sometimes for Jack's parent and Annie, my friend and they all love it.

"Are you sure you can bake a cake and design it also?" She asked surprised

"Yes but if you are not sure you can order from the confectionary store" she is looking at me and not say anything after some seconds she later talk

"Not like that, I am so sure, then no problem, then let us buy the ingredients that you will need before we go," she said

I just want to help her nothing else, so we agree on the design and bought all the necessary ingredients I will need and to my surprise, she bought a nice dress for my daughter to wear on that day and some other clothes and shoes for her, I try to deny it that I have money to buy clothes for her but she said she does not mean that I did not have money to buy things for her but she just wishes to buy some things for her.

After all the shopping we went to a restaurant to eat and I also play with her son and everything went smoothly

On Monday morning I went to work and my boss called me to his office and he thanks me for following his wife shopping and for the cake I want to make, he told me that if I need anything I should feel free to ask him or his wife and I said thanks to him for the kind gesture.

Chapter 14

Today is party day and I have got to her house early in the morning to bake the cake and start the preparation of the party, I bake 2 different cakes for the party, one cake is a two-tier cake with a mickey mouse design and 12 cupcakes around it and the second one is also two-tier cake with cars design. After that I decided to bake some snacks for the kids and I made Nigerian chin chin (Nigeria snack) for the adult if they like it and they love it, their parent love the cake and everything I did for them and they also love the Nigerian snack I made for the adult they also thank me for that, even Natalie said later I will have to teach her some stuff and the Nigerian chin chin I make because she and her husband love it, she said I will also teach her how to back baby in Nigeria because her son is crying and he did not want anybody to carry him so I feed him and put her in my back later he fell asleep while we are preparing for the party.

The party started and I get dressed for my daughter to join the other kids in the garden and I help the maid to set the table and help to prepare some things some other stuff.

After I make sure everything is set, I walk inside to change my cloth and Natalie also insist, she said I should leave the remaining stuff for the maids, she said I can stay in one of the guest room.

The party has started and everything went well, the MC give the kids a lot of games and make sure that all the kids participate in the game, even my daughter win a prize from the game and she comes and show me in the corner am sitting. Natalie and my boss also come and meet me there and told me to stand up and have fun and mingle with a lot of people. But the people that are here are from the high class and am just an ordinary secretary, I don't want to forget about that.

When Natalie sees that I did not stand up from the same place, she comes and pull me up and introduce me to a lot of people and to my surprise she introduces me as her friend, not her husband secretary, her mother also explain how I back her grandson in my country way to some people there, I think maybe they are her friends and also told them that all the cakes that are here am the one that prepares it. There is one particular eye that is looking at me since the time Natalie is introducing me to some people, he stares at me wherever I go, and even if I catch his eye on me he did not look away.

"Hi," the guy said, he thinks that the stare is not enough

"Hello" I answered not to be rude

"My name is Nick" So, good for you

"Nice" I reply soon I saw Natalie pass by me and I follow her as if she needs my attention

Time for cutting the cake and they call the birthday boy and his parent, soon the grandparents and some other family members and friends, Natalie also call me to join, the last is all the kids together, after snapping pictures they cut the cake and shared it and all the people are saying it is nice, am relieved that I did not disappoint her. Toward the end of the party, some guests have left while some are leaving and some are preparing to leave, so I decided to get my daughter to leave also.

"Bella, meet my husband best friend and my friend also Nick and Nick meet my friend Bella," Natalie said but to my surprise it is the same guy that talks to me before

"Hi" is the only word I said

"Hi, my name is Nick and you are Bella" He repeats himself as if we have not met before

"Yeah" I don't know what to say again

"Nice to meet you," he said smiling

"Nice to meet you too," I said not smiling because I want to get out of here

"Where are you from? Soon Natalie leave us because someone calls her

"I am from Nigeria," I said looking around for my daughter so that we can go

"That is nice," he said

"Mama Mama" Mia is calling me and running toward me I grab her and carry her "Mama see I have a lot of gifts" she shows me the prize from the games earlier

"Is she your daughter?" he asked and to say the truth I have forgotten him I don't know that he still standing in from of me

"Yes" As I said yes his face changed but I don't care

"Mia say hi to Uncle" She do as I said and he also replies her

"Are you married?" He asked, please someone come to take this guy away from me

"No," I said

Soon I excuse myself from him and went to the guest room that I put my belongings and prepare to go. I went out and saw that guy what is his name, Nick talking to my boss and his wife, so I walk toward them and told them that am going. My boss and his wife thank me.

"Thank you for today Bella I am really grateful," Natalie said

"Thank you so much, Bella, I really appreciate all this"

"No problem, Jason is also like my daughter so there is no problem in doing that," I said and Nick is looking at me

We said our goodbyes and I left from there, even they said I should allow the driver to drop me but I decline and said I will be fine.

When we get home, Mia told me about everything that happens at the party and all the fun she has, she also said that she has made a lot of friends and she mention their names to me. I can see the happiness in her and I am so happy that she really enjoys the party.

Chapter 15

The next day which is Sunday I wake up and said my morning prayer then check the time, it is 11 am, wow I slept for so long, I went to the bathroom to take a shower and do all the necessary things to do and I went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast before Mia wakes up.

After I finish preparing breakfast, I checked the time and see that anytime from now Mia will wake up, so I decided to set the table, soon I feel a small cute arm wrapped around my waist.

"Good morning mommy," She said

"Good morning my little princess, how are you?" I bend down, pick her up and put her on my hips

"I am fine mummy, I am hungry," She said and kisses me on my cheek

"Ok, I have prepared your favorite pancake, so now you have to brush your teeth, take a shower and change your clothes," She said ok and I drop her on the floor then follow her to the bathroom to take a shower for her.

After like 30 minutes of doing everything because we had a fight in the bathroom because she said she wants to brush her teeth by herself and I said no.

After we finish eating our breakfast I on the TV for her to watch cartoon after that I go back to the kitchen to clean all the dished and I prepare food for us for next week because tomorrow there is school and am going to work, I make food that will sustain us till one week and store them in the freezer, the reason why I do that is that sometime when I come back from work I might be tired and I can't starve my daughter because am tired so that is why I prepared the food, after that, I bake a cake, cookies, biscuit, and some doughnut.

When I am done in the kitchen I sit beside Mia and we watch the cartoon together and I give her doughnuts and juice. Later my phone rings and I checked the caller ID and it is Natalie, I pick it up and she thanks me for yesterday and I told her that she is always welcome, soon we talk a lot more and we hang up.

I ask Mia if she likes to go out and she said yes, I just want to have a nice time with my daughter, I get dressed for her and she said she wants to go to the playground, when we get there I bought all the tickets of the things she wants and she plays a lot and I even snap her picture and make some videos. Later she said she want to eat pizza and I take her to eat pizza, soon we went to the park that is close to our house and she plays a lot and I sit on a chair watching her. Later she said again that she wants to eat ice cream and I get it for her, then we went home and fresh up then we eat dinner and went to bed.

The next day, as usual, I make my morning prayer then to the bathroom to take shower, I prepare Mia's lunch bag and I went to wake her up, I also take shower for her, we eat our breakfast and we go out, first to Mia's school to drop her, then to my workplace.

"Good morning sir" I greet my boss because am in front of him in his office right now, he calls me on the intercom that he wants me in his office

"Good morning Bella, how are doing and how's Mia?" he said

"We are doing great," I said to him

Then he assigned some work for me and I left his office, as am about to sit down on my chair to do the work my boss assigned to me, I see that the elevator open and comes out a handsome guy dressed in a black Armani suit and the perfume he used to smell nice. 'shut up idiot' my subconscious said

"Good morning Bella" the voice brought me out of my thought

"Good morning sir, how may I help you?" As soon as I look at the person's face turn out to be Nick, my boss friend that I met yesterday at my boss son's birthday party

"I want you to give me your phone number," he said

"Ok" After I said ok then I realized what he said and I look at his face maybe I hear him wrong.

"Sir what did you just say?" I look at him

"Never mind, is my friend around," I said yes and quickly pick up the intercom to tell my boss that his friend wants to see him and he said I should let him enter

"Please you can go in" Then I follow him and I open the door for him

He wants my number but I think since he knows that I am a single mother he will not talk to me again, maybe he made a mistake it is another thing he wants to say.

Some moment later my boss and his friend come out and he said goodbye to me and both of them went away.

When it is time for me to get off work, I pack my things and say goodbye to Anna and she is also preparing to go, I went to Mia school and pick her up but when we stand by the roadside, I saw a nice car park in front of us I don't know the name of the car because I am not used to cars and if they did not write the name in front of it I can recognize the car, it is not my fault, it is part of being poor, soon the passenger side glass rolled down and I saw Nick, I don't want to be rude to him and Mia is beside me so I bend down by the car door and greet him, he said I should come inside to drop us off but I said no that we will soon see a cab, he tries to convince but I said no and I

say thank you, he said ok and drove off, after some minutes of waiting we see a cab and we went home straight.

Chapter 16

The next day after I make my morning prayer and I went to the bathroom to do all the necessary things then make breakfast after that I wake Mia up and take a shower for her then we eat breakfast and went out.

I get to work and I finished the work that I supposed to do, soon the elevator door is open I saw Nick coming out of the elevator.

"Hello," he said smiling.

"Hi" What makes him smiling now I don't know

"Bella, can I have your number?" I think I did not hear very well

"My phone number?" I asked again maybe I did not hear what he is saying

"Yes, your phone number," He said again

"I am sorry, I don't give my phone number to strangers," I said picking the intercom to call my boss that his friend is here

"I am not a stranger anymore, I am your boss friend and also Natalie friend and Natalie said you are his friend, so I am not a stranger, am your friend's friend and your boss friend," he said and I told him that my boss said he should come in

I stand up from my seat and walk to my boss front door to open the door for him but he said that if I don't give him my number he will get it by himself but I did not answer, soon Anna comes out from the boss office and she heard what he is saying

When I get to my desk my phone rings and I checked the caller ID and it is Annie and I pick it up immediately

"Hey babe, how are you and how is my goddaughter?" she said happily

"We are fine and how are you" I am so happy that she called me, it has been a long time that we talk and if I call her it is always going to voicemail

"I have missed my goddaughter so much but I don't miss you," she said laughing

"She also misses you so much and I also miss you too," I said

"Really, wow I also miss you so much," she said

"It has been a long time and I am calling you but it is always going to voicemail, hope there is no problem," I asked her

"I am so sorry, I am so busy at work that I have to put all my calls on voicemail," she said

We talk a lot more and she said she is coming very soon but she did not tell me when, she said she wants to make it a surprise for me and Mia, soon we said our goodbye and hang-up, I am so grateful that we are on lunch break that I was able to talk to her very well.

I went to the company cafeteria and get something to eat, Anna also come and sit beside me and she said can she talk to me and I said yes.

"What was Nick our boss's friend talking to you about?" She said giving me a face like don't lie to me

"Nothing she said I should give him my number and I said I did not give my number to strangers," I said

"Don't mind her Bella, he is one of the millionaire playboys here in California" She said looking serious

"I don't have anything to do with him, even he is not a playboy," I told her

We talk a lot more after we finish our lunch we went back to our desk. Nick comes out of the boss's office and he put a piece of paper on my desk and walk away 'I like you and I want us to be friends, this is my number call me' that is what is written on the paper and he put his phone number there, I squeeze it and put it in the trash can beside my desk.

After my day at work, I went to pick Mia from school and we went home after dinner soon we went to bed.

Two months later

Today is Friday which is weekend, I am in the living room with Mia watching a cartoon and I am playing a game on my phone, I just finish cooking for next week.

Soon my phone ring and it is Annie, I pick up my phone and what she said surprised me.

"Please babe open the door for me" I stand up quickly and open the door and I hug her so tight that she taps me that she can't breathe and I said sorry and we hug ourselves normally after we released ourselves from the hug, she carries Mia and hug her and said I have missed you so much my cupcake and Mia also said she misses her.

We went to the living room and she said she is hungry and she wants to eat Nigerian food and I went to the kitchen and prepare her favorite Nigerian food that she like after I finish preparing I

saw both of them sitting on the floor in the living room showing Mia the stuff she buys for her like toys, shoes and clothes and dress because she knows that Mia loves gown dress so much, she said she is the one that makes the dresses for her by herself and I ask for my own cloth that she made for me but she jokingly said that she does not have time for me.

Later we went to the dining table and eat, after that we gist a lot, she told me that she is preparing to relocate here in California and she talks about her boyfriend, work and all other things, I told her also about Nick my boss friend and how he is disturbing me for the past two months to the extent that even my boss has known about it and he told me that I should think about it very well that Nick is a playboy and he also said that maybe he has stopped being a playboy and have feelings for me because he has never seen him trying to woo the same woman for this long because he has a lot of women that pleased him every night. Annie told me I should just ignore him.

After our discussion, we get dressed and went out with Annie, she is the one that says we should go and have fun most especially she has missed her goddaughter, first she takes Mia to kid's cinema, then to the amusement park after we went to eat, she bought a lot of toys for her that I had to stop her from buying anything again, then we went to eat ice cream after that Mia is so tired that she is about to sleep then we go home.

When we get home she takes a shower for Mia and puts her to sleep.

Chapter 17

The Next day I went to work and Annie said she will drop Mia to school and she will also go and pick her up that I should not worry about her, she is staying at my house for now.

When I get to work my boss called me and Anna, he told us that he wants to celebrate the company anniversary which is one month to this time, so he said he hand over the responsibility to the two of us, we should supervise all the necessary things like the decoration of the hall, foods, and drinks, the people to invite and all necessary stuff. After the discussion with our boss, I and Anna went back to our desk and she told me what to do because she has been working here for 3 years, and also she checked what she will also do, we divided the work into two.

NICK P.O.V

I don't know what my problem, that I am chasing the same woman for the past 2 months when there are a lot of girls to warm my bed at night, maybe because no girl or lady ever say no to me, what is special in her that she declined me anytime I want to talk to her, I always do what I set my mind on. I am Nick Scoot, no woman has ever say no to me.

I am on way to Nate company to see Bella, I will try to talk to her today and get her number, Nate and Natalie refused to give me her number they said that they know that I am a playboy and Bella is a good girl so I should find another girl, but I don't know why I always chase her even if a girl declined me I get another within seconds, so am I chasing this particular girl?

"Hey Buddy" I greet Nate when I enter his office

"Nick, what are you doing here? Don't you have work to do at your company?" He asked me

"Can't I come to see my friend again?"

"You did not come here to see me, but for Bella and I already told you to back off because Bella is not one of the girls that throw themselves to a man because of money, she is a good girl and if you do anything stupid to her, you will have to face me," He said looking up from his laptop

"What makes her different? She is a single mother, is it not because she has one night with a man that makes her give birth to her daughter? If she is different she will be with the father of the baby" Nate stands up from his chair and sits down beside me

"No matter what happens to her, you are not in a good position to judge her, because of men like you if you keep your dick inside your pant there will not be a victim like her," He said looking serious as if Bella is her sister

"What is your problem with her, is she your sister or one of your family members?" I asked him

"No she is not my sister but she is a good girl who deserves someone better than you" He stands up and went back to continue his work "If you don't have anything you come here to do, you can go back work because Bella is not here today

"I did not come here for her, I came to see how you are doing" I try to change the topic because I come here because of Bella but he has caught me.

"Ok, I am fine thanks, it is what you can call me to ask and not bother yourself to come here," he said not looking at me

"How about your company anniversary this year, how is it going to be?" I asked him

"It is as always and makes sure you don't leave early as you did last years because you see a chick to warm your bed you leave me and run away, idiot" It is true last year at his company anniversary I saw this beautiful lady and I told her that I like her and all that sweet words soon and I told her maybe we can take this to a nearby hotel and she agrees.

"Ok, I promise," I said

"At the end of the event there will be a donation to the orphanage foundation and I want you to take part, so don't run away"

"Ok, no problem," I said

"You better find a girl and settled down as soon as possible, get married and have kids, you will be happy when you are going home that there is someone special you want to go and meet at home," He said

I said ok and we talk about other things, soon I left but still Bella as not come back, I did not go back to the company, I went straight to my penthouse except for the house help no one is living there apart from me and she goes back to her house when she finishes cleaning and cooking, I have never brought any woman inside my penthouse and I never I repeat again never fuck any woman inside my penthouse we always went to a hotel.

"Hello Mrs. Davis" I greet her it been a long time I saw her last because I always come back home late, after work I normally get a girl to fuck but today I don't feel like, don't know why

"Hi Mr. Scoot, how are you doing? It has been a long time, how is work? She asked me

"I am fine, please I am hungry, have you prepare anything to eat" I am so hungry right now

She said yes and prepares the table for me after I finish eating I went inside my bathroom and take a shower, so lie down on my bed, soon my phone rings and I pick it up

"Hello handsome, how about we meet today?" It is one of my flings

"Sorry sweetheart, I am so busy today, maybe next time," I said and hang-up the call

I am not in the mood to fuck today, am I sad because I did not see Bella today? Why will I be sad, it is not that I want any relationship with her? I just want to fuck her and let her go that is it, nothing else.

Soon my phone rings again and it is my Mom, I pick it up.

"Nickolas Scoot, please when will you give us a grandchild?" I know that there is a problem as soon as I hear her call me my full name.

"Hi Mom, I am fine, how are you and Dad?" I said try to change the topic because I am sure she wants to set me on another blind date.

"That is not the answer to my question Nick," She said

"Very soon Mom, when I get a good lady that is good to be your daughter-in-law, I will bring her to you and we will get married," I said but why am I thinking of Bella when I said, daughter-in-law.

"When is that Nickolas?" She asked

"Very soon mom" I said

She told me that there is a girl that she knows and she wants me to meet her, whenever my mom set me on a blind date it always turns out bad, the last time I went on a blind date arranged by my Mom, I and the girl end up in a hotel and she told me that she is not ready for any relationship. I told her that I will fix the date when am less busy and we said our goodbyes and hang-up. I put my phone down and sleep.

Chapter 18

Today I am so tired of running around because of the company anniversary, I am grateful that Annie is helping to pick up Mia from school every day and she also cooks.

When we finish eating, I went straight to take shower and sleep, the next day I did not go to work, I first went to the restaurant we want to order food from and make sure everything is good, from there I went to see the company for the decoration of the hall, I already talk to them and they gave me an appointment to come so we can discuss. By the time I finish all those things it is already 3 pm, I went to the company I met Anna in front of the company about to enter and she said she is so tired and she suggests that we should treat ourselves to at least a cup of coffee and cake before we start paperwork in the company.

When we get inside Mr. Nate is coming out of his office and he told Anna to follow him that they have a meeting to attend to.

After some hours of working, I decided to stretch my muscles a little bit and walk around, soon the elevator door open and comes out the last person I never want to see.

"Hello Bella, how are you?" Nick said

"I am fine but my boss is not around now, maybe you should call him or come back later" Nick sit down on the chair in front of my desk

"Please sit down I want to talk to you" I sit down not to be rude because we inside the company and I don't want to cause trouble

"What is it that you want to say?" I said looking at him

"Bella I want us to be friends, please give me your number," he said

"I am sorry I don't want any friend at this moment," I said

I see that all that he is saying does not make any sense so, I press my phone under the table and I set it to my ringtone as if I have a call I pick it and pretend to talk to someone.

"Please if you excuse me, my attention is needed outside," I said to him and he stands up and went away

Bella I want to be your friend, please give me your number, just like that he must be joking, I don't know what he wants from me.

After my day at work, I went home and take a shower then I talk to Annie, she said she will go back very soon and I told her to please go back after our company anniversary because I don't have any place for Mia to stay till I finish and she agreed, I hug her and said thanks to her

One month later

I, Annie, and Mia went shopping because tomorrow is our company anniversary and Annie told me that she wants me to dress nicely.

We went to so many shops just because I want to buy clothes and shoes to wear tomorrow, she said she wants me to look nice later when we bought all the things we want, we take Mia to the park and play then went home to make dinner then sleep.

Anna and I arrive very early before the party started to get everything in order to confirm that there is no mistake.

The party gets started and all the guests are arriving, soon I saw Natalie and we greet each other, later I saw Nick coming to where I was.

"Bella you are looking beautiful" He compliments me

"Thanks," I said and walk away

Everything is going smoothly but Nick's eyes never leave me, the MC called my boss and told him to give a speech, he went on the stage and thanks everyone.

After like 30 minutes of talking, the guest gives him a round of applause and he comes down from the stage, everybody enjoys the part, when I check the time it is already late and I tell my boss that I want to be on my way and he said ok, he thank me and Anna for the great job we do for the party to went well.

I walk out to call a cab, when I look to my right something caught my attention like two building away from the party, a car and the driver door is open all the light of the car is on and I went to look at what is happening but to my surprise, I saw Nick putting his head on the steering wheel and he is drunk, I called my boss and his wife on the phone to know what happens to his friend but he did not pick up his phone, I want to run back to the party venue to call my boss as I take two steps forward he falls down to the floor but to my surprise, he is still sleeping, I decided to leave a message for my boss and leave him there but my mind said I should not leave him, what if somebody takes advantages of his drunk state and robs his money and car. When you know you are not a heavy drinker why did you drink so much, idiot?

I called his name but he did not answer me, what am I going to do and nobody is passing to call for help, I have a bottle of water in my bag then I take it out and spray it on his face and he opens his

eye and I also give him to drink, I ask him about his address and he told me then I call a cab to take him home, I close the door of his car, I hope it will safe till tomorrow, but the cab driver told me that I can't just leave him like that, is either I follow him and drop him off or he will not take him. I don't know what to do, I call my boss and his wife once again but nobody answers their phone. So I went with them and I call Annie and I told her where I am going.

Chapter 19

When we arrive at his place, I discovered it is a penthouse and I take out his key from my bag that he told me it is inside his car earlier and open the door then I try to drag him because he is too heavy. After I open the door I called him again that we should go inside that I have open the door, it was hard to drag a drunken person, by the time I successfully put him on the sofa inside his living room, I heaved a sigh of relief now that he is safe inside his house, as I take two steps forward to go, I was pulled by back by him and he stands up on his feet and hugs me. I tried to release myself from him "please let me go" I said but he did not respond to me, he started roaming his hand on my body and I push him and run toward the door but he pulls me back again and lock the door and hold the key in his hand, I move closer to him to collect the key from him but he pushed me and I landed on the floor with a big thud, within seconds that I fall down he has kept the key that I don't know where he put it. I kneel down and beg him to let me go but he said it is just only one night, that is when I regret helping him.

I feel so stupid right now, I should have left him on the street, I try to run away from him to hide somewhere maybe because he is drunk he will soon be tired but follow me as a try to run or walk. I am thinking that is he drunk? Did he pretend to be drunk just to get me on his bed? I don't know what to do now.

He catches me and pushes me on the floor in the living room he moves on top of me, gripping both of my hand up above my head and kiss roughly, fondling with my breast roughly with his other hand, later he removes his tie and tie both of hands together, after that he traces down from my breast to my vagina, I am crying and trying hard to escape from him but all in vain, he is much stronger than me, soon he tear my dress from the top and my bra is exposed to him, he licks his lip as soon as saw my breast and remove the remaining cloth from my leg, he kisses all over my body that I feel disgusted and praying to God for someone to come and help, I beg him to let me go but he did not answer me.

He remove my panties and insert a finger inside my vagina, I am looking around to get something to hit him but my hand was tied, he remove my bra and suck and bite on my nipp le so hard and I cry out of pain but he did not leave me, he is acting deaf to all my pleading and crying, he stand up to remove his cloth and I use that opportunity to stand up and went to the door and try to open it, since he already closed it he slowly remove his pant and boxer and he stated laughing, so I tried to get my phone from my bag maybe I can call someone for help but he snatches the phone away from me then forcefully pull me up and slap me with his back of his hand two times and he said "You are so stubborn, what is special in your pussy that you don't want me to fuck, at least you are not a virgin and you are have a child already, so there is nothing special there again" he pushed me on

the floor again and I bumped my side with the couch but he did not care, he grab my leg with his both hands, then pull me closer to him and he push penis inside my vagina, I screamed in pain but he did not care, "Haaaa, you are so fucking tight" , he keep on thrusting his penis harder and faster inside me, saying so many words, I feel like a slut underneath him right now, later he screamed out loud and fall beside me. He moved away from me and a second later I heard him snoring. I sat down there on the floor and look at myself.

Why does my life turn out this way?

I try all my possible best to lose the tie on my hand but it is too tight, after so many attempts I untie it and wear my cloth but he has torn it I wear it like that and I try to find the key but I did not see it, I sit down on the floor there crying thinking about my horrible life. I picked up my phone and check the time, it is 2 am. My phone ring and it is Annie but I did not pick it, it ring several times I ignore it again.

Soon it is dawn and I try to find the key again, I check under the couch, table and everywhere but I did not found it, he rolls and turns then sit up, he turns and saw me where I was sitting and quickly cover himself with his shirt because he was naked and wear his pant.

"Please open the door for me and let me go," I said weakly because I am so tired

"I am so sorry, Bella I don't mean to" I cut him off before he finishes his statement

"Please just open the door and let me out" I shout at him and pick up my bag and my phone. He brings the key but I don't know where because that is when I bend down to pick up my bag and shoe.

"You can't go out like this, at least let me drive you home" I did not answer him, as soon as I get out of his place I saw a cab and I tell him where I am going and soon I started crying again thinking about what happened, the driver notices me crying and hand me tissue I collect it and thank him, he told me that I should not cry that everything will be alright.

When I get home, Annie has open the door because I already call her to open the door for me, I run to her room that she is sleeping because I don't want to wake Mia up.

She asks me what happen to my cloth and where have I been since yesterday after I send a message to her. I explain everything that happens to her and she is so angry and said we should report to the police, but I told her that if we report to the police, I am the one that will suffer most because he is rich and he will surely find a way to get out of it.

I went to take a shower and get dressed today is the weekend so I don't have to go to work, Annie brought me an after pill medicine and breakfast and told me to eat but I said I am ok and take the medicine only.

"Please Bella stop crying"

"Why is my life like this, why can't I enjoy my life for once? From one problem to another, Why me?" I said sitting on the floor crying

Soon my phone ring and it was Natalie but I ignore it, what am I going to tell her, soon my beep and it is a text message from my boss.

'What happens to Nick and where are you now?' I ignore it as well and my phone beep again.

"Please Bella talk to me, what happens to you?" I put my phone on silent and ignore all the calls and text messages.

Chapter 20

Nick P.O.V

When I wake up and discovered that I am sleeping on the floor in the living room naked, I saw Bella also sitting down on the floor with a torn cloth, all that happened yesterday to come back to my mind. I quickly wear my pant and move closer to her to she moves backward and tell me to open the door for her, I told her that am sorry but she said "please let me go" I take out the key from my sock that I am wearing and open the door for her, I offer to drive her home because of her torn cloth not to go out like this but she refused and went out. I don't like her or want any relationship with her like the playboy people called me, I just want to fuck her and let go not the intention to rape her. 'You should be happy now that you have fucked her, intentionally or unintentionally' my subconscious said.

I clear pick up all my clothes in the living room and went to take shower, after taking a shower I went to the kitchen to find something to eat, then I heard the doorbell, who could that be because I am not expecting anybody if it Mrs. Davis she has her own spare key.

"What happen to you yesterday?" Nate and his wife enter and sit on the couch in the living room.

"As in I don't understand" I don't know what to say maybe Bella did not say anything to them.

"Yesterday during the party Bella send me some text messages and gave me some missed calls but I saw them this morning, she said that you are drunk and passed out on the street inside your car and another text messages said she will take you home that she can't leave you on the street but I am calling her since then and she did not pick our calls or reply to our text messages," Nate said

"Yes, it is true but I s-she brought me home but I don't I mean I am sorry, I don't mean"

Nate punches me before I said anything and grab me on my collar.

"What did you do to her?" with another punch on my jaw, I know I deserve it.

"Nate, please stop let him talk" Natalie hold her husband

"What did he have to say?" Nate said angrily, why is he angry like this as if Bella is his sister

"Just leave him first, let him talk" Nate leave me and stand in front of me and give me a face that said 'you better talk now'

"I am indeed drunk and Bella brought me home last night, I don't have any intention to hurt her, I am drunk and I don't know what I am doing, I am sorry, I I raped her yesterday night"

After that statement another punch landed on my face by Nate

"I have the feeling that this is what you will do, you this jerk I told you to leave this girl alone when you chased her endlessly and she did not answer you or give you any chance" He rubs his hand through his hair so many times and sit down on the couch

"Nick, tell me it is not true," Natalie said moving closer to me

"I am sorry" She also slaps me "Why Nick? You have a lot of girls to fuck every day and night, since the time you ask me for her phone number I told you that she is not the type of the bitches you fuck and I told you to back off, can't you control your fucking dick whenever you see a girl?" She said angrily and I just stand there without saying anything.

"I am sorry," I said but none of them answer me

Both of them left my place without saying anything further, I want to know how she is doing but I don't have her number or know her place.

One week later

Annie P.O.V

"Please Bella you can't just stay inside and isolate yourself like this, the deed has already been done, please go out and take fresh air, go to work, please pick up Natalie and your boss call, please think about your daughter Mia, did you want her to be asking you that what happen to you" Looking at Bella's face

Since one week after she came back from her boss friend's house, she has been having a bad dream, sometime I will hear her shouting 'please let me go, please let me go' she has not stepped out of the house, the only time she steps out of the house is when she dropped her daughter to school and sometimes I drop her and pick her up she did not receive any calls or reply any messages, I don't know what I will do again. when Natalie calls her today I pick it up and tell her to come maybe she will know what to say to her.

I am going back next week and I don't want to leave her like this, I went to the kitchen to prepare food for her after that I will go and pick Mia from school.

"Hi, please come inside" I open the door for Natalie and her husband

"Hi I am Natalie and meet my husband Nate and Bella's boss," She said

"I am Annie, Bella's friend" I allow them inside and I offer them something to drink

When we sit in the living room, I explain everything to them that she did not go out sometime she takes her daughter to school and come back again. They talk to her and she promises to change, her boss said that if she wants to report Nick to the police that he is ready to stand by her but she said no, he also told her to come back to work and forget about what has happened.

"Bella please I know it is not easy to forget about what happened but please try to move and think about your daughter," Nate said

Natalie also talks to her, she told her to see them as her friend and see her husband as her brother.

Bella P.O.V

My boss and his wife Natalie come to my house and talk to me a lot, they said if I want to report to the police they are ready to stand by me, I know they will stand by me but no matter what Nick and my boss are popular and whatever they do is on media and my name will be attached to Nick, I will now be the talk of the town as a rape victim, I don't want that. I have agreed to come back to work, I just wish I did not meet him.

After that, we talk about another thing and my boss said that she orders me as her brother, not a boss to stand up now and make Nigerian snack for him and I make it for them, I really appreciate them standing by me, we are not family or anything, he just my boss and Natalie is my boss wife but they wish to stand by me, not all boss do like that for their employee. I really appreciate them. When it is time for them to leave I pack some snacks that I make for them to take home and I promise my boss that I will start work on Monday.

Annie went to pick Mia from school and we have dinner, I put her to bed and went to take a shower while taking shower I still remember that horrible night. I have to stay strong because of Mia.

Chapter 21

I have started going to work as I promised my boss, Natalie, and Annie, I drop Mia at school today before coming to work, I saw Anna and she asks me how I am feeling and I said I am fine but I am surprised because I did not tell her that I am sick.

"Mr. Nate told me that you are sick, so how are you feeling now?" She asked me

"I am good, thanks," I said

"I want to come to check you at home but you did not pick my calls" Thanks to my boss for covering me up because I don't know how I will face her if she knows the truth

"I am sorry, I am really down that I did not pick any calls," I said to her

She explains to me all the pending work to do and the ones that she is yet to complete, I finish everything and Annie called me that she will go and pick Mia from school that I should concentrate on my work and not think of anything.

Annie is still with me, she said she will go back next week, she supposed to have travel back since but she said she can't leave me like that, I really appreciate all that she has done for me for the past one week, she is the one taking care of Mia, cooking for her, dropping and picking her from school, the next day after the horrible night I always have a nightmare of him of what happen that night, when I wake up I won't be able to sleep again.

After a long day at work, I went home and prepare dinner then call Annie and Mia to come and eat, after we finish eating Annie suggest that maybe I should follow in back to Texas so that I can forget about everything because Nick is Nate's friend which means I will be seeing him sometimes and when I saw him I will remember that night I wanted to forget. I told her that I will stay here if I will be seeing him then I will find another job, I can tell my boss, Mr. Nate, to help me to find another job, running away from your problem can't solve the problem.

She said ok but if I change my mind then I can call her that I am always welcome to her place, then I hug her and said thank you. After that, I put Mia to bed and go back to the living room with Annie and we watch some movies before we went to bed to sleep.

One month later

I am back to my normal life like before, Annie has gone back, and sometimes Natalie call me to spend the weekend with her but I went one time and I told her she does not need this because I am fine and she said okay if I need anything I should call her or Nate. Since that day I have not seen

Nick and he has not come to meet my boss at all, maybe they are fighting or they are meeting outside I don't know.

Today after work I went to pick Mia from school and when I get home I decided to prepare dinner because Mia said she wants to eat Nigerian fried rice and chicken and I don't have ready-made with the food I made during the weekend for weekday food, so I decided to make it. While am cooking am feeling nausea like the smell of the food is bad, but ignore it and continue cooking after I finish cooking the food does not look delicious for me to eat.

I wake up in the middle of the night and went to the bathroom to vomit and I clean my face and brush my teeth, I don't know what is happening to me maybe I have a stomach bug but I did not eat any street food so what causes stomach bug, maybe the food I get in the cafeteria at work.

When it is time to go work and I went to the kitchen to prepare breakfast after that I get dressed and wake Mia wake and take care of her, after having our breakfast, I eat more than my usual breakfast and the coffee really taste weird but I think there is something wrong with me I need to see the doctor.

After I drop Mia and went to work, Anna keeps looking at me and I am thinking maybe I have something on my face I went to the bathroom to check but there is nothing on my face, after lunch break she comes to me and sits beside me and ask what happen to me.

"Bella, what happened to you? Can't you see that you have changed?" She said

"Nothing happened to me and how did I change, I don't understand"

"There are a lot of things that changed in you, first you did not drink coffee or cappuccino again which is your favorite and your face look smooth, I mean your skin is glowing and you don't eat cafeteria food again, hope there is no problem," She said with raised brow saying you better tell me what you are hiding

"First my skin that is smooth my mum send me one Nigeria cream called ORI (shea butter) it is what I am using for the past 2 weeks now and I don't want to eat cafeteria food again because I have a stomach bug from it yesterday," I said

"What about your favorite cappuccino that you did not drink again?" What is the problem of this girl?

"Nothing I just want to reduce my intake of caffeine," I said

She said ok and went back to her desk, let's think of it I think there is something wrong with me because it is shea butter that has been using since I gave birth to Mia but my mum sends another one to me of recent, so it is today that she sees that my skin is smooth and about coffee and

cappuccino they taste weird when I drink them and I don't eat cafeteria food because I feel like eating pancake and waffles today for lunch but it is weird. I need to see the doctor.

Today is weekend, I am in my house and I don't feel like cooking today I really felt tired and I dressed up for Mia and we went to eat lunch outside and I will take her to the park to play maybe by the time we come back my body will feel relaxed then I will cook dinner.

When I get home, I rush to the bathroom and vomit all that I ate outside today, I wash my face and brush my teeth and went to the kitchen to cook, after I finish cooking dinner I feel so tired then I decided to cook dinner for next week tomorrow and I went to sit down with Mia in the living room.

After like 30 minutes of playing my phone beep and the menstrual period app on my phone says that I am 3 weeks late for my menstrual period this month.

Come to think of it, menstrual period, feeling tired, nausea, pancake, waffles, weird coffee that is the same things I feel when I am pregnant with Mia, it is impossible I can't be pregnant, I used an after pill medicine when I get home the next day I left Nick penthouse.

I went inside and get dressed with Mia and I went to the nearby pharmacy to buy a pregnancy test kit, please God I can't be pregnant, I am good being a single mother with Mia but I can't cope with another child, I silently pray in my mind.

I am inside my bathroom now with 3 different pregnancy test kit, please God I don't want to be pregnant not now at all. I peed on the three kits and leave them on the counter to see the result. Please God it should be negative, negative, negative.

I take the kits but I close my eyes am really scared to check the result, I count one to three then I open my eyes, this can't be, I am really finished.

I have to book an appointment tomorrow to abort this baby, I can't cope been a single mother for the second time, it is not easy being a single mother.

The next day I quickly get dressed with Mia and went to the nearby hospital to see the doctor, I have been booked and am waiting for my turn. 'Sorry baby I can't cope with you and your sister now' I said placing my hand on my still flat tummy with tears in my eyes.

When I see the doctor she asks me a lot of question and asks about my health during my first pregnancy and I told her that first of all I have anemia and I tell some other stuff about my health but she said she can't do it that she has to carry out some test before she proceeds for the abortion and I said yes. After some minutes of waiting, she comes back with some papers in her hand.

Chapter 22

After running the test, she called me again and I sit in front of her, I saw her holding some papers in her hand and she said that I should leave the pregnancy because I have a lot of complications in my first pregnancy and my anemia is not yet cured, she said if I abort the pregnancy I may lose my life or have damaged womb. She said I should not try to go anywhere else because they may not do any tests for me and just proceed with the abortion which is risky.

After what she said it is like my life turn upside down, how am I going to cope with this? As if being a single mother is not enough for my suffering, now this one again.

Why me? People normally say that there is light at the end of every tunnel, why can't I see light at the end of my tunnel? Why is it that it is only darkness that I always see?

After dinner I put Mia to bed and try to sleep, tomorrow is another day, I will think of what to do next but every time I close my eyes that night flash in front of my eyes, I can't sleep, how am I going to survive this wicked world? The salary I get I use for Mia school fees, house rent, foodstuff, and other things, I hardly buy things for myself not to talk of saving money, so how am I going to cope with pregnancy and work? I always feel weak and tired during pregnancy which is why Doctor Emily my doctor that takes care of me during Mia's pregnancy said whenever I get pregnant I should not work at all or do any stressful things. What am I going to do?

The next day which is Saturday, I prepared breakfast for Mia, clean the house, do the laundry, I just want to keep myself busy not to think of anything. When it is lunchtime there is nothing to do again, I sit down with Mia in the living room while she is watching cartoons.

My phone ringing brought me out of my thought I check the caller and it is Annie because I already call her before but she did not answer my call.

"Hey babe, how are you and my Princess?" She asked

"Your princess is fine but I am finished," I said crying

"Bella, please stop crying and tell me what happening," She said worriedly

"I am pregnant and I went for abortion, the doctor said it is too complicated and I can't go through an abortion if I don't want to lose my life or have womb damaged," I told her

"Please Bella don't do anything stupid, I am sure we will find a solution to all this," She said

She told me a lot of things and advice me even she said if I can't cope I should come down to Texas that she will take of me and Mia because she knows that when I am pregnant I can't work. But she

said no matter what I should let Nick know about the baby, either he wants the baby or not, I should make sure to let him know.

I call Natalie to ask for Nick's number or his office address.

"Hello Bella, how are you?" She said

"I am fine and how is Jason?" I said

"He is fine, Bella what happened to you, your voice sounds bad, hope there is no problem" How will I explain to her?

"I am fine, please can I have Nick's number or his office address?" I don't want to go to his penthouse

"Yeah sure but hope there is no problem," I think I have to tell her

"Please what I want to tell you now please don't tell my boss, until I hear his reply," I said to her

"I promise you I won't tell him"

"I am four weeks pregnant"

"Oh my God Bella, I..... I..... I don't know what to say" Tears coming out of my eyes, I am trying to wipe them away so that Mia will not see me because I am sitting with her in the living room "Please stop crying Bella, everything will be fine"

"I hope so, I try to abort it but the doctor said it is too complicated to go through abortion because I have some health issues and I have some complications during Mia's pregnancy" As I am talking to her more tears coming from my eyes

"I am really sorry about that, everything will be alright," She said

"I want him to know about it that it is why I want to call him or meet him at his office," I said

We talk a lot more and she said if I need anything, her door is always open for me, I told her not to tell her husband yet until I talk to Nick. After we hang-up, she sends both Nick's number and his office address to me.

I am debating maybe to call him or I should just go and meet him at his office, but I think I should meet him at his office will be good because since the time of that incident we have not met since then so if I call him now it will be awkward for me but I don't know about him.

I am at work now and I want to go and meet my boss, I want to ask for permission to leave work at 2 pm before the closing hour. I am in front of his office door to knock.

"Come in," he said from inside "Hi Bella, how are you? please have your seat" He said

"I am good, please I want to ask for permission to leave before the normal closing hour may be at 2 pm," I said

"No problem, you can go but hope there is no problem?" What am I going to say?

"There is no any problem, I need to attend Mia school because her teacher called me to come" I lied because I don't know what to tell him

"Ok, no problem you can go and you can go home from there don't bother to come to the office again," He said

"Thank you, sir," I said and he nods his head and smile

I go back to my desk and when Anna comes I told her that I want to and I explain some work that I have done and maybe Mr. Nate will need them.

I am in Nick's company now, I talk to the receptionist I met downstairs and she told me if I have an appointment with him but I lie to her that it is his friend Mr. Nate that send me to him, I just try my luck I don't maybe he know his friend that I am talking about but fortunately, she knows him and she told me to go to floor 25 that it is his office, I will meet his assistant there, I said thanks to her and I head to the elevator to go to floor 25.

I am on floor 25 but I did not see any assistant there and nobody around to ask, I walk straight maybe I will see anybody to talk to, after walking around the floor I saw one guy and I told him I am looking for Mr. Nick but I don't know his office and I did not meet his assistant on the desk, he asks me if I have an appointment I said no that it is Mr. Nate his friend that send me to him, I told the guy that he can call Nick and tell him that Bella Mr. Nate secretary is here. He looks at me for some seconds and later he leads me to Nick's office. He told me to knock and enter then he left. I did not think twice I knock on the door and I heard some voice but I think he told me to enter then I open the door but what I saw is not good to write home about. I said sorry that I will come back. I quickly close the door and walk away.

Chapter 23

When I open Nick's office door, what I saw is really bad. I saw him, pants down halfway in his leg and a lady on his desk having sex in the office. That is the father of my baby, now I can see that he is really a playboy.

When I get down to the reception, the receptionist came to me and said that Nick said I should come back. I said ok and I went back, I don't have any other option. I meet the lady inside the elevator and she looks at me somehow but I don't care.

I knock on his door and make sure I hear come in before I enter when I enter his office he told me to sit down.

"Hi, Bella," He said

"Hi" Everything seems awkward to me

"Bella I want to say sorry for what happen that night, I don't mean to hurt, I am sorry," He said but I need not see any sincerity in his eye.

"No problem, it is because of that night that made me come here today" No need to beat around the bush.

"What happens?" He said

"I am 4 weeks pregnant," I said

"What!!!!!!" he said and stands up suddenly

"Yes, I am pregnant"

"I am sorry Bella but I am not ready to be a father now, even if am ready, you are not the one" What he said brought tears to my eyes but I raised my head not to let the tears fall.

"I know I am not worthy of you but I just want you to know about the baby" After I said that he said 'if you know that' silently but I heard him

"You have to abort the pregnancy," He said and open his drawer and bring out a lot of money

"Before I come here to tell you, I have already gone to the doctor and she said I can't abort this pregnancy because it is complicated and I have some health issues," I told him

"I am sorry but you have to abort this pregnancy I don't need the baby, I will refer to you the best doctor here in California," He said

"I can't abort it, if I try to abort the doctor I will lose my life or have a womb damaged, please I just want you to help me financially with this baby, nothing else. Please" I put my dignity and ego aside for the sake of my baby, if it is not about my financial problem I will not come to you.

"You know what I have heard a lot of things like this before, you want to use the baby as an excuse to get a lot of money from me, I have seen a lot of gold digger bitches like you before, either you like it or not I don't want this baby, take this money and go and abort it" He put a stack of money on the table in front of me, I don't have a choice and pick it up, I need a lot of medicines to buy

"Thank you" The tears I am controlling fall freely in front of him after I said thank you.

I take the money and walk out of his office when I get inside the elevator I break down and cry my eyes out when the elevator is about to open I wipe my eyes. I take a cab and went to Mia's school to pick her up and then I went home. When it is dinner time I prepared food and we eat then I brush her teeth, change her clothes, and put her to bed to sleep.

I sit down in the living room thinking of what to do next. My phone ringing brought me out of my thought, I checked the caller ID and it is Natalie, I picked it up and she asks me what did Nick said and I told her everything and she told me to have the patience that everything will be alright.

After I hang-up the call with Natalie, Annie called me, I pick it up and explain everything that happens to her, she said I should not think about it too much that if I stop work, she will take our responsibility till I gave birth and I start to work again, when she said that I smile and said thanks to her, but one day she will be tired of us and voice out that she can't do it anymore, I don't want to depend on anyone.

"Nick said even if he is ready to settle down, not me, meaning I am not worthy to be his wife or baby mother, I think he is right that is why Jack also left me," I said crying

"Bella, you are a good wife and good mother, since the time I know you, you always make others comfortable, you are a good mother you prefer to starve yourself that making your daughter hungry, despite that you don't have, you make everything comfortable for Mia, I am sure she will be proud to have you as her mother, Nick and Jack are the unlucky idiot that is blind that did not know your worth," Annie said

"Really, then why is my life turn out like this? Being a single mother is not easy, now a single mother of two kids and to make the matter worse, single mother of two kids from two different fathers, what do you think people will say? People will say I am a whore, prostitute and all sort of names even Nick said she knows a lot of bitches like me, what else"

"Please don't think about what people say, just focus on yourself and your kids," Annie said

"Annie, thanks for taking care of me and my daughter right from day one, we are not your family member, still yet you stand by me, we are from different family background still yet you stand by me, I want to ask you one last favor after this I promise you that I won't ask for anything from you again, please no matter what happens to me, please help me to care of Mia and tell her how strong her mother is, tell her that I try all my possible best to take care of her but I failed in so many ways. Tell her about her father in a good way, I don't want her to hate her father at all. Also, tell her that being poor is not good she should work very hard to make a name for herself in society." I said looking at the bottle of medicine in front of me

"Bella, please don't do anything stupid, you are the one that we take care of your kids by yourself and tell them stories about their father, please don't think about anything, I am happy that you believe in God, you are the one that always tells me that no matter how hard or the tough time someone goes through, it shall come to past one day. You also said if you believe in God and you believe in yourself, you shall overcome all the trouble. Please, Bella, don't be stupid, I am coming right now, I am taking the next available flight to California, please let's talk about this" She said

Thanks for everything, I said to her and hang up the call, I went inside and pick Mia up hug her for some seconds, and kissed her cheeks. "Mia mummy will always love you, you will always be in my heart." I put her back to bed and went to the living room and pick up the medicine bottle on the table.

Chapter 24

NICK P.O.V

Since the time Bella told me she is pregnant since then, I can't concentrate on any work again, this is the biggest mistake of my life, I have never had sex with any girl without a condom so if they come back and tell me a story that they are pregnant I know they are just joking, they just want my money and I will give it to them. Bella is the first girl I ever had sex with without a condom.

When I am talking to her, I feel that my heart wants to say another thing but my mouth is talking rubbish. When I saw her taking the money I gave her and tears in her eyes, I feel like my heart is hurting but I can't figure out why. I can't marry her, she is not worthy to be my wife, she is a single mother and she said she has health issues. If I am ready to settle down and get married, I want an elegant, beautiful, healthy woman, not my friend's secretary.

I decided to go home and sleep because I can't concentrate on my work again, I call my assistant and told him to postpone all the appointments and meetings I have for today to tomorrow.

When I get home, Mrs. Davis is still around and I told her to serve me food that is hungry, while am eating Bella face flash in my face and I stop eating and shake my head and resume eating but while am eating I feel bad, my heart is restless I don't know.

Soon Mrs. Davis says goodbye and left, I sit down in the living room and play games, soon I heard the doorbells and I open it is Nate. After the last time that he punch me because of Bella, we get in touch but not like before, so I decided to visit him and Natalie at home and said sorry but he told me that he doesn't want me to see or talk to Bella again.

"Hello buddy," I said but I feel scared because of the look on his face

"Hi" Is the only word he said

"Natalie called me and said Bella come to your office today, what happens?" I think he knows what happened, he just wants to provoke me

"Yes, it is true, she came to my office and she said she is pregnant, I told her she should abort it that she is also among those bitches who use a baby as an excuse to extort money from me," I said to him and not hide anything.

"Is that all?" He said but I know he is controlling his anger.

"I told her to go and abort the baby because I am not ready to be a father, she said the doctor said it is complicated that she can't abort if she tries to do it is either she loses her life or have womb

damaged. She said she just needs me to help her financially for the baby only nothing else but I gave her money to go and abort it that I don't want the baby" I said

"She told you that she can abort the baby because it is complicated yet you still gave her money to go and abort it, did she collect the money?" He asked me

"Yes, she takes it," I said

"Nick, why are you running after her before, trying to get her number from me? Don't you like her?

"No, I don't" As soon as I said the statement my heart beats "How will I like her, she is a single mother and she is not up to my standard," As soon as I said that, he pulls me with my collar and connect his fist with my jaw.

"She is not up to your standard but your dick is up to her pussy standard and you said she is a single mother. Let's assume that she did not have any child before and now she is pregnant with your child but you deny the child you know when she gives birth she is a single mother because of a scumbag and jerk like you, in her life now story is repeating itself, she is a single mother to you now because of a jerk like you that left her with a child now you are also repeating the same thing" I am short of words, I don't know what to say.

"What if a man does like this to your sister or your daughter, what will you do?" He said

"Don't ever mention my sister" I said angrily

"Don't you think she is also someone else sister and daughter?"

"I am sorry," I said

"I am not the one that you supposed to say that to, it" He was cut off by his phone ringing

'Natalie what happens, why are you crying' Nate said, immediately he stands up from his seat

'What!!!!!! I am coming' he said again

"What happens to Natalie?" I asked him

"It is not Natalie, it is Bella, she said her friend call her from Texas that she thinks Bella will try something stupid because of the statement Bella told her on the phone, so she called Natalie to go and check Bella," He said quickly and went out and I follow him

ANNIE P.O.V.

As soon as Bella hangs up on me, I don't know what to do, now I am at the airport want to check-in to go to her but it might be too late because of how she is talking, immediately I remember Natalie her boss's wife.

"Hi Natalie, I am sorry to disturb you at this moment, please help me to check on Bella"

"Wait, Annie, I did not hear what you are saying, please talk slowly," she said and I realized that am talking very fast

"Please help me to check on Bella, I am also on my way to California right now, she called me that Nick did not want the baby but that is not the problem, the problem here now is when Bella called me she told me that I should help her to take care of Mia if something happens to her," I said

"Ok, I will go and check her now, don't worry I will call Nate now," She said and hang up.

Please, Bella, hold on and don't do anything stupid. I don't think I will ever get married with all that is happening. Thank God, I don't have a boyfriend my ex-boyfriend break up with me because I catch him cheating and he also collecting from money using it to take care of his girlfriend.

NATALIE P.O.V

I am inside my home feeding my baby when my phone rings and it is an unknown number I pick it up and I hear Annie's voice and I can't understand what she is saying, then she spoke again and she tells me sorry for disturbing me that is she needs my help to go and check Bella, she said Bella called her and she explains what Nick said and she also said if anything happens to her I should help her to take care of Mia.

As soon as she said that I hand over my baby to our maid and get my car key, I am trying to call Bella but she did not pick her phone, I hope she is fine. While I am driving to her house I call the ambulance and tell them Bella's address I just wish she is fine.

When I get there I knock on her door but nobody answers me, I call her phone she did not pick up and I am hearing her phone ringing, later the ambulance come and they help me to break her door, by the time we get inside she has already passed out, the bottle of the medicine she takes is on the floor but empty, they take the bottle to know the medicine she takes, the paramedics check her pulse and they said there is but it is weak, they quickly attend to her I told them that she is pregnant so they can know what to do. I went inside to carry her daughter and I called my husband to meet us in the hospital.

After we get to the hospital they attend to her and Nate met us there but to my surprise, Nick is also with him, later they transferred her to the patient ward but Nick said they should take her to the private ward that he will foot the bills. She is still sleeping and the doctor said that we should leave her that she needs rest, she will wake up very soon. After some hours of waiting, Annie called me and I gave her the hospital address. When she came, she looks at her friend and cry. She said she will stay with her and I take Mia with me and went home.

Chapter 25

BELLA P.O.V.

Two days later

When I wake up I look around and everything is white, am I dead or alive? I look around and I saw the IV drip that was attached to my hand, I see that I am in the hospital. Later some people enter and I look at them, it is Annie I first saw, I did not even bother to check who the rest of the people are.

"Why did you save me? You should have let me die in peace then I can have rest of mind" I stand up immediately and remove the IV drip attached to my hand and stand up, she holds me and talks but I did not hear what she is saying, I started screaming and thrashing around the room, she holds me and slaps my face.

"Bella, please think about your kids, who will take care of Mia if you die. What is your problem come back to your sense" That is when I look around and found my boss, Natalie, and the last person I expected to be here Nick "Bella please think about your kids, Don't mind what people say or what they will say, live your life. Where is the strong Bella that always told me that everything will be fine If you believe in God and you believe in yourself everything will be fine? Where is the Bella that always told me that I can make it when I said I want to make a name for myself and not depend on my parent's money? Where is the Bella that I know in college that always puts other people before herself? Where is the Bella I know that always have faith and hope, saying everything will be fine? You like to depend on yourself and work hard to earn your money, you don't like free money, you said later the person will talk about it they will at least I am the one feeding you and you don't like that" She stops talking and start crying.

"Please Bella they said you are not worthy to be their wife not like that Bella, they are spoilt brats, jerks, scumbag, and blind that they can't see your worth. You are a good wife and a good mother when you are with Jack, he told you not to have friends, you listen to him, he told you to this and that you listen to him. Whenever you had an argument either he beat you or slap your face yet you listen to him, still yet you stay with him, you make breakfast and dinner for him, you never tell anybody what you are going through even your parent, so tell me what should a good wife do more than that? Do you think he left you because you are not worthy of him? NO, He left because he is not worthy to have a good woman like you. Did you remember the names you gave your daughter in your country language, (OLUWAREMILEKUN – God has dried my tears, AYOMI – my joy) the first day you saw her you said she is your happiness, you said you promise to do your best and

gave her a good life, have you forget all that? Don't think about what people say, think about where you are going and focus on your life and your kids" She comes toward me and hugs me

Natalie also talk and said that everything Annie said is true, she said I should stay strong for my kids, my boss also talks to me, Nick just stands there and look at what is going on. After that, I ask about Mia, and Natalie said she is fine and she is in her place. Soon the doctor came in and told me that my baby is fine but I have stressed him or her so much that I need a lot of rest, eat healthy food and take my medicine regularly, she said if I do all that I will be fine and the baby also will be fine. He asks me that where is my husband or the baby daddy to explain some things to him about the medicine, I told him that I don't have a husband and my baby daddy is not here, he has left me and he said he did not want the baby because he is not ready to be a father now, I told the doctor while Nick is standing there hearing everything but he did not say anything, later he walks out that means I am right. Annie talks to the doctor and she said she should explain to her that she will be with me for some time.

I was discharged the next day and went home with Annie but Mia is still with Natalie she said I should rest more that Mia is fine, I said sorry to her and her husband for making them trouble but they said she is a good girl that they love to have her around. I just her employee nothing else still yet they stand by me. My boss said I should not bother about work again he said he will pay me this month's salary and he also said that he will be paying Mia' school fees till I get better and start working again, I don't know what to say except to thank him.

One week after I was discharged from the hospital, I am at home doing nothing I told my boss that I want to come to work he said no, even Natalie and Annie did not support it for me to work. Annie told me that Nick comes every day to check on me and he is the one that paid my bills in the hospital. I say thanks to him when I was discharged from the hospital.

ALEX P.O.V

Why can't I do anything without not thinking about Bella, when they transferred Bella to the ward and she did not wake up I am so scared. I went there after work to check on her every day. Every time I went there her friend I think her name is Annie is the one I meet there, she is sleeping over with her, whenever she saw me she always frown her face, she did not talk to me, even ordinary hi she did not say to me. Natalie also did not talk to me, After 3 days on my way going there I saw her Bella's friend, Nate and Natalie going inside the ward and I called Nate and he looks at me and he just says hi nothing more than that, Natalie and Annie did not even look at me not to talk of talking to me. When we enter Bella's wardroom we saw her removing her IV drip attached to her hand and she said why did she save her? She should let her die. Seconds later she started thrashing around the ward and her friend slap her face and told her to calm down, she told her to think about her kids and stay strong for them, she said where is the strong Bella she know before and she said

those who said she is not worthy to be their wife are blind and they are jerk and scumbag, I know she is referring to me, she said when she was with her ex-fiancé, she always listens to what he said and he told her not to have a friend and when they have an argument he slaps her, still yet she still stays with him and she did not tell anybody, she is really a strong lady but at the end, he is the one that left her. I may be a jerk but I can never hit a woman, I don't know she has passed through all this, yet I told her that she is not worthy to be my wife and I misjudge her that her daughter is from one night she had with another man.

She sits down on the bed crying while listening to what her friend said, after all, that she said she to hug her. All that she said touch my heart as if I should be the one hugging her and calm her down. Later the doctor in charge of her enter, she told her that she needs rest now but her baby is fine and takes her medicine that she will be fine, they are referring to my baby. When the doctor asked her about her husband or her baby daddy for her to explain something about the medicine, what Bella said after that make me feel sad, she said she has not yet married and her baby daddy left her because he did not want the baby, while I am standing here. 'She is not at fault you are the one that said you did not want the baby, idiot' my subconscious said. When the doctor went out Nate and Natalie sit beside her and talk to her, something is telling me to go and apologize to her and hug her to calm down but I walk out and sit on one of the chairs in the hallway, later Nate come and join me and sit beside me.

"I really need to apologize to her," I said

"Can your apology solve all that you caused? If not for your dick that cannot stay in your pant, she will not be here right now and instead of you to talk to her you walk out, that shows that she did not mean anything to you, your apology is useless now," Nate said

She was discharged the next day and she said thanks you to me for paying her hospital bills and she walked past me, I offer to drop her home with her friend but she said no. I feel sad about her rejecting me but I am the one that causes it. It has been one week now that she has been discharged from the hospital and I did not see her or hear anything about her. Since then I can't concentrate on what I am doing most especially when I am sitting inside my living room, I always remember the night I have sex with her on the floor in my living room.

NATE P.O.V

I don't like seeing Bella like this, because I always remember my sister, she was once in the same situation as Bella. She died in an accident when her boyfriend denies her pregnancy and said he is not ready to be a father, she always stays at home and depressed. One day she said she want to go and meet her boyfriend and beg him that maybe he will reconsider her with the baby when we are expecting her to come back, she did not come, later that day there was a call from the hospital that my sister was involved in an accident and she is in critical condition, when we get there she told us

that he meets her boyfriend with another woman having sex. She died the next day after the accident. This is the reason why I stand by Bella every time because if I stand by my sister then and stop her from going out or follow her maybe she will still be with us now. I am so sorry Naomi, you will always be in my heart.

Chapter 26

6 months later

I am now heavily pregnant and now 7 months pregnant, I hardly do anything, I hardly cook now or do anything. I can't see my feet again, I just smile when I try to look at my feet. Annie always comes and checks on me and she stays like one week before she goes back. But this time around she is so busy. Nick comes to check on me once or twice in a month, sometimes I may not see him for like 2 months, my boss always calls me every day and his wife, they check on me every weekend.

I am on my way to the hospital for a checkup, when I am coming I will pick Mia up from school.

"How are you, my princess?" That is what the doctor calls me, she is in her fifties and she always talks to me and advises me when I come for a checkup.

"I am fine Sarah," She told me to call her name, not doctor or Mrs.

"Any complaints?" She asked

"No complain, just that he will not stop moving every time" My baby is a boy

"Just leave my boy let him kick in his mummy's tummy," She said

She told me to lie down on the bed and pull up my blouse from my belly to check my baby, then she told me that there is not any problem, all I need is to continue my medicine and eat healthy food. She also talks to me about life because she knows about my situation. She is the one that attends to me when I use overdose medicine. Since then she always advises me and tells me about other people's experiences, she said if I see another person's situation it is bigger than my own, so in whatever situation I find myself I should give thanks to God. She prescribed medicine for me and she told me not to think of anything.

When I left the hospital, I went to the park and walk around a little to wait for the time I will go and pick Mia up, I walk around the park, play with some kids there and I went to a nearby shop to buy something to eat, after that I walk to Mia school to exercise more, it is not far from the park.

My phone rings and I check the call it is Natalie

"Hello Bee, where are you?" That is the nickname she is calling me for some time now.

"I am coming from the hospital for a checkup and I am on my way to pick Mia from school," I said

"Ok, we are coming to your place now, that is why I want to ask," She said

"Ok, just to pick Mia then I will be home in 20 minutes," I told her

She said ok, when I got to Mia school I went straight to her classroom, as soon as she saw me she came running toward me and hugged my leg "Hello my baby brother" she said and kiss my bump

"Hello my cupcake, were you a good girl to Aunty today?"

"Yes, mummy"

"That's my girl," I said to her and I talked to her Aunty about her performance in school and she told me she is doing great.

"Mummy" Mia called me

"Yes love"

"You said you will bake cupcakes for me if I am a good girl in school today," She said, I don't know that she will remember that since morning

"Yes baby girl, I have already baked your cupcake and it is at home but first when we get home, you will have to wash your hand, eat your lunch and do your homework, after all, that you will eat as many cupcakes as you want.

"Ok, thank you, I love you, mummy," She said

"I love you too dear" I bend a little and kiss her cheek

We took a cab and went home. When I got home I met Natalie and her husband down inside the car but I did not know that there was another person with them.

I went to open the door and Natalie is making fun of me because I am big.

"Hi Bee, how are you and my little peanut inside you?" She comes closer to me and hugs me after I open the door

"I am fine and your peanut is doing great inside me," I said

Later Nate enter and follow by Nick, I don't know he is with them because I did not see him

"How are you doing sis?" He comes closer to me and hugs me, he has been calling little sister or sis for a long time now, he said he sees me as his sister, not an employee

"I am fine brother, how are you doing and how is work? I asked him

"I am fine and work is good, Anna said I should greet you she also said I should tell you that she misses you so much" Anna is his Nate assistant

"Tell her I said thanks," I said

Nate carries Mia and I told him to drop her so that she can go and wash her hand and come and eat.

"Hi," Nick said

"Hi," I reply to him, I am sure Nate is the one that drags him here because I have not seen him for the past 3 months and I also don't need him.

It is when I see him that I remember him that he is my baby daddy, I did not remember him at all, because I don't want to go into depression, I have accepted my fate that I am a single mother to 2 kids.

"Where are you going, Bella?" Natalie asked me when she sees me standing up

"I want to go and prepare food for Mia and bring you guys something to eat or drink," I said

"Come and sit down let me help you," She said but I did not answer her. I walk straight to the kitchen and she joins me.

Thank God I bake some snacks in the morning when I am bored if not I don't have what to give them. I put Mia food inside her plate and Natalie said she will feed her, I told her that she can feed herself but she insists that she wants to feed her. I asked about her son Jason, she said he is spending some time with Nate's mom.

I serve them orange juice and cupcakes because that is what I have, it is better not to give them anything at all. Nate eats the cupcake, he said he loves my cake and also Natalie eats it, but Nick did not touch anything and Nate told him to eat it that he will love it but he just ok but later he eats it.

Nate told me that they have a reason for coming to my house and that is why they bring Nick along, I know it is Nate that drags him here.

"Bella, the reason why we come here today is that I want you to go and stay with Nick for the main time till you will give birth. I told you to come and stay with us but you said you don't want to disturb us at least you can stay with Nick, he is responsible for your pregnancy" Nate said

"I am fine here, I am good, I don't want to go anywhere," I said

"No Bella I have talked to him and he said ok, you are now in 7 months going to 8 months, you need someone beside you now, your due date is near, what if you go into labor who will you call?" Nate said

"I will call you or Natalie, or I can call the ambulance," I said but I don't want to go to Nick's house

"No Bella, that is final. You will follow Nick, just for the main time you give birth, after that you can come back to your place, please you need someone beside you now" Natalie said

I don't have any option now, but I don't want to go to Nick's house. I can't believe he agreed, I think I'm like a piece of shit in front of him, why would he agree with them for me to stay in his place.

After all our conversation, they left not before Nick told me that I should get prepared that he will come and pick me by the weekend, I should be ready by then.

Chapter 27

NICK P.O.V

It has been a long time since I last saw Bella, Nate told me to try and go and check on her but since I am not interested in her, I just visit her twice a month since then I did not go there again.

I continue my life but sometimes I remember her most especially when I have a girl to warm my bed in at night I always remember that night I had sex with her because of that I stop having sex with girls for some time, after some months I continue because I need it but when I am with any lady I always feel like it is Bella that is underneath me, why am I feeling this way? I don't know.

My secretary called me that Nate wants to see me, shit, I am in the middle of something good on my desk right now, I told her to tell him to wait for me, I quickly round-up with the sexy girl on my desk and told her that we will meet later tonight.

"How far buddy?" I stand up to greet Nate and we both sit down on the sofa in front of my desk

"When will you stop your playboy life? When you knock up Bella instead of you to be with her and solve things out" Nate said

"I have already made my decision about Bella I don't love her and I am not ready to be a father when there are a lot of girls outside to have fun with I will now tie myself down with one girl" I stand up to get a drink for me and Nate

"No problem, if that is your decision. The reason why I am here today is because of Bella" Nate said

"What happened to her? Is she sick? Is she in pain? Is she alright" Why am I behaving as if I am her husband, I just care nothing else.

"Calm down Nick, she is alright. Now she is now 7 months pregnant and she hardly does anything by herself and her friend is so busy that she can come for some time, so I am thinking maybe you should let her stay in your place for some time till she gives birth after she gives birth and fine she will go back to her place" Nate said

"What!! Impossible, no way, she can't stay with me" I said all in one go.

"I know but you have to let her please, I offer her to stay in our place but she said no that she is fine, the last time I saw her she is now heavy, she hardly do anything again she is getting weak and tired day by day but Bella is Bella she will not let anybody know what she is going through, it is Natalie that send food to her sometimes. If she is with you, your maid can cook for her and she will have someone to talk to. Just see it as if you are helping a stranger" Nate said

"Ok, but only till she gave birth after that she will get out," I said

"Yes thank you, buddy"

Two days after Nate came to my office, he called me in the morning that they are going to Bella's place and they want me to follow them because they have not told her about moving to my place for some time, I said ok he should let me know the time they are going.

When we got to her house, Natalie called her and she said she is coming from the hospital and on her way to pick her daughter from school. If she is my wife or I am in love with her I suppose to be with her in the hospital. 'It is not too late you can still join her for another checkup' my subconscious said.

Later she arrives inside a cab and Natalie walks to her and hugs her. Her bump is now big and she looks tired, her face that looked smooth and beautiful before is now dull, is this how women look during pregnancy?

She walks straight inside and Natalie follows her, I don't think she sees me. Nate carries her daughter and they are playing together. We walk into her apartment and she is about to close the door when I walk in front of her, the expression on her face looks like 'what are you doing here?'

"Hi" I said to her and she also replies to me and walks away after she closes the door

She told Nate that he should put her daughter down to first go and wash her hand and she will prepare for her something to eat. When she wants to stand up Natalie helps her up and asks her where she is going, she said she wants to bring something for us to drink or eat. 'Idiot, you should be the one help her up' my mind said

Later she returns with cupcakes and orange juice with Natalie behind her, Nate picks one and puts it in his mouth and he says I should also eat it that I will love it. I said ok and pressed my phone just to make myself occupied.

Nate come and sit beside me and give me one cupcake, he said I should eat and I can see that Bella and Natalie are looking at us and I don't want to hurt her again I collect from him and eat it, it is so nice and it melts inside my mouth after that I take another one because it is so nice.

Nate told her that she will move to my place because she needs someone beside her but she said she is good here if she needs anything she will call Nate or Natalie, she did not even mention my name that she will call me 'Are you hurt or jealous because she did not mention your name' my subconscious said

'Yes I am hurt, at least I am the one responsible for the pregnancy' I thought

'You made it clear to her that you don't need the baby and you are not ready to be a father' my subconscious said

"I am fine here, I am good I don't need anybody's help or pity" I hear her said, she refers to me as anybody

"Bella your due date is near if you go into labor at midnight, who will you call? Nate asked her

"I will call you brother or I call the ambulance" They are even referring their self as brother and sister, that is nice

"No Bella, that is final. You will follow Nick, just for the main time till you gave birth, after that you can come back to your place, please you need someone beside you now" Natalie said

She did not say anything, Natalie changes the topic and they are talking about another thing.

When it is time to go I told Bella that she should be ready by the weekend that I will come and pick her up.

NATALIE P.O.V.

"I wish our plan work out, maybe they can come together and mend things between themselves," I said to Nate we are in the car going home

"When I went to his office two days ago, if you see the way he reacts when I told him that I am here because of Bella, he said what happened to her? Is she sick? Is she in pain? Is she alright? I told him to calm down that she is alright" Nate said while driving

"I think Nick likes her but he has not realized that I hope he will know what he is missing when Bella stay with her," I said

We plan to let Bella stay in Nick's house, maybe they will fall in love with each other. Whenever I see Nick or he visits us in our house and I try to mention Bella's name in front of him, his reaction is something else that I don't understand. He will try to listen to what I want to say about her but he will not ask about her. That is strange. I hope our plan works out.

Chapter 28

I am now in Nick's place, he come and pick me today and he has gone out, he shows us to our room and told me that if I need anything to eat I should ask Mrs. Davis and if Mrs. Davis is not here I should go and check the fridge she has told her to prepare all that we need.

Mrs. Davis is so nice to me, she treats me like her daughter.

"Dear, did you want to eat now? I have prepared the food, you need to eat because of the baby in your tummy" She comes to my room and asks me to come and eat

"Ok, I will come now," I said to her, she takes Mia with her and feeds her

After we finished eating, she cut fruits for me and told me to eat little by little and she took me to the living room to sit down. When we get to the living room, I remember that horrible night that I am trying to forget.

"How are you feeling?" She asked me

"I am fine" I said

"Don't be shy to talk to me, Nick told me everything that happens between the two of you, as you can see Nick is a good person. He may be a playboy, cold and arrogant but his heart is pure and good. Give him some time, he will surely come around" Good person my foot

"I don't need him to come around, I am just here till I give birth then I will go back to my place, he has already made it clear to me that I don't worth to be his wife or girlfriend and he doesn't need the baby, so why will I need him to come around? I said

"Don't think like that if he did not need you or the baby, he will not let you stay here in his place" She said

After we talked a lot more, I went inside to have a nap and also Mia, when we wake up Mrs. Davis said she is going home, she told me that she has prepared dinner for the three of us and I said thanks to her and she left.

I stay inside the room with Mia because I don't want any situation where Nick will insult me or anything, I let Mia watch the cartoon on my tab and I chat with Annie after we end our chatting. I play games on my phone.

When it is dinner time, Mia told me that she is hungry and I made my way to the kitchen and set the table for her, after she finished eating, I changed into her pajamas and went to sleep. Later I went to the kitchen to eat the fruits that Mrs. Davis prepared for me before she left.

While I am eating my fruit, Nick enters and he greets me then walks to his room, after 20 minutes, he comes out with just sweatpants and a shirt.

"Did you want to eat now, Mrs. Davis prepare dinner before she left" I asked him

"No thanks, I will do it by myself" He said

I left him and continued eating my fruit, when he finished he said that I should come to the living room that he wanted to talk to me and I nodded my head, I stand up and went to the kitchen to wash the plate I use, then I go and meet him in the living room.

"I am here, I hope there is no problem?" I said while trying to sit down

"I just want to explain some things to you while you will be staying in this house," He said

"What is it? I asked him

"You know you are just here for some time till you give birth, after that you will leave my house, first of all, we are not friends or anything. You are not allowed to ask or interfere in my private life. I want you to know your place in this house. You can do whatever you like and go wherever you want, no problem I don't care. You are only allowed to enter, your room, the kitchen, the bathroom, and this living room, any place apart from that, don't go there. That is all for now" So there is still more rules

"No problem thanks for allowing me to stay here, I will surely abide by your rules. Is there anything else?" I asked him

"Nothing"

"Ok then, good night" I stand up and walk to my room

When I get to my room, I sit down on the sofa in the room and think about everything, I wish all this trouble would end one day. Maybe after I give birth I should go to Nigeria and visit my parents. I have told them about what I am going through, my mum cries so hard and asks me why I did not tell them since all these years. I say everything to them when I am pregnant with Nick's baby and my dad said I should believe in God that everything will be alright soon.

One week has passed and I am living my life, I did not go beyond my boundaries, we did not talk to each other except for greeting and nothing more nothing less. I am coming from Mia school and I saw Mrs. Davis inside the house cleaning.

"Good morning dear, where are you coming from?" She asked me

"I am coming from Mia school, I went to drop her at school," I said going to the kitchen to drink water

"Why can't Nick help you to drop her at school when he is leaving for work in the morning?"

"No problem, I am fine with it I also use it as an exercise, thank you"

I went inside the room and sleep for some time, after sleeping I come back to the kitchen and I saw Mrs. Davis cooking

"How can I help you?" I asked her

"My dear you don't need to help me, I am fine all you have to do for me is to sit down there and keep my company in the kitchen," She said

"Please let me help you because of us you are making more food than what you supposed to make," I said

"No my dear, I see you as my daughter, if my daughter is pregnant at least I will cook for her also, please don't say that" I listen to her and went to sit down on the chair in the kitchen and we talk about a lot of things.

I go and pick Mia from school when it is time to pick her from school and Mrs. Davis feeds her. I help her with her homework and she watches cartoons on the tab inside my room. We did not sit outside unless Mrs. Davis is around, Mia and I mostly sit inside our room because I don't want to make Nick angry, when it is time for bed she said she likes to take a shower after I take shower for her, I put her to bed.

When it is around 11-12 in the night, I did not feel like sleeping so I decided to go to the kitchen and make some baking because that is what I do most when I do not feel like sleeping. I don't know whether Nick has come back or not.

While I am baking, I see that someone opens the door and I know that it is Nick, thank God I have finish baking and I am washing the things that I use then I will go to my room, when I look back I see that she brought in a woman and they are making out by the door but I think they did not notice me, I decided to ignore them. Later I hear footsteps coming toward me since my back is facing them.

"What are you doing here?" Nick asked me

"Nothing I just finish eating and I am washing the plate that I use" I lied to him

"Nick, who is this?" The woman he brought asked him

"She is nobody to me, she is just a friend sister," He said

"Then why is she in your place?" The lady asked

"She is staying with her brother and her brother has traveled for a business meeting that is why she is staying here till her brother comes back" They are doing questions and answers between themselves.

"I can see she is pregnant, why can't she stay with her husband or boyfriend?"

"I don't know about that, please let go inside," He said and they walk away.

NICK P.O.V

Since when I told Bella about what I want, I barely see her and her daughter around, when I am going to work, is either her daughter is eating breakfast getting ready for school or she is already out taking her daughter to school.

When I am at works, one of my girls called me that can we meet tonight and I told her ok, when we meet she said we should go to the club after that we can go to the hotel, but I decided to take her to my house to show Bella that I am not really interested in her, but I did not expect to meet her in the kitchen by this time, I thought I will walk out with my girl in front of her in the morning, when I open the door, we are making out by the door that I did not notice that Bella is in the kitchen, when we released ourselves from the kiss to go inside the bedroom that it is when I saw her back facing here. I walk up to her and ask her what is she doing in the kitchen at this time of the night? She said she is washing the dish she uses. The girl asks me who she is but I don't know what to say, I said she is nobody to me, but I feel somehow hurt when I said that, I don't know why.

The next day when I get ready for work, I met Bella feeding her daughter and getting ready, but I felt bad to step out in front of her.

Why am I feeling guilty to step out in front of her? It is not that I cheated on her.

Chapter 29

BELLA P.O.V

When I am feeding my daughter and ready to take her to school, I see Nick coming out from his room and he quickly walks past me and goes out. Why is he behaving like that? As if he was caught doing something bad. It is his life he should live it the way he wants.

One week after he brought in a woman, I noticed that Nick is hiding from me like when I come out from my room and he also wants to come out he will go back and close the door. After some days he stops doing that and he tries to talk to me, when we are eating dinner he will sit down and tell me that he is also hungry that I should serve him after we finish eating he will offer to wash the dishes, there is a dishwasher but since it is not many I prefer to wash them by hand, the next day, he said he will drop Mia to school and I told him that I am fine. He continues like that he even bought a lot of things for Mia. I think this guy has bipolar disorder because today he will tell me not to pass my boundaries in this house, tomorrow he will try to get my attention.

NICK P.O.V

I walk out of my room and head straight to the front door I did not want to look at her face at all, but why am I behaving as if I was caught cheating by my wife. I drop the girl beside me at her place and head to the office.

Throughout the day I am thinking of Bella, I leave work early and I branch a toy store and bought a toy for her daughter when I get home, I saw her in the kitchen laughing with Mrs. Davis and she is mixing something inside a bowl, her side is facing and she looks pretty despite being heavily pregnant. I move closer to them and greet them but she does not answer me, she continues with what she is doing.

When it is time for dinner, I see that she is preparing food for her daughter, I walk to the kitchen and sit at the table with them but she did not even look at me at all.

"Uncle Nick, are you hungry?" Her daughter Mia said

"Yes dear" I replied to her and she told her mum to make food for me.

We eat together as if we are family and I feel so happy after we finish eating, she clears all the dishes about to wash and I told her to leave it that I will wash them yet she did not say anything to me.

Before I finish getting dressed for work, she has gone out and taken her daughter to school. I want to eat breakfast with them and drop her daughter to school but I miss that opportunity this morning, I will try again next time.

I continue going home early to have dinner with them, after eating dinner before she goes to bed I will play with her daughter and she is so lovely, but all that I am doing she did not look at my side or talk to me. I know I am the one that told her not to interfere with my business but at least she should see that I am trying to talk to her.

I am thinking of what to do to reconcile with Bella and be on her good side, but I don't know what to do. I bought a lot of things for her daughter, she will just say thank you and will ignore me after that.

"Hey buddy," Nate said coming to sit in front of my desk

"Hi" I said

"Hope there is no problem?" He asked me

"No, it's just that I am trying to talk to Bella but he did not look at my side," I tell him straight, not beating around the bush, maybe he can advise me on what to do.

"She is abiding by your rules so you don't have to be sad about that" I already told him that I set some rules for her

"Yes, but I am trying my best to reconcile with her, even I bought things like toys, clothes, and shoes for her daughter, first she said I don't need to do all that but I said that I wish to buy things for Mia after that if buy anything for Mia she will just say thanks or she tells Mia to say thanks.

"I told you that she is different from all those girls that are with you because of your money but you said she wants to use the baby as an excuse to collect money from you," He said

"I don't know what to do, if I offer to drop her daughter to school, she will said no that she is fine and pass by me and take a cab, I really feel bad," I said

"First of all buying things for her or her daughter will not let her see that you are trying to get her attention, first of all, let me ask you something, did you like her? I mean did you have any feeling for her or you just want to reconcile till she gets out of your house?" Nate asked me

"I don't know but I think I like her, you know I never had a girlfriend or any relationship before, girls only came to me on their own and we had sex then we went our way after that, some models and celebrities that I date just want to have some relationship with me so that they can get popular the next day. So I never know what I have for her. But if she is laughing or talking with Mrs. Davis I feel like I should be the one making her laugh, sometimes when we are only at home and she is

trying to stand up I feel like I should go and help her. The day I realized maybe I have a feeling for her is when she dropped her daughter to school, she did not know that I follow her cab in my car after she drops her daughter, she walks to a park beside her daughter school and I stay inside the car looking at her, later I saw a couple in the park and the lady is also pregnant, her partner is beside her walking together after that they sit down and he rubs her leg and they are talking and laughing together, I lost in my thought by looking at them that I did not know when Bella leave. One day when I got home early to have dinner together with them, I saw her laughing with Mrs. Davis that she looked so pretty in front of me as if I was seeing stars around her since then I decided to get her attention and not to hurt her again." I told him my mind.

"Wow, I think the Nick inside you now is talking not the playboy," He said

"Please be serious," I said

"What did you just say now, unbelievable Nick Scott said please, this is the first time I ever hear please from you since the college days that we have been friends" I also realized I said please

"Ok, let's be serious," I said

"First of all you have to apologies to her, I mean you say sorry for all what you did to her, or you can't do that," He said

"I can do it, I never apologize to someone but I will try," I said

"Buying things for her or her daughter will not do anything, talk to her, talk about any random things, since she is pregnant now ask her about her appointment date and follow her. Treat her like somebody not like any piece of shit that you said did not worth to be your wife, do exactly what you feel like to do for her" He said

"Ok, I will do all that you told me, thank you, buddy"

"Another surprise from my friend, Nick is saying thanks to me. Today is a good day, Natalie must hear this" I am smiling as a teen who sees his crush coming.

"Stop all this"

"I can't stop when I hear please and thank you from my friend for the first time in one day.

After my conversation with Nate, I leave work to go home, when I get home Mrs. Davis has already gone and Mia runs to me and greets me, I feel so excited when Bella's daughter runs to me. It looks like a child greeting her daddy after he comes back home from work. I went to the kitchen where Bella is, I greet her and she answers me. she is baking, I saw cupcakes, cookies, and donuts that she makes. I ask if I can take one from it but she told me to go and wash my hand first because I am just coming from outside. I am more excited because she is talking to me after I wash my

hand, she put some cupcakes and donuts inside a plate for me. Her snack is something to die for, it is so nice that you will ask for more.

After eating dinner she went to put her daughter to bed and she came back to wash the dishes we used but I have already done it, I know she will come back that is why I am waiting for her.

"Bella, please ca-n I-I talk with you?" Running my hand through my hair thinking what if she did not accept my apology.

"Ok" She said and came and sit down on the sofa in front of me.

"When is your next doctor's appointment?" She looks at me as if have two heads.

"Next week, why are you asking? I think you said we should not interfere in each other private life" She said

"Bella I am so sorry for whatever I have done for you, I really mean it. I want us to be talking to each other, I mean we should....." She cut me off before I finish what I want to say

"So you want to reconcile with me, when I gave birth, you will take my baby from me or fight for your baby custody, you know what Nick, I see the way you are trying to get my attention since all these days and buying things for Mia let me tell you, all that you are buying is inside my room, I am piling everything together for you because when we leave here I will not take anything with me. If you think that you will file for custody of my baby, I have your voice recorded when you told me times without number that you are not ready to be a father and when you told me to abort this baby and when you said you don't want this baby. I don't have money or power to fight with you for this baby, but I will never leave my baby for you" She said in tears and walk away from me.

I messed up.

Chapter 30

How do I explain to her that I want to be with her, I really messed up. I don't know how to convince her that I want to be with her not to take the baby away from her. I know I really messed up but I will try to apologize and make it up to her.

The next day I greet her and she answers me and I sit down with them to have breakfast. After breakfast, I offer to drop her daughter to school but she declines.

One week after, I am still trying my best with her but she did not look at my side at all, we eat breakfast and together every day, I make sure I come back from work early to have dinner with them and I also play with Mia before she went to bed. Every day I come back from work Mia always runs to me and greets me and I feel so happy about it.

Today is her doctor's appointment and I told her that I want to follow her for the checkup, at first she said no but after all my pleading and begging she later agreed. I did not go to work because I don't want to miss the time but to my surprise, she gave the address of the hospital and told me that we will meet there. She is making it hard for me. Did I hurt her to this extent that she did not even look at my effort since all these days?

"Bella, I know I have been nothing but a jerk to you and I am so sorry about that, I just want to make things right this time. I want to be there for you and your kids, not only my baby but for Mia also" I said telling her to sit down

"The last time I check, you said I am a gold digger and a bitch who want to use a baby to extort money from you" She said

"I know, that is why I said I am sorry. I think you are like the other girls who tell me that they are pregnant and they need money when I did not even have sex with them without a condom, and later they told me that the condom break so they are pregnant and they are not ready to be a mother and I give them money since I am also not ready to be a father. I am so sorry to say this Bella but you are the first girl I ever had sex with without a condom. I am sorry I know that I did not have any good reason or excuse to treat you badly, I am sorry please forgive me" I said

"Please Nick don't make this hard for yourself because you said I am not worthy enough to be your girlfriend or wife, since then I have accepted my fate. Now I only have kids and they are my strength and my joy, please don't take him away from me" She said putting her hand together and wants to kneel down to beg me, I quickly stand up and grab her to sit down and told her not to kneel down for me

"Please Bella I am not thinking of taking the baby away from you or will have ever think of such, I just want us to start from the beginning to see where it will lead us to even if we are not together I will never take the baby away from you but please I want to beg you in advance if we were not together, I want you to allow me to be in their life, I mean both of them including Mia," I said but she did not say anything, she stands up, take her bag and went straight outside I quickly follow her.

When she gets out she enters inside my car and I drive off happily. At least she is beside me now.

I am so happy just imagine the kids running around the house, I may not be perfect but I will be the best father to them, I am sure Bella does not want to be with me. I have hurt her a lot and I accept my mistake but I will try my best to win her heart. I will do my best and treat her nicely from now on.

We are now inside the doctor's office, she greets her and also greets me and I reply, the doctor asks her about how she is feeling and every other thing about her health. Soon she told her to lie down on the bed and I asked her if I can stay beside her and she said yes. I am so happy that she said yes. She lies down on the bed and raises her blouse up to her belly as the doctor said, wow her belly is so big and later I hear the sound of the baby heartbeat and the doctor asks me how did I feel about hearing the heartbeat and I could not find any right word to describe the way I feel, I just sit there and tears fall from my eyes. The doctor smiled and patted my back, after we finished, she prescribed some medicine for her then she told Bella to excuse us that she wants to talk to me. Bella said ok that she will use that opportunity to go and get the medicine, I gave her my credit card to pay for the medicine she will buy but she did not collect it and walk out.

"How are you, Nick?" She said

"I am fine Doctor....."

"Doctor Sarah, you can call me Sarah," She said and I nod my head

"Ok"

"I can see that since the time that both of you get here, you are looking at her and I can see that you are trying to make up for what you have done to her" Maybe Bella explain to her because I can see that they are friendly to each other

"Yes, Doctor I mean Sarah, I know I hurt her a lot but now I want to be there for her, but she is avoiding me and she thinks that I only want to be with her for the baby and take the baby away from her" I told her sadly

"I can see that she explain everything to me, did you really like her to be with her or you just want to be in your baby's life?" She asked

"Yes, I really like her and want to be with her and her kids, not only my baby but with her daughter also," I said sincerely I know that I am a jerk to her but I will do anything to gain her trust and be with her.

"Then you have to be patient with her because you know what she has passed through a lot before with her ex-fiancé and baby daddy before you too insult her and call her all sort of names, you don't expect her to open up to you like that," She said

"Yes, I understand but I will try all my possible best to be in her life and my kid's life" I repeat all that I have said again because I really mean it

"As you can see her, she is a strong girl, despite the health issues she never let that keep her down, she is fighting for her kids and please don't hurt her more, what she needs is somebody to make her happy, if you like her the way you claim try your possible best to cherish her and respect her, try your best to make her happy not hurt her more," Sarah said

She also advised me on what to do and said I should make sure not to break her heart again. I said thanks to her and went to meet Bella in the car. When we are driving home I decided to go to the mall to get some things for my baby.

"Where are you going?" She asked

"I want us to do some shopping for our baby," I said smiling but she frowns her face

"No thanks, I already get what he will need," She said

"Please Bella give me a chance to make it up to you, at least you can see that I am trying all my possible for you to make it up to you and to rectify my mistake," I said

"Nick please don't disturb yourself but if you decided to buy anything then he will use all that you bought for him in your house but when I am leaving I will not take anything with me" She did not even try to smile at all

I decided to leave her not to pester her too much, Doctor Sarah said I will have to be patient with her and that is what I will do.

BELLA P.O.V.

I can believe that Nick is saying he wants to be with me, after all, that he said about me calling me a lot of names now he said he has realized his mistake and he wants to make it up with me. Today he said he wants to follow me for the doctor's appointment and agree but not immediately after his begging and pleading when we get to the doctor office and the doctor wants to check my baby and she said I should roll up my blouse, he said can he stay and I said ok.

But I can believe that the mighty Nick Scott can shed tears because he hears the heartbeat of his baby, I look at him as if he is not the same Nick that I know. After we finished Doctor Sarah said I should excuse them that she wants to talk to him but before I walk out he gave me his credit card to pay for the medicine and I said no.

After some minute he comes out and said he wants us to go to the mall to do some shopping for our baby, he said our baby, the baby he said he doesn't want that I should abort, the baby he said he is not ready to be a father for, now the baby is his baby, our baby. Unbelievable.

Chapter 31

On our way home, we picked Mia from school and went home. Mrs. Davis opens the door for us when we get home and she smiles seeing us.

"Wow, what a lovely sight, it will be nice if you are together and be one happy family. Handsome Husband with his pretty pregnant wife and their lovely daughter" She said smiling

"Mrs. Davis I wish so but I promised you that I will try my best to be with them and be a happy family," Nick said

I think this guy is crazy, so he wants a happy family now, where did he put his brain when he said he is not ready to be a father? I won't lie to you, he is really trying his best to make me happy and want us to be together maybe to start a relationship. He once told me that "Bella please let start from the beginning, as boyfriend and girlfriend and we go on many dates, let's see where it will lead us" but I did not reply to him the day he said that. I have no love left to give to any other man since the time Jack left us, he also adds more to it when he said I did not worth being his wife. I only love my kids now.

Mrs. Davis talk to me and said I should see his effort trying to be good to me, she said I should try to forgive him but not entirely because men will be men because she can't guarantee that he will not be an asshole again but I should enjoy this happiness but I told her that what is the benefit of the happiness I will enjoy and he will later hurt me again. Later she said she did not think that he would hurt me again because he can see that in him.

NICK P.O.V

Bella is now 9 months pregnant, this week starts her 9 months and I am expecting her to pop out my baby anytime from now.

I am still trying to win her heart and I can see that she is opening up to me little by little but if I buy something for her she will not collect it from me, one day I gave her my credit card in case she wants to buy anything but she refused. She likes to wear simple clothes, she is not a fan of designer and expensive clothes. I realized that Bella is not a materialistic lady. She likes to stay simple and I love that. She is different from other girls I dated before.

She has allowed me to be taking her daughter to school and I will also be the one to pick her up but not until Mrs. Davis talks to her and say that she should try to forgive me. She now talks to me and I always follow her to every doctor's appointment, Nate and Natalie also come to visit us, and both of them saw the way I am treating her, if she wants to stand up I will help her and when she wants to serve them I follow her to the kitchen and help her, she says thanks and smiles at me. I really

love her smile. When it is time for them to leave they told me that I should continue the way I am now, they say if I ever hurt her again they said they will hurt me the way I will not like at all and Nate said he will kick my balls that I won't be able to fuck any girl again in my life.

Most of the time I observe her that she feels too tired and dizzy, she becomes more nauseous and complains of headaches but whenever I ask her to let's go to the doctor she said she is fine that it is necessary to feel that way but I think she is hiding something from me. I can see that she is really in pain but whenever I ask her she will say she is fine. Today is her appointment and I will ask the doctor to tell me exactly her health issues.

"Hello my lovely princess, how are you?" Doctor Sarah said

"I am fine," Bella said and Doctor Sarah also greet me and I reply her.

"Is there any complaint?" She asked and at the same time, she told her to lie down on the bed for her to check her baby.

I helped her to stand up but I can see that she held her belly and I can see that she is bleeding, I told the doctor and she immediately called for an emergency. They push her to the emergency room and they attend to her, while I am waiting I called Nate and Natalie and explained what happened to them and they told me that they will join me.

After some minutes, Doctor Sarah came out and told me that she has to deliver the baby now because her health is deteriorating. I don't understand and I ask her to explain, she said that

"Bella is an anemia patient and during her pregnancy, she was diagnosed with preeclampsia but it is not too late before we detect it and I told her that she needs to be admitted in the hospital to be treated well but she said no and she also said she can't afford the expensive, she never hide anything from me and I told her to tell the father of the baby but she said he did not want the baby and Nate and Natalie has bought all her baby stuff for her so she did not want to disturb them again for hospital expenses. Her friend Annie sends money to her for her medicines, she also doesn't want to disturb her. Bella told me that she wanted to have the baby and she did not mind her health. That is why I told her to come for a checkup 2 to 3 times a month to monitor her health. I really wish to help her but I am also working in this hospital all I can do for her is to treat her for free. She told me before both of you are living together that if anything happens to her while she gives birth I should give her baby to her friend Annie or Nate and his wife" She said and tears roll down from my eyes.

I am such a jerk, this woman is dying having my baby and I abandon her because of my stupid attitude.

"Please Doctor Sarah I don't care any amount, I will give you but I want you to save Bella, her kids need her and I also need her. Please doctor" I told Doctor Sarah with tears.

She said ok and walked away, later Nate and Natalie came and they asked me what happened and why am I crying, I explained what happened to them.

Later Doctor Sarah comes out and asks me if I want to be with her in the delivery room and I said yes.

One nurse comes to me and told me to wear one clothes like doctor clothes I don't know it and said I should follow her, I saw her, she was sweating and crying at the same time and there are doctors around her, I hold her hand and Doctor Sarah told her that she can do it, she is a strong woman. She looks at my face and tells me to bend down and I do so.

"Nick, I know I am not worthy to be your wife and we are not on the same level but please I beg you, please take care of my kids and tell them how much I love them, I already know that I can't make it but I am happy that I carried him full term. Please don't think about this poor me, think about the kids, and take good care of them. Tell Nate, Natalie, and Annie that I really appreciate their effort and care for me, I am saying thanks to them" She said weakly and smiled.

"Bella I know you are a strong woman don't think like that you can do it and you will be the mother of your kids, nobody will take care of them very well except you. Please they need you and I also need you. I love you Bella" I said with tears and kiss her on her lips.

After I released her lips she looked at me and she did not say anything.

"I know you are strong and you are also a fighter, please fight for yourself and fight for your kids," I said

After some minutes Doctor Sarah told her to push and she did while I am still holding her hand but she later stopped and pushed again and said that she is tired. One of the doctors said she should try it once more, she pushes again and holds my hand very tightly, soon I heard my baby cry, I look at her and kiss her longer than the first one. I said thanks to her and she nods her head and smiles. Doctor Sarah put her baby on her chest and she gives him to me, after giving the baby to me she holds my hand so tight and starts breathing heavily. The doctor started attending to her and they told me to go out.

Bella, please be good, I need you and your kids need you the most.

Chapter 32

While they are attending to Bella, Doctor Sarah told me that she will be fine and she told me to follow one of the nurses to give my baby his first shower but I don't want to leave her alone but she forced me to go out.

After like 30 minutes, Doctor Sarah comes out and tells me that Bella is fine but she is sleeping now because she is tired and exhausted but it may take time before she gets discharged because her health deteriorates really bad and she needs a lot of medical care and rest.

I said okay and I am so grateful that she is fine, I don't think I can forgive myself if anything happens to her, Nate and Natalie are so happy hearing that.

After some minutes one of the nurses said we can go inside now that they have transferred her to the wardroom but the baby is not there yet but he is fine.

We went inside and I saw Bella sleeping peacefully, I will make sure nothing happens to you again and I will never hurt you. I love you, Bella, I said and kiss her forehead. It is true that when they say that it is when you lose something that you get to know their worth. I almost went crazy when she gave birth and her breathing changed all of a sudden and to make the matter worst they told me to go out.

Now we are inside her ward and she is still sleeping, I have called her friend Annie and she said she will come tomorrow.

The next day, I am still beside her and watching, yet she has not yet wake up, I am here since yesterday, when it is night time I told Nate and his wife to go home, if she wakes up I will call them. I called Mrs. Davis to bring some clothing for me and her, I also tell her to bring some food for her also. After she brought everything she said she wants to see my baby and I have also not seen him since yesterday, because I am worried about Bella that makes me forget to go and check him, both of us head straight to the babies ward and he is sleeping and I look at him, he is so cute and Mrs. Davis said he looks like me. After we see him I walk Mrs. Davis out and return to Bella but when I enter the room, she has wake up.

"I want water please" That is the first thing she said and I quickly give her water to drink.

"How are you feeling now? I asked her

"Fine," She said weakly

"I am so sorry for all that I have done for you, I don't know that you are going through all this, and yet I insulted you. I am sorry" I said to her and hug her

"It's fine, please can I see my baby?" She said

"Let me call Doctor Sarah first to check on you then I will bring your baby to you" I called Doctor Sarah on the phone and she said she is coming because I don't want to leave her side.

"What name did you give to your baby?" She asked me

"Have not named him, I want you to give him names because you deserve it, I don't deserve it but I promise to make it up for the three of you" I said

"Thanks," She said

Soon Doctor Sarah comes inside and brings our baby with her, she gives him to me and checks on Bella, she asks her about how she feels and every other necessary question. After that I hand over her baby to her, she hugs him and I can see tears in her eyes, she says thank God that she is alive to see him.

BELLA P.O.V

Nick has been trying to be good to me, all that I did not experience with Jack, he is doing everything for me. When I wake up in the morning, he will prepare breakfast before I dress Mia up for school, he will put different types of food on my plate and make sure I finish it, after that he will make sure I take my medicine before he went to work and also take Mia with him to drop her to school. When he gets to work he calls me every time saying he just wants to check on me. He comes home early and he will pick Mia from school when he is coming. After finishing eating dinner he helps Mia with her homework. After that, he will play with her for some time and even put her to bed. After putting Mia to bed, he will come and sit with me in the living room and cut different types of fruit for me to eat.

We bake snack together in the kitchen and watch TV together while doing all that he tells me a lot of jokes that will make me laugh and said "That is how I want you to be always, no more sadness in your life again" every day he massage my leg and shoulder before I went to sleep. I have seen him times without numbers that he always checks on me when I am sleeping and kisses me on my forehead and also kisses my baby bump but he thinks I am sleeping. He also talks to his baby quietly, the first time he comes to talk to him, he said "Hey boy, I am your dad I know I am a bad person to you, your mom and your sister, I am sorry I am not with you right from day one when your mom told me about you but I promise to be with you and your big sister for the rest of your life. I hope your mum will give me a chance to be with her forever, I promise to love her, cherish her, take care of her and be with her for the rest of her life" He kissed my belly then kissed my forehead and went out. Since then he comes every night like that. I am also thinking maybe I should give him a chance but I am confused.

I am now 9 months pregnant, for some days now, I am feeling headaches and nausea, Nick said I should go and see the doctor but I said no, I already know my problem but I did not tell anyone, I don't want them to pity me. All the people around me have already done so much for me. Nate and Natalie bought all my baby things for me, Annie sends money to me for my medicine.

When I am 6-7 months pregnant my doctor detect that I have preeclampsia and she said I have to stay in the hospital for good treatment but I don't have money so I tell her she should just prescribe medicine for me, I did not tell anyone because they have already done so much for me.

We are on our way to the hospital for a checkup but I am feeling dizzy and my stomach is hurting me so much, I endure till we get to the hospital but Nick is looking at me and he is asking what is happening to me but I said nothing.

When we get to Doctor Sarah's office, I feel dizzy and collapse. When I woke up, I saw doctor Sarah and she told me that she needs to induce me so that I can go into labor to give birth because my body is weak and I can take it anymore and I agree.

I saw Nick enter the labor room and I know that it is Doctor Sarah that let him. He holds my hand and I look at him with pain because I am in so much pain right now.

"Nick, I know I am not worthy to be your wife and we are not on the same level but please I beg you, please take care of my kids and tell them how much I love them, I already know that I can't make it but I am happy that I am able to carry him full term. Please don't think about this poor me, think about the kids, and take good care of them. Tell Nate, Natalie, and Annie that I really appreciate their effort and care for me, I am saying thanks to them" I said weakly

"Bella I know you are a strong woman, don't say that, you can do it and you will be the mother of your kids, nobody will take care of them very well except you. Please they need you and I also need you. I love you Bella" He said with tears and kisses me on my lips. I am so surprised about that but I did not say anything.

"I know you are strong and you are also a fighter, please fight for yourself and fight for your kids," He said

After pushing and screaming I hear my baby cry and I am so happy. Doctor Sarah handed him over to me and I gave him to Nick then everything went blur.

Chapter 33

After I woke up, I did not see anybody besides me but I tried to stand up but I feel weak in my leg, I sit back and wait, soon later Nick came inside immediately he saw that I had wake up he walks faster toward me and I told him to I want to drink water.

After I drink water, he asks about how I am feeling and I said I am fine, he apologies to me for what he has done to me and hugs me but it surprises me because I can remember that when I am in labor he kiss me. I am scared that if I give him a chance, will he not insult me again?

I ask about my baby and he said he will go and call Doctor Sarah to check on me first then he will bring my baby, later Doctor Sarah come inside and check me and bring my baby, as soon as I take him from her I hug him and tears fall from my eyes. I ask Nick what name did he give to him and he said he is waiting for me to name him that he did not deserve to name him.

I name him Max, I also name him in my country's language as OLUWASEMILORE (God has done good for me). Later that day Annie comes and she is so happy and she is also angry with me that I did not tell her about my illness, she said if I tell him she will have given me the money and she cannot sees me as a burden, Nate and Natalie also are angry and they told me that I should have told them everything and I told that I thank God that am fine and my baby is good.

I was discharged after one week and I was surprised again by Nick because he drives us to his mansion, not his penthouse, he has decorated a bedroom for me, a room for Max but he will stay with me for now and another princess theme bedroom for Mia. In my own bedroom is simply a set of matching set of furniture like a bed and two bedsides on each side of the bed and a dressing mirror, another two doors, one to the bathroom, and the other to the closet. There is also a chest of drawers for the baby and a baby bed for Max, it is very nice.

In Mia's room, the painting of the room is pink with Disney princess wallpapers on the wall, in the right corner of the room there is a table and chair to study and on the other side of the bed, there is a big lamp also in pink color. Next to the table is a pink wardrobe, there is also a dressing mirror with a chair in pink color.

"Nick you don't need to do all this," I said to him but in my mind, I like all that he did

"I have to, I want us to be together, I am not joking about you giving me a second chance, I will make everything to make you happy," He said

"I know but just a bedroom is good for me and my kids for the main time we will go back to our apartment," I said

"No you are not going back, please Bella let start everything from the beginning. I did not say you should give me an answer now but I want you to think about it, please" He said

I did not reply to him and went inside my room to take a shower and he is sitting downstairs in the living room with Max and Mia after I finish I go and meet them to eat dinner because Mrs. Davis has already made dinner for us.

After we finish eating I walk straight to my bedroom and attend to Max, Nick also goes and put Mia to bed.

At the midnight Max start crying and before I reach Max, Nick opens the door and ask me what happened to him and I said maybe he is hungry and he went out and I breastfeed him after I breastfeed him, he is playing and Nick enters my room and said he said I should sleep that he will stay with him.

Some days after I get discharge Annie travels back to Texas but before she went back I explained everything to her, how Nick is doing good to me and he is pleading for another chance. She said if I have feeling for him I should give him a chance, she also said she sees how he is taking good care of us.

3 months later

Nick is really taken care of me since I gave birth to Max, he is the one taking Mia to school and also pick her up. Every weekend he takes her to have fun, sometimes they went to amusement parks, the cinema to watch kid's movies and went shopping after that. He bought things, for the three of us and he also begs me to use what he bought for us. He takes me to the hospital every two weeks after I gave birth until Doctor Sarah said I am doing fine, after that he said he wants me to be going for a checkup every once a month. Every night he comes when he heard Max's voice because he has a baby monitor in his room, sometimes he will tell me to sleep that he will attend to him.

At the weekend we are preparing to go out, that is the first time I and Max will follow Nick and Mia out, we get inside his car and he drives off.

We first went to the shopping mall, while we in the car Mia and Nick are talking telling Nick all that she wants to buy and all that she will do in the park, I am even surprised that they are so close to this extent. I just pray that Nick did not change because Mia is so close to him now when he shows the bad side him I can still take everything but I can't endure the sadness of my kids.

When we get to the mall, he holds Max and I hold Mia but later Mia went beside him and holds his hand, while I am walking beside them. People were staring at us, some are whispering to themselves that they are so cute while some are looking at me with envy. The looks I am receiving from some make my legs so weak. After we shop for something we went to the food court and

order food, after some minutes Mia said she wants to get something and Nick follows her he told me to wait not to stress myself again that he will follow her. After Nick and Mia walk away, I notice that some people are taking pictures of us I later understand that Nick is a popular millionaire playboy.

After they come back, we went to another place, from an ice cream shop to an amusement park, later we went home but when we get home I am the one that first enters the house because Mia is sleeping so I decide to take her inside and Nick is coming with Max.

When I enter the house I met some visitors two elder people one man and one woman, I don't know them but the elderly man looks like Nick. I greet them but they did not answer me and I am thinking about who they are.

Chapter 34

After I put Mia to bed, I changed her clothes and walked out of Mia's room. As I am coming out of Mia's bedroom I am hearing Nick is talking to the people, after hearing what they are saying there I know that they are Nick's parent.

"Nick I think I raised you better than this, why are you such a disgrace to us?" Nick's dad said

"How could you be so stupid to have sex with this kind of poor and dirty girl and to make the matter worst she is a single mother" Nick's mom said

"Mom please she is the mother of my son," He said playing with Max

"When you have a lot of beautiful girls that are from a good home, why can't you choose one of them to settle down with, not this dirty girl," His mom said while I was standing hearing everything.

"Mom, it is not her fault I'm drunk and I raped her later she comes back to me and said she is pregnant," He said

"When I told you to give us grandchild not from a poor girl without no family background" She said

I am thinking of going there and tell them that I am just here for some time and I will leave their son very soon but what Nick said next makes me stand still and feel weak.

"Mom, I just let her move in here for the main time to give birth, after that I will send her back and I help her because she has a financial problem and I can't let my baby suffer with her, it is not that I am having any relationship with her," Nick said and I can feel tears coming out of my tears

"Then file for custody of your child and I am sure you will win it because she did not have any money to take of the baby. After the court hears about her financial problem and she also has one child before. The court will be in your favor after that send her away" her mom said

"Ok, mom I will see what I will do to that," He said

After hearing what they were saying I entered my room and closed the door slowly for them not to hear, I went inside the bathroom and cry my eyes out.

I thank God that I hear this, so this is Nick's plan all along. When I am about to see light at the end of my tunnel darkness takes over it again, I sit on the floor in the bathroom and start crying. I think I need to act fast because if they file for my baby custody, I know I can't win it. There are a lot of reasons why I say I can't win it because they have money and power in this country, I am a

foreigner here and I am a single mother they may say that I can't take care of the one in my hand, how will I be able to take care of two of them? His mother is right.

When I hear a knock on the bathroom door, I stand up from the floor and wash my face but my face is red when I look at the mirror, I don't want him to know that I am crying and think that I heard what they are talking about, I put face wash on my face and open the door for him to see me and I told him that I am coming he should give me some few minutes.

When I came out of the bathroom, he asked me what happened to my eyes and I told him that the face wash I put on my face entered my eyes. He told me that his parents are down and he wants me to come and greet them. I said ok.

"Mom and Dad meet Bella, Bella meet my parent" It feels awkward, I don't know what to say or how to greet them

"Hello I am Bella," I said but they did not even answer me or look at my side, they are playing with Max

"Mom, dad Bella is greeting you at least answer her," Nick said

"Hi" His mother said

I walked back to Mia's room and sent a message to Annie. I told her to borrow me some money and she said yes. She said she will transfer it to my account and I told her what I heard from Nick and his parents but I did not tell her my plan. I just told her that I want to get another apartment that Nick will not know about. I think it is better to get out of here before it is too late.

I move closer to my daughter and talk to her silently not to disturb her "I'm so sorry my baby, I know you are already attached to Nick but I don't have any other option than to take you and your brother far away from here" I kiss her on her forehead, I take her bag and pack all the necessary things that she will need and go back to my room. I decided not to cry again and be strong for my kids.

Later Nick brings Max to me and says he is hungry, I take shower for him and change his clothes. After that, I feed him and put him to bed. I don't know if Nick's parents are still there or they left, I lock my door from inside and pack all the necessary things that I and Max will need for the main time. I pick my phone and type a message to Natalie telling her that she should give back my apartment to the agent that I rent the apartment from and all my things that are there either they sell them and or give them out, I also said thanks to her and her husband for the help and support all this while but I did not send it yet.

I want to go away from here without not telling anybody where I and my kids are going, Annie, Nate, and Natalie have really tried enough for me, I think it is time for me to fight for myself and

my kids, I want to do it all alone without anybody's pity or being a burden on anybody. I type a message to Annie that "My dear best friend, despite that we are not from the same family background you stand by me right from our college days till now, thanks for all your support and help you have done for me and my kids, I really appreciate them. You will always be my best friend forever, no other person can replace you in my heart. I think it is time to struggle for my kids and make a better future for them at least if I can give them the best I will try my possible best to give them a good future. I promise you that if anything is not possible for me I will come and meet you in Texas and take any offer to give me but at least let me try something for my kids on my own. Mia and Max are sending kisses to you and they will miss you. I am sorry if my message makes you angry, please forgive me" at the end of the message I put kiss and love emojis at the end of the message.

The next morning it is Sunday, Nick said we should go out again but I said that I am tired from yesterday's outing and I told him that we can have fun at home, he said ok. I handed over Max to him and went to the kitchen to cook and bake. I am sorry Nick but this will be our last time being together and I promise to make the best out of it. I prepare all his favorite breakfast, after eating I told him that we should go out to the garden, we play with the kids and I also chat with him and play with him, running around the garden, doing hide and seek with Mia, he swims inside the pool with Mia while I hold Max sitting at the edge of the pool while my leg is inside the pool. I can see that Max has slept on my leg as I want to stand up to put him in his pram, he told me to stay, he comes out of the pool and puts him inside. Suddenly I fall into the water and I see that it is Nick that pushes me inside, both Nick and Mia are laughing and I join them, then the three of us are playing inside the pool.

"Bella, thanks for today for being yourself today I promise you that I will never hurt you again," He said

"No problem Nick," I said

"I am thinking maybe we should travel for vacation?" He said

"What about Mia's school?" I asked him

"The school will be on holiday from next week so that is why I said we should travel," He said

"Ok, no problem" I am sorry Nick, this will be our last time together.

If God wishes we will meet again but I can't let you take my baby away from me.

Chapter 35

The next day, I wake up earlier than my normal wake up time, I take shower for Max and feed him, then he sleeps again. I wake Mia up and get her ready for school, I am thinking to tell Nick that she is not going to school but he may be asking me so many questions, that is why I prepare her for school.

After eating breakfast, I get Mia's lunch bag and her school bag then kiss her on her cheek but to my surprise, Nick also kisses me on my cheeks and says goodbye. I don't understand him at all, he did not even behave as if he talks to his parents that they are planning on filing for custody of my son but he is trying to do anything that makes us happy. I don't know what to believe.

After Nick and Mia left, I went back to my room and gathered all our things together and put them in the living room, I have already booked an online flight ticket to Florida for me and my kids with the money I asked Annie to borrow me. I don't know anybody there or where to go in Florida but I just want to leave here.

I went back inside the room to pick my son and call a cab, as am about to go out Mrs. Davis opens the front door and asks me where I am going and I explain everything to her but she said I should not go because she can see that Nick loves me and he is happy seeing the kids around. I told her it is not possible, if he is happy with us, he will not tell his parents that he is just helping me because I have financial problems and he also agrees with his parents to file for custody of my son.

She told me that I should call him and talk to him about it, I told her that she should let me go but she begs me not to go that I should settle everything with Nick and if he agrees that it is true that he wants only his son then she will help me to run away but I said not that it is too late.

After a lot of begging, she let me go and I went to pick Mia up from school. I lie to her Auntie that there is some important thing that came up that is why I came to pick her myself. I changed her clothes and head straight to the airport.

After we get settled down inside the plane, I take out my phone and send the messages I typed earlier to Annie and Natalie, then I switched it off. I don't have anywhere to go but when we land I know that God will direct me to follow a good path

NICK P.O.V

Today is the best day of my life, this is the first time Bella is playing with me and Mia. Today really surprised me a lot because she made my favorite breakfast and also baked a lot of snacks, I am really happy today. I also tell her that we should travel on vacation and she agrees.

The next day, she wakes up and prepares Mia for school but I can see in her that something is bothering her, maybe she is stressed because of Max, he normally wakes up at midnight to play and sleep in the afternoon.

After finishing our breakfast, she helps Mia with her school bag and gives her a kiss on her cheek, I also move closer to her and kiss her on her cheek, but she looked surprised and she did not say anything but before she smiles back to me I think there is something bothering her when I come back from work I will ask her.

As soon as I get to work, my assistant told me that I have a meeting to attend within 5 minutes and people are waiting for me and after that, we will meet one of our investors outside the company and tell me all other schedules that are important for me to attend to.

After that meeting, I did not enter my office at all, I and my assistant headed out straight because our investor was already waiting for us, he came earlier than the scheduled time.

He said he is sorry that some important issue came up for him and he wants to make sure we finalize this deal before he goes back.

After 6 hours of going from one meeting to another, I am now back in my office and I check my phone and I found a lot of missed calls from Natalie, Nate, and Mrs. Davis. The mistake I made is that I put my phone on silent mode and I forgot to remove it. I hope there is no problem, I first dial Mrs. Davis's number because she never called so many times like this, and Bella and my son are at home.

"Hello, how are you Mrs. Davis, I saw your missed calls on my phone, I am in a meeting at the moment you called me, hope there is no problem how are Bella and my son," I said

"I am sorry, it is too late, she has already left" I don't understand what she is saying

"What did you mean she left, who left?" I asked

"Bella," She said weakly and hangs up

She said Bella has already left, I don't understand her. I decided to call Bella's phone number but it is saying switched off. I packed all my things to go home and see what happened. All of a sudden my office door burst open and it was Nate.

"What did you do to Bella that made her leave?" He asked fuming with anger

"Nothing, I did not do anything to her, I left her home this morning before coming to work and I am the one that drops Mia to school" He shows me the text message on his phone and I read it

"I don't understand this, where did you get this message from? I asked

"Bella send messages to Natalie and that message in your hand is also the one that she sends to her friend Annie," He said

"But there is no fight between us and I drop Mia at school this morning" As I am talking, I can't explain how I am feeling.

"As we are talking now, Bella is already on the plane by now and I am very sure she will not leave her kids behind," He said

"To where?"

"I don't know" He replied to me and I fall on the sofa in my office helplessly

Nothing happens between us, why will she leave. I observed her this morning that something is bothering her and yesterday she also acts differently and I am so happy that she is opening up to me, while I don't know that she is saying goodbye to me.

I stood up and picked up my keys and phone, Nick asked me where am I going then I told him that I want to go and find Bella and my kids.

"Nate, they are my happiness I can't just let them go like that," I said

"Where are you going now? He asked me following me.

"First I am going to the airport to confirmed where she is going, then I will go there and look for them, I don't mind searching from one house to the other, all I want is my wife and my kids" I did not realize what I said until Nate asked me to repeat again

"What did you just say now, Nick?" He asked

"I said I am going to look for my wife and my k....., sorry I don't know what I am saying I mean Bella and the kids" it feels awkward and I rub my hand at the back of my head

"Nick, I know you love Bella, but put your ego aside and think about your happiness. Do the right thing at the right time" His phone rings and he answers it.

From what I am hearing from him because he is beside me inside the car we heading to the airport, it is Annie Bella's friend that he is talking to.

"Nick, did you really want to take your son from Bella?" Nate asked me

"No, why will I do that? I am trying to ask for her forgiveness for what I have done to her and to make her mine. So how will I do that?" I said

"Annie is telling me now that you are telling your parents that you will try to file for your son's custody and you also said that she did not have any relationship with you" I don't know that she heard what I am saying to my parents.

"Shit, I am trying to confuse my mom so that she will not do anything stupid, you know my mom she can do and undo. I don't want her to hurt Bella that is why I said that" I said parking at the airport.

"If you can't protect what you love from being hurt then you are a coward, Nick. Why can't you tell your parents that you love her and want to be with her? He said and he gets out of the car

Am I a coward?

Chapter 36

I did not reply to Nate because I am short of words and he is right. I hope I find Bella and she forgives me because I did not know that she was hearing what I am discussing with my parents. We step inside the airport and we make some finding and I discover that Bella is traveling to Florida. We went back to the car after that.

"Nick, I think you should clear the floor with your parent before you went in search of Bella and the kids," Nate said

"Ok, I will do that, but did you know maybe she has someone in Florida that she went to meet," I asked Nate

"I am not sure, she never mentions anybody in Florida to me and her Aunt that brought her here in California is not living in Florida. Maybe you should call her friend she will know more about her" Nate said

Annie will be angry with me because when Bella gave birth she already threatens me that if anything happens to her or I hurt her again, she said she will make my life a living hell. How am I going to talk to her now? I'm dead.

After I dropped Nate, I went back to my company and I called Annie, I collected her number from Nate.

"Hi," I said

"Please who am I talking to?" She said

"It is Nick" Immediately she heard my name, she shouts at me

"You are such a manipulating bastard when Bella gives birth I told you to let me take her with me but you said no that you love her and you want to make things better between the two of you. Is this how to show her your love? Is this how to make it better by taking her son away from her?" she said angrily

"I am sorry, I didn't mean to hurt her like this, I did not know that she heard what I am telling my parent, I know my mom she can do and undo, I don't want her to hurt Bella," I said

"That is a stupid excuse if you really love her you will tell your parent that you love her and that is what you want," she said

"I am sorry, I will make everything right this time"

"That is what you said the last time"

"This is the last time I will ever hurt her again, please I want to ask you whether she has any relative in Florida," I asked her

"She did not have anybody there, why are you asking, is she in Florida?"

"I make an inquiry at the airport and it was confirmed that she went to Florida," I said

After my conversation with Annie, I rounded up my work and headed to my parent's place. I called a friend of mine in Florida and I told him to do me a favor and he said yes, I gave him the details of Bella and told him to help me find him. He said he has a private investigator that he will assign for me.

I want to talk to my parents first. After that, I will go to Florida also to find Bella and my kids. I don't want to be a coward anymore, I want her in my life.

"Son, are you sure you know where you are going? maybe you enter the wrong house" I am not surprised by her word because I did not normally visit them

"Mom, it is here I am coming and I want to talk to you and dad," I said

"I know if it is not important, you won't come here. Your father is in his study room" She said and I follow her to meet my dad

"Your son said he wants to talk to us" My mom tell my dad

"Nick, it is good that you came here, I am about to call you because I have talked to my lawyer and he said that we did not need so much evidence against your so-called baby mama, so when did you want us to file the custody case?" My dad said

"That is the reason why I came here. I don't want to file any case against her anymore. Mom, dad I love Bella and I want to be with her and my kids" My mom slap me as soon as I said that

"Then you must be a bastard, how can you get love or get married to that dirty girl? A single mother for that matter" My mom said

"Mom she is not a dirty girl, I love her and I want to marry her," I said nervously, don't blame me it is because I am a mama boy.

"I can't accept her and it is not possible for you to father another person's daughter. I can't accept her to be my daughter-in-law" My dad said

"Being a single mother is not a bad thing mom, and for your information, if you sue her or file a case for custody of my son, she will win because I rape her. She helps me home the day I rape her, she found me by the roadside being drunk, I take advantage of that moment and raped her. She has

a lot of evidence against me, when she came to my office and said that she was pregnant I told her instantly that I did not want the baby and I am not ready to be a father, she has recorded all that I said. When you told me to leave her now, will she not be a single mother again? It is because of a jerk like me who left her with a baby that made her a single mother today. Assuming she did not have a daughter before and I left her with my son now, won't she be a single mother? Mom, you are a woman and I supposed you should understand better being a woman, if it is my sister that a man raped and left her with a child, won't you hurt the man?" My Dad slaps me for the second time

"How dare you talk to your mother like that, you are a bastard, get out of my house now, I don't want to see you in my house again," My dad said and I walk out of their house

I enter my car and drive off, I look at my face and it is red from the slap, but I don't mind if this is what I get from being with them. They are my happiness. I will not be a coward again. I refuse to be a mama boy again, they have controlled my life since I was small, now it is enough they want me to marry a girl from a rich family but all the dates they are setting me up for always end up badly.

When I get home, I open the door and nobody runs to greet me, I look around the house and it looks empty.

I walk upstairs to Bella's room and look around, her scent is still inside the room and the scent of my son, after I come out from there I went to Mia's room and look around. I can see that she did not take along all that I bought for her and the kids along with her.

I am sorry Bella, I didn't mean to hurt you. I went to my room and took a shower then lay down on my bed, thinking about the happy moment we had together the last time before she went away, later I slept off.

The next day when I woke up, it was already 10 in the morning and I went downstairs to see Bella and my kids, but when I got to the kitchen I remember that they are not here again. I saw Mrs. Davis

"Good morning," She said

"Good morning" I replied to her

"I know you are sad about Bella and the kids, you are used to them being around," She said

"Yes, I really fucked up," I said

"I know you did not mean what you said I know it is because of your mom, you should have explained to Bella before you will say something like that" She also knows the attitude of my parents and she knows what they can do.

"I don't know that she will hear," I said

"No problem, don't cry over spilled milk, what are you planning to do now?" She asked me

"I am planning on bringing them back, I can't leave without them anymore," I said

"That's good, what about your parents, have you tell them? She asked me

"Yes, I have told them yesterday and my dad said he did not want to see me in his house again," I said

After my conversation with Mrs. Davis, I head inside my room and lie down on the bed. I am expecting a call from my friend. I need to go to Florida to go and bring them back. I will do anything it takes for me to bring them back.

Chapter 37

I wake up to a knock on the door. I get up and see who is there.

"Nick, I have finished preparing food please come and eat because you did not have anything for breakfast," Mrs. Davis said

"I am fine, I am not hungry," I said

"Nick, please don't do like this to yourself," She said

"I am fine, Mrs. Davis. I am going to Florida to find them I am just waiting for my friend's call" I said

After that, she left and I am the only one in the house now, I went out and sat beside the poolside reminiscing about the last time we were here.

One month later

I still have not heard anything about them. I went to Florida the next day but all my findings were all in vain. I stayed there for two days before I went back home.

Sometimes I sleep in my office because I feel lonely when I get home, not seeing Mia running to greet me after work, not seeing Bella at home baking snacks for us and my son playing with me makes me so sad.

"Nick, please stop thinking about it, you will find them," Mrs. Davis said to me

"When will I find them? It's been a month now I don't know what to do" I said

"Sitting here will not do any good for you, it will make you sad," She said

I always sit by the poolside to remember the last good time we have here, I should know that she is planning something when she plays with us inside the pool.

After some minutes of sitting at the poolside, I receive a call from my friend telling me that he finds Bella, immediately I stand up and make my way up to my room and take all the necessary things I need, and head to the airport.

After some hours I landed at Florida airport, I saw my friend and he drove me to a hotel and told me all that he finds about Bella, all that I hear makes me sad.

He said Bella is working as a secretary in the morning after she drops her daughter in school and works as a cleaner in a restaurant at night, he said she leaves her kids for her neighbor till she comes back from work.

I did not know what to say after what he told me because I feel sad about hearing that. He gave me the address of where she is staying. I stand up immediately and walk out of the hotel room and get a cab, I gave the cab driver the address and he drives off.

I check the time and it is already night time. She will be around by now, the cab driver parks in front of an old building and tells me that is the address, I pay him and said thanks.

I walk toward the house and head straight to her apartment, I knock on the door and a woman opens the door for me.

"Please how can I help you?" She said

"Please I am looking for Bella," I said and she looks at me up and down.

"She has not yet come back from work but she will soon come anytime from now maybe you can come back," She said

"Ok, thanks" She closed the door after what I said

I sit in a corner not far from her door in case she enters. I will see her.

15 minutes after she came and she opened the door and after some minutes the woman left, I walked up to her door and knocked on the door, a moment later she opened it and looked at me and close it back.

"Bella, please open the door" I keep banging on the door

"What did you want?" She asked

"Please Bella let me explain, it is not what you think," I said

"Then how is it? Planning to take my son away from me?" She said and closes the door on me again

"Bella please let me explain, it is just a misunderstanding," I said

She opens the door and I enter, immediately Mia sees me She runs up to me and hugs me, I carry her and hug her.

"I missed you so my princess," I said to her

"I miss you too, have you come to take us because mama say you travel," Mia said

"Yes, my princess I have come now we are going back home," I said to her

I ask her where her brother is and she said he is sleeping, Bella told her to go to her room and that she wants to talk to me.

"Bella, please what you heard is not what you think, I lie to my parent because I don't want them to hurt you," I said

"No problem, it is not that we have any relationship between us, I already want to leave your house, I think the time has come now. In the beginning, you already told me that you don't have anything to do with us. Please leave me and my kids alone" I can see the sadness in her face.

"Please I really want us to have a relationship together, I can't live without the three of you, please forgive me, I told my parents that I want to marry you with or without their permission. Please Bella let's go back home, the house is empty without you guys" I beg her trying to hold my tears.

"I am sorry, I and my kids are fine. Please get out and don't look for us anymore" She opens the door for me to go out

I went out but I will still come back for them, I will beg her till she forgives me.

I call Nate and Natalie and I told them that I found Bella and I explained everything that happened between us to them, they said I should keep on trying till she forgives me if I still want her.

I return to my hotel room to think of what to do next.

BELLA P.O.V

When we settled down inside the plane, I sent the message to Natalie and Annie, immediately Annie saw the message, she called and she screamed at me and asked me where I was going, I told her that I am going to Florida. She asked if I have someone there and I said no.

She said if I land I should let her, she threatened me that if I did not call her when I landed she would hunt me down and punish me.

After 5-6 hours of the long flight, I called Annie and she told me that I should wait for someone to come and pick me. She also gives me a number that I should call the person that he will employ me. When the person comes and picks us. I talk to her and she drops me in front of a hotel and lodges us there, she told me that Annie has already paid the bill.

Instead of wasting the money for the hotel, I asked the lady that came to pick us that if I can get a cheap apartment to rent, she said she will call some agent for me but I should lodge in for today because of my kids that they must be tired. Before she left I took her number and said she should not forget me about the apartment.

After we got settled in the hotel room, the next day Annie called me and I explained everything to her. She first gets angry at me that if I want to do such things, I should have informed her. I apologized to her and she said ok.

She told me that Nick had called her but she did not tell him that we are in Florida.

"Nick called me but I did not tell her that you are in Florida but he knows that you are in Florida," She said

"How did he know? I asked Annie

"He said he finds out at the airport with the help of his friend that is working there" She explained

"This guy has a bipolar problem, he is the one that is planning with his parent now he is looking for me," I said

"He explained everything to me, he said that he just said that to his parents for them not to hurt you because his parents want him to marry a good girl from a good background. He said he will go to his parent house and tell them that you are the one that he wants whether they like it or not"

"I don't care whether he went to his parent place or not," I said to her

"I think he likes you because of the way he is talking to me. Bella, what did you think about him? Did you have any feelings for him?" She asked

"I did not have anything for him" I lied to Annie, the way he takes care of me when I am pregnant, he really shows me that he wants me after I heard what he told his parent, I am so hurt but now everything has fly out.

"Stop lying to me because I know you very well, I know you are afraid because of how Jack behaves with you. Why don't you give him a chance but don't let your guard down" I don't know what to do

Should I give him a chance?

Chapter 38

The next day, the lady comes to me and she gave me some agent number and I called them, later I get an affordable apartment, it is an old building but it is still nice, it is a two-bedroom apartment with a small living and a toilet I can manage it with my kids.

I still have the money Annie borrowed me and get some things for the house. After I get settled, I called the number she gave me for work and the boss told me to come for an interview the next day. After the interview the boss which his name is Mr. Damien told me that I can start work next week because Annie told me that I just relocate to Florida I still need to settle down. I said thanks to him for considering me and he told me to behave like a good person and not disappoint my friend that stands for me.

The week that followed I start working, I have enrolled Mia in school and I have someone to come and sit with Max till the time I get off work.

I work with Mr. Damien as a secretary and one week after I start working as a secretary, I find work in a restaurant as a cleaner, it is night shift. I am so happy because it is the money I receive from the restaurant and the salary I will get will help with all our expenses.

It has been one month now that I left Nick's place but Mia always disturbs me about Nick, I told her that he has traveled and he will come back very soon but whenever she comes back from school, she always ask me when is Nick coming back.

The way he takes care of Mia helping her with her homework, sometimes he feeds her, plays with her around the house, and also puts her to bed at night. All this is enough for Mia to remember him. Sometimes I also remember him, because he always treats me nice, promising me that he will try his best for us to be together as a happy family.

In what Annie told me she said that Nick is looking for us and Nate also called me because Annie has given them my new number, he said Nick is not like before even he fights with his parent because of me. They told me that sometimes he sleeps inside his office he said that the house is empty without us. If he comes back and asks for my forgiveness I don't know what to do.

One day when I get home, my neighbor that help me with the kids told me that a man come and ask for me and I ask for his name but she said he did not mention his name. I said ok and she left.

I am preparing food for me and Mia to eat, Max is already sleeping. After some minutes I heard a knock on the door and went to open the door only to find Nick but I close the door immediately.

He bangs on the door telling me to open it, I told him to go away but he said I should give him a chance to explain what happens to me, everything I heard is a misunderstanding.

I later let him in and Mia run to him and he carries her and said he missed her, Mia asked him that has he come back to take us to go home and he said yes. I put food for Mia and told her to eat inside that I want to talk to him.

After all his explanation, he said I should forgive him and to let us go back home because the house is empty without us, I told him to get out and not come back again.

After he went out, I went to sleep thinking about him all night, the next day I get dressed for Mia and the lady that will stay with Max come on time but said something that makes me crazy, she said someone is sitting on my doorstep. I open the door to find Nick sitting on the floor like a lost kid.

"Nick, don't tell me that you passed the night here" Mia saw him sitting on the floor but he stands up immediately Mia saw him but what my daughter said shocked me.

"Mama naughty" Mia said

"Why are you doing this Nick? I told you to go back" I said to him

"I won't go back without the three of you, if I have to sleep here for months or years till you forgive me and go back with me, then no problem," He said

I went back inside and take Mia to school and my take handbag then leave because if I keep talking to him, I will be late. He followed me to Mia's school then to my work, after I get off work heading to the restaurant he also follows me, he entered the restaurant and order some things to drink till I get off and he also follows me home.

He continues like that for a week and it is getting on my nerves, when I get home that day I called him inside and ask him what he wants but he said he wants us to be back home. Mia saw him and come to him, they are both playing together and she gave him her book and he helps her with her homework, later Mia falls asleep and I show him her room.

I told him that he should go back but he said no that he will be saying in front of my door till I agree to follow him back, I even wondered maybe he did not have other words to say because that is what he keeps repeating all the time.

When he comes back from Mia's room and about to go outside, I call him back.

"Nick, please go back home, you have your business there that is waiting for you and your parent will be worried about you," I said looking at him

"I have a very competent assistant that will take care of everything till I come back and my parent said they did not want to have anything with me again. So I am free" He said

"Please Nick I am fine with my kids here, how am I sure that if I go back with you there won't be another problem?" He stands up from his seat and sits beside me holding my hand

"Bella, give me another chance to prove myself to you, I promise you to protect and take care of you and the kids. If you see that I keep hurting you, you can move out and I will not stop you at all" He said still holding my hand

I really don't know what to say but I told him to sleep on the couch in the living room because I don't like how he sleeps outside, I went inside my room and bring him a cover, after that, I made my way to my room and not give him reply to what he said.

I really have some feeling for him but I am scared because of what Jack has done to me, he also starts like this but later everything turns upside down.

Should I forgive him or not?

Chapter 39

He keeps on begging me to give him another chance, I told him that he should go back that I will think about it but he refused and said he will not go back unless he goes back with me and the kids.

I don't know what to do again.

It has been a month now that Nick refused to go back, he is the one taking care of the kids while I go to work, he told the lady that help me to care of the kids not to come again.

Whenever he wakes up before me, he will prepare breakfast for all of us and he will tell me to prepare Mia for School, after we finish eating breakfast, I will take Mia with me and drop her at school, Nick will stay with Max at home. When it is time to pick Mia from school he will go and pick her up and stay with both of them till I come back from work.

Mia told me about what they do before I come back from work, she said that when she comes back from school, Nick will feed her and help her with her homework. After that, they will go and play in the nearest park and he will take to buy ice cream and sometimes she said he will take them shopping and buy a lot of things for them sometimes clothes or toys.

"Nick, you can't keep staying here, how about your work?" I said to him after we finish eating dinner.

"I already told you that I am not going back except we all go together? He said

"Nick, I have forgiven you but it is not easy for me to go back with you, please give me some space to think about it. What I go through with my ex is still fresh in my mind and you also hurt me so much while I am pregnant with Max. When you start being nice to me and you ask for my forgiveness, I have forgiven you because of the care you show me and my daughter but when I heard what you told your parent, it makes me hurt and I have made up my mind that I don't need any man in my life again, my kids are enough for me. Please give me some time to think about everything and I promise you that I will be in contact with you and you can talk to the kids whenever you want" I said to him

"I am really sorry for all what I have done for you, but I want you to have it in mind that what you heard from me when I talking to my parent is not what I mean, I know my parent very well, they can do and undo, I don't want them to hurt you and the kids that is why I say what I said the last time. Please forgive me" I can see the sincerity in this face but I can't just go back with him like that.

"Ok no problem, but you have to go back and give me some time to think about everything" He moves closer to me and hold my hand.

"I will do as you said, I will go back and give you some space as you said, I hope you give me a positive reply," He said and kiss the back of my hands "Bella, I want us to live together as one family, please give me another chance to prove myself to you" He hugs me and went to the kid's room to say his goodbye to them.

The next day when Mia wakes up, she asks about Nick and I told her that he has gone back but she cries and said we should go back with him but I told him not now.

NICK P.O.V.

I decide to do what she said that I should give her some time to think about it, I am back home for two months but it has not been easy for me being alone at home, without not seeing Mia greet me when I come back from work, I miss the smell Bella's baking and her smile.

She keeps her promise and I talk to her every day and she also allowed me to talk to the kids and sometimes we talk on a video call.

"Hey buddy," Nate said taking his seat in front of my desk

"Hey," I said to him

"Are you sad because Bella did not follow you back?" He asked me

"No," I said to him

"Then what is the problem? Since the time you came back, you never go the club with us again, all that you do is stay in your office from morning till night even Mrs. Davis called me and said you hardly come home which means you sleep in your office or maybe you are busy with some girls that warm your bed at night"

"Not like that, since the time Bella left my place, I have never had sex with any woman again. Nate, I love her" I can't believe that I have never had sex with any woman since Bella left me.

"Then what happened to you?" he asked

"I am scared if she rejects me and said she can't be with me," I said worriedly

"If you really love her as you said, don't give up on her, treat her like a somebody not like a nobody you said she was before, show her love but not by buying an expensive gift for her you know the type of girl she is" He said

"I have tried all that I know but still yet she said I should give her more time, I even buy a gift for her but she rejected it. I don't know what to do again I don't how my life will be if she rejected me" I said

"Let's do it this way, you should be going to Florida and be checking on them maybe every weekend or whenever you are less busy don't ask her about her reply, you can just say that you come to check on them. Start from the beginning with her as a boyfriend and girlfriend, treat her with love and care, that is what women want, take her on a date, compliment her whenever you see her, don't let her feel less about herself, all the negative words you said to her you can turn it back to positive words and compliment to her. If you do that I am sure she will give you a second chance." Nate advise me and I think it is useful

"Ok, I will as you said"

"But if you hurt her again I promise you that I will destroy you and I will hide her away from you that you will never see her again not to talk of asking for her forgiveness" I can never hurt her again

"I promise you, I will never hurt her again," I said to Nate.

We talk about business and other things before he takes his leave. I decide to book a ticket to Florida this weekend to visit Bella and act fast before it is too late.

Chapter 40

Bella P.O.V.

I am preparing breakfast for my kids as today is weekend and I also want to try new food recipes for Max, he is now seven months old and he did not want to eat any solid food, I give him fruits, yogurt, and all baby food but he refused, he wants only baby formula and breast milk. So I want to try fruit puree for him maybe he will like it.

After we finish eating, I clean up for them and now they are playing with their toys in the living room. I went to the kitchen to finish baking and also to clean up the kitchen, after I finish everything I went to sit with the kids in the living.

I heard a knock on the door but I am not expecting anybody, who could that be? I went to open it and I saw the last person I am expecting. Nick was standing at the door and we are looking at each other until I heard Mia asking me who is there, she comes closer and shouts "Uncle Nick".

"How are you my beautiful princess" He dropped what he is holding and carries Mia, showering kisses all over her face.

"I am fine, I miss you so much," Mia said laughing and I told him to come him

"I miss you too my princess" He carried her inside and went to greet Max while I pick up all that he dropped at the door and close it behind me.

He is talking and playing with them while he put both of them on his lap, when he saw me he put then down and moves closer to me.

"How are you doing Bella?" He moves closer to me and hugs me

"I am fine" Is the only word I said to him and I did not hug him back.

After he went back home two months ago, I keep my promise to be in contact with him and he can talk to the kids. He calls us every day or let me say every time because I can't count how many times he calls us a day, at night when he gets home, he facetime us and talk to the kids.

After some days have passed, he starts sending gifts to us and I told him not to send anything to us again but he begs me not to reject them. Sometimes he sends clothes, toys for the kids, and one day he sent a matching pyjama set for me, Mia and Max. I can't say I don't like it because I love pyjama, I have wanted to buy something like this but I don't have enough money to buy it.

Since he sends different types of gift to us, sometimes if he is busy to call in the morning he will make sure he call before he went to sleep at night and he will be saying sorry that he is so busy that

is why he did not have time to call us during the day. Why is he begging me because he did not call? It is not that we are in any relationship or something.

So when I saw him today, I was so surprised because I am not expecting him at all. After all, I know he will be busy with his flings who warm his bed at night.

"Are you jealous?" My subconscious said

"What did you want me to offer you?" I ask him while he is playing with the kids.

"Anything," He said and I went to the kitchen to prepare something for him.

After I prepare the food, we all eat and he asks me if he can take us out I told him he can take the kids out if he like but I don't want to go because I have something to do.

He did not say anything but I can see the sadness on his face. I get the kids ready and they all went out. I don't want to lead him on not to think I have given him another chance.

I am all alone at home, I use that opportunity to clean the entire house before they come back, after that I prepare dinner and watch some movies.

They come back a night after dinner time and I can see that they have a lot of fun because Max is already sleeping on Nick's shoulder and Mia is also feeling sleeping. I change for both of them and put them to bed.

"I am sorry for staying out late," Nick said when I come back after changing the kids.

"No problem, I can see that they have a lot of fun" I reply him "Did you want anything to eat to drink," I said to break the silence between us

"No, thanks. I will like to be on my way now but I am still here for a week and I will be coming every day to stay with the kids till I go back" Really

"Ok" is the only word that comes out of my mouth.

These past days that Nick has been with us were so nice, he came early morning at the exact time for me to wake up and he will make breakfast for us while I get Mia ready for school. I will leave Max for him and he will take care of him after he wakes up.

The last time he arrived from California is Saturday which is weekend and he asks me on Sunday to teach him how to take shower for Max and how to change his diapers. Since then he is the one taking care of them while I am at work.

I take Mia to school on my way to work and he is the one that will go and pick her up at school, he will stay with both of them till I come back from work.

"You are looking beautiful this morning," Nick said to me when I am about to go to work.

"Thanks" No man has ever complimented me like that and Nick has been saying a lot of sweet words to me since he arrived.

"When you are about to leave work, let me know we will come and pick you up to go out. Please, Bella, don't say no this time" He said with a pleading face "Since the day I came you refused to go out with us, please you can't say no at least make it a goodbye outing for me, you know I am going back tomorrow. Please" I wish to follow him because I have been refusing to follow him out since.

"I am sorry Nick, today I will be late at work because my boss said he wants to open a bakery shop because he tried my baking and he loves it so today I will so busy." I can see on his face that he is disappointed.

"Ok, no problem." He said sadly

"I hope it attracts more customer and make more profit because he promises me that if we make a lot of sales he will hire me as full-time in the bakery shop" I pack Mia lunchbox and wear her shoe for her to get ready

"I believe in you Bella, your baking's are so delicious, surely you will make more sales. Don't look down on yourself" He moves closer to me and hug me "Everything will be fine, just believe in yourself"

Chapter 41

"Thank you so much sir," I said to my boss when he said he wants to hire me as a full-time employer.

"You deserve this Bella. I am the one that supposed to say thanks to you" He said

We made a lot of sales after we open the bakery shop with my delicious baking recipe and my boss said he will employ more bakers so the work will not be too much for me.

Nick was right, he said everything will be alright that my boss will employ me. I am so happy, I won't be working from one shift to another.

"Hello, how are you doing?" Nick said on the other side.

"I am fine" I reply to him

"Care to share the news because I can feel the happiness in your voice"

"We make a lot of sales for the past one week that we opened the bakery shop and my boss has employed as full-time at the new bakery shop," I said smiling because I am so happy right now. Moving from one work to another is so stressful that I don't have time for my kids.

"I told you that they will surely employ you. Congratulations" now I will be working from 9 am-5 pm in one place, I will have time to take my kids out and be with them before bedtime. e I came home late before that sometimes I will meet them already sleeping by the time I come home.

"Thanks for your encouragement" I am thinking maybe I should feel free with him and give him another chance I hope he will not hurt me again.

After my conversation with Nick, I called Annie and she is also happy. I know it is a small thing but it means a lot to me, I have never thought that somebody out there will like what I make.

I am in the kitchen baking some cakes and some other breakfast menu to go to the restaurant. My boss decided to make his restaurant a café in the morning and a restaurant at night. He also increased my salary. I am so happy I will be able to save some money and buy a lot of things for my kids.

When it is my closing time, I went home to take my kids out as today is Friday. Mia and Max are so happy because I came home early today and I told them I am going to take them out.

After we get home, I take shower for them and prepare them for bed but not before Nick facetime us, that is our night routine now, he facetime us before we went to sleep.

Two months later

My work is going smoothly and I have enough time for my kids which they are so happy about. No more shifting works, I am so happy.

Annie came to visit us and spend some weeks with us, we gist a lot and she also told me about a guy she meets recently and they are dating, I am so happy for her because she told about how the guy is taking care of her.

Nick is also trying to make me give him another chance but I think I am having some feelings for him now but I will keep my feelings to myself for now. He always comes to visit us at least twice a month.

I am at work when my phone ring and I check the caller it is the nanny that stay with my kids but Nick is the one paying her.

"Hello, hello, please come now Mia is in the hospital," She said crying

"Which hospital?" Immediately after she told me the address of the hospital, I leave all that I am doing and take an excuse from my boss, and went straight to the hospital.

When I get to the hospital, I went to the reception and tell them my daughter's name, one of the nurses direct me to her wardroom.

"Nancy, where is my daughter? What happened to her?"

I ask her as soon as I saw her standing in the corridor.

"The doctors are attending to her, I am sorry for been careless?"

"Stop crying Nancy, nobody is perfect" I move closer to her and tap her on her should, I am the one that is supposed to stop crying because I don't know how I get here, I left my bag at work and I am still wearing the kitchen apron.

I sit down beside Nancy holding my head in my hand, I am so confused that I did not see Nancy holding Max in her hands until I heard his baby voice trying to gain my attention, some minutes later the doctor came out and my eyes snapped open, I stand up and ask about my daughter.

"Are you the mother of the child?" I nodded my head positively "I am so sorry, your daughter was hit badly and she has lost a lot of blood before they brought her here so she needs a blood transfusion right now"

"I will donate blood for her" The doctor which name is Doctor Matthew told me to follow him to carry out some tests to check if I can donate for her.

After some minutes, Doctor Matthew come and told me that I am an anemia patient and I can't donate blood for her and he suggests maybe I should call her father. Immediately he said that I feel helpless.

"Please doctor, help me to arrange blood anywhere, no matter how much the amount I will pay because I and her father are separated and I don't know where he is now," I said crying "Please doctor save my daughter," I fold my hands pleading to the doctor.

He nods his head positively and he said he will see what he can do, he pats my shoulder gently and went away. As soon as the doctor went away my phone rings and I checked the caller it is Nick and I pick it up.

"Hello," I said still crying, I hope my daughter is fine.

"Bella, what happens? Why are you crying? He asked worriedly.

"Mia is in the hospital," I said sobbing hardly

"Please Bella, calm down, nothing will happen to her. I will be on my way right now" I said ok and he hangs up.

Nancy has gone home with Max, after the doctors finish with Mia, she explains to me that after she picks Mia from school she said she wants to take them to go and play in the park that is near her school since tomorrow is weekend but before she could hold her hand Mia has run and she was knocked down by a coming car.

It has been almost 6 hours that the doctors finish with Mia but yet my baby has not opened her eyes.

"Open your eyes please Mia, mama want to see you, your brother is waiting for you to play with you" I kiss her hand rests my head on the bed beside her. I hope she wakes up soon.

I wake up to someone caressing my hair, I look up and saw Nick, I stand up and he pulls me toward him and hugs me. After he released me from the hugs, he wipes away my tears with his thumb and told me that she will be fine.

"I am scared" I look at Mia lying on the bed with a bandage wrapped around her head and on her left leg, there are some bruises on his face and arm.

"Bella you don't need to worry, she will be fine. My princess is a strong girl" He kissed her on her forehead "Nothing is going to happen to her, I will make sure they give her the best treatment" He hug me and rub my back.

After some minutes, Doctor enter and check on Mia, Nick moves closer to the doctor and they talk but I don't know what they are talking about after they both walk out of the room. Later he

comes back and I ask him what the doctor said because I am sure they are talking about Mia's health but he did not tell me anything, he only said that the doctor said she will be fine and she needs a lot of rest. I know that the doctor told him something serious and he did not want to tell me because I can see the sadness on his face.

Why is he hiding my daughter's health from me?

The next day I open my eyes and I found myself sleeping on Nick's lap, I don't know when I slept off yesterday night. I stand up slowly not to wake Nick up and went to the bathroom not before I check on my princess but she has not yet wake up. I just hope my baby is fine because Nick refused to tell me what the doctor said he only said that there is nothing to worry about.

After I freshen up, I saw Nick sitting and talk to Mia to wake up because he has come to take us home back to California while holding her hand. I just stand by the door looking at him the way he is talking to Mia.

Nick went out and brought some food for us to have breakfast but I told him that I am not hungry, he forced me to eat some of the food, after he went home to check on Max and also to bring some clothes for me and Mia.

I hold Mia's hand crying and praying to God to make my daughter alive and healthy. After that, I rest my head on the bed beside Mia.

"Mama" I heard my baby's voice and I sit and see Mia's wide open looking at me. I hug her gently "Wait let me go and call the doctor," I said and went to call the doctor.

Doctor Matthew check on her and ask if she feels any pain she answer weakly. He told me that they need to carry out some tests to make sure that everything is fine.

One week after Mia was discharged, Nick clears all the hospital even though I told him not to pay but he refused.

When we get home Nick gets angry with Nancy and wants to fire her for not taking care of the kids, but I told him that he should not do that, nobody is perfect and if I am the one with the kids it may happen to me also.

After some days my boss called me, he asks me about my daughter and when am I coming back. I told him that I have not known yet, he said I should not be late.

After one week after Mia was discharged, I went back to work and Nick is the one staying with the kids and Nancy is also with them. Nick is also the one taking Mia for a check-up.

"Hey, how was your day?" Nick greets me as soon as I enter the house.

"Fine" I fall on the chair because I am so tired and my muscles were aching.

"I can see that you are tired, go inside and freshen up, I have made dinner" He came up behind me and massages my shoulder.

"Where are the kids? How is Mia?" I was shocked when his hand touches my back but seconds later I feel relaxed.

"They are sleeping and Mia is doing well, they have removed the bandage on her left leg today and she is walking slowly but the doctor said we should let her practice walking.

"Thank God, I am so happy to hear that because I can feel her pain, whenever she is crying in pain" Nick sit beside me and wipe away my tears and hug me.

After finishing our dinner, he does the dishes and I sit in the living room watching the TV, I want to sit a little before I went to bed.

Chapter 42

It has been two months now that Mia was discharged from the hospital, she is fine now and she can walk very well and she has started going to school.

Nick really try his best for us and I am very grateful for that, he is the one taking care of Mia till she was able to walk, you can't say that he is not Mia's biological father.

Before he went back home, he asks me again about giving him another chance to be his girlfriend. I told him that I am scared that he will hurt me again and he said we should start with just being a friend and he hopes we should be more than that and I said yes.

He said "Bella, can you join me for a drink?" I look at him and did not say anything "I know you may find it creepy or awkward but Bella, I am trying my best for you to give 'us' a chance and let's be together" He stands up from his seat and holds my hand "Bella, I can't live without you and my kids" He added.

"I know Nick, you have tried your best to show me that you want us back I have started having feelings for you, you show us love and care, you take care of Mia as if she is your own daughter which I never expected to happen. You buy me a lot of gifts, you support me and encourage me in everything I do, you know what to say to me whenever I am sad and did your best in changing my perspective towards you but I am scared. What if you hurt me again? What if your parent said they don't want me as their daughter-in-law and you also decide to do what your parents want? What if " he pulled me towards him and connected his lips with mine, I can feel the tingling sensation throughout my body.

"My parent can't choose for me, I know what I want. As for me please don't say that she is like my daughter, She is my daughter and nothing can change that. Please don't be scared, I know what you have been through with your ex and I have also hurt you, please forgive me" He looked at me and hold my hand. "What about we start as friends?"

Friends? I don't know if I am ready for any relationship. 'Why don't you let your fear aside and try something new with him' I remember my best friend Annie's words

"Bella" He called me and brought me out of my thought "You have not given an answer to my question".

"Ok" I said silently looking at my feet, I hope my feeling for him does not hurt me again.

"What is ok?" I look at him and nod my head "Did you mean you want to give us a chance" I nodded my head again looking at my hand.

"Thank you so much" He hugs me tightly and kisses my forehead

Since the time I accepted to give us a chance, he has been more caring and lovely toward me, he came to check us frequently, he takes me out for dinner or lunch, and sometimes all of us with the kids. I am so happy for the moment we have together, I hope this happiness last longer.

NICK P.O.V

Since the day Bella has agreed for us to be together, I am so happy since then. I want us to be more than a friend but I don't mind taking it slowly.

I am preparing of taking Bella for a date because it has been almost four months now that she has been decided to friend with me and I can see that she is opening up to me little by little.

I am in Florida now shopping for a nice dress and reserve a nice restaurant to take her to, I want to get everything ready before she comes back. I hope she did not reject me because I am thinking of proposing to her to be my girlfriend and I want us to be official before my son's first birthday which is in two months to this time.

"Nancy, how are you?" I greet my kid's nanny as soon as she opens the door for me.

"I am fine sir," She said

"Uncle Nick" Mia screams as she saw me walking to the living room and Max is also crawling towards me.

"How are you, my beautiful princess? I carried both of them on my lap and I also make a funny face at Max which earns me a beautiful smile from him with his little teeth.

"I am fine, I miss you so much," She said

I explained all that I am planning for Bella to Nancy and I plead with her to stay with the kids till we come back and she agreed.

BELLA P.O.V

I thank God for today's work because it is not really stressful, my boss has employed more people to help. Since I am not tired today, I want to take the kids out.

"How are you, Nancy? I hope the kids did not disturb you today?" I asked her

"No at all, they are good," She said smiling widely as I am talking to her

"You can go home now, I am taking the kids out" What she said next surprised me.

"But you are going out with Mr. Nick" She handed me a big box

"Nick? As in Nick comes back and where is he?" I asked her

"Yes, and he told me that I should stay with the kids till you both come back home" She looking at me and still smiling, I think she knows something.

"Where did he tell you that we are going? I look at the box in my hand and open it.

She said she doesn't know and I open the box to found a beautiful dress, heel sandal with a matching purse and a beautiful silver earring. I also saw a note "Pick you up at 7pm"

I went to my room and put the stuff on my bed and I take my seat on the bed looking at the box.

To be sincere, all those things are beautiful but I don't know what to do, this is not the first time that Nick will take me out for lunch or dinner but this is the first time he will buy a dress for me like and invite me to go out with him.

I don't know what to do, should I go or not?

Chapter 43

I enter the bathroom to take shower, after that I get dressed and out on the dress Nick sent to me, I apply little makeup, put on the earring, and end with the heel sandal. After I finish dressing, I look at myself in the mirror ask her myself "Am I doing the right thing?"

After some minutes of thinking about my decision, I heard a knock on my door and I open it.

"Mr. Nick is waiting for you" Nancy looks at me up and down and later said "Wow, you are looking beautiful," She said smiling and walks away. I pack my things and put them inside my purse and went out.

I saw Nick in the living room typing on his phone, he looks so handsome in his outfit, he rose to his feet when he saw me and move closer to me.

"You look gorgeous" He leans closer to me and placed a kiss on my forehead.

"Thanks," I said hiding my blushing face.

"Shall we?" He holds his arm out for me to grab, I look at his arm then his face. "Please" I hold his hand and we move out of my apartment.

.....

The ride to the restaurant was quiet, we did not say anything to each other but I caught him stealing glances at me every now and then. After some minutes, I ask him where is he taking me just to kill the silence but he said it is a surprise.

When he stops the car, I look around and see that we are in a restaurant, the restaurant is so nice. One of the waiters walk up to us and Nick told him that he already has a reservation and he asks for his name, after that the waiter lead us to our table and give us a menu after we take our seats. Nick first order for wine and ask me what I want and order for juice.

After some minute, the waiter returns with our wine and juice and take our order. "Your food will ready shortly," He said and walk away.

I pick up my juice and sip it quietly, I look everywhere but not Nick's face because he is looking at me and it is awkward to me.

"Is there anything on my face? I asked him just to start a conversation maybe he can stop staring at me.

"There is nothing on your face. I am just looking at the gorgeous lady sitting in front of me" I can't believe that I am blushing right now.

Before he talks again, our food arrives and we start eating, as Nick is eating he still stares at me and I told him to stop but he says no.

After eating our food, we sit looking at each other without saying anything.

"Did you need anything else? He asked me

"No, thanks I am ok"

"Bella, first of all, I want to say sorry for all that I have done to you and I hereby asking for your forgiveness, please forgive me" I can see the sincerity on his face

"I have already forgiven you," I said to him

"I know, but I still just want to say it again, since the first time I set my eyes on you, I can't explain how I feel about you, then, I just feel like seeing you, talk to you and I feel like to hear your voice that is why I always come to Nate's office. The night I got drunk, I don't mean to do what I did to you then but I feel attracted to you and I can't resist the feelings anymore, I regret all my action the next day, Nate came to me the next morning and hit me but I really wish to ask for your forgiveness but my ego did not allow me to do that when you come back and told me you are pregnant, I think that you are like other girls throwing themselves on me to get money or famous because they always find an excuse to come back like they are pregnant and at the end, it will turn out to be a lie. I realize my feeling for you when you started living with me, I want to give you some time before I confessed my feelings for you, but before I do that you already left" He moves closer to me and wipe my tears.

"I have forgiven you, Nick, I believe that everything happened for a reason" he holds my hands in his hand.

"Bella, please will you give me another chance and be my girlfriend" He takes out a rose petal he is hiding and gives it to me.

"Yes," I said and collect it from him, I hope my decision did not backfire on me.

"Thank you, I promise I never hurt you again" He moves to my side and connect his lips to mine.

After leaving the restaurant, he takes me to watch movies and eat ice cream, we talk about Max's birthday.

He pleaded to me that we should celebrate Max's birthday at his Mansion in California. At first, I said no, but after he pleaded to me for several hours I later said yes.

.....
"My darling daughter" Mrs. Davis is Nick's house helper.

"Mrs. Davis, how are you doing?" Mrs. Davis hugs me as I enter the mansion.

"I am alive and good as you left us" I can feel the sadness in her voice.

"I am sorry but I have to leave the last time, I scared I think Nick mean it to take my son away from me" The last time I left this place, she cried and begged me not to leave, she said since the time I started living with Nick, he saw new changes in Nick, she said I should not leave that I should try and talk to Nick about what I heard but I insist on leaving.

"No problem my dear, now that you are back I am sure you are here to stay. From the day Nick has found the three of you I can see the happiness on his face, he has changed his way of living, he said the three of you means a lot to him. Please give him a chance" She holds my both hand wait for my reply but Nick enters inside with the kids, that saves me from replying her because I don't know what to say.

It's been a week now that we arrived at Nick's place and we have started preparing for Max's birthday party. Annie and Natalie are also with me.

The day we arrived in California, Nick called Nate and Natalie to inform them, Natalie came to visit us that same day, she said she is angry at me and she said she is not here because of me but to see the kids that she has missed them. I said sorry to her and explained everything but she said at least I should come to her first before I decide to leave.

.....
I bake 3 different cakes for the party, one cake is a two-tier cake with a racing car design and 12 cupcakes around it, the second one is a ball cake with a field design, and the third one is a Mickey Mouse design. After that, I decide to bake the remaining snacks tomorrow before the party started because I am so tired now.

Annie and Natalie have gone out for food and other things, I want to round up and go and relax I am so tired. I heard a footstep in the kitchen when I look back to see the person and it turned out to be Nick, he moves closer to me and massage my shoulder and before I know what it is happening, he kissed me on my shoulder. I feel the tingling sensation in my body and I feel relaxed.

"Hey" He said after a while

"Hi" I reply him, still massaging my shoulder.

Whenever he touched me, I feel some butterflies in my stomach, I don't know if what I am feeling for him is right, I don't know if I give in to the feeling was the right thing I am doing.

"Bella" Nick whispered, bringing me out of my thought.

"We shouldn't be doing this in the kitchen, we are not the only one at home" He move more closer to me, kissing me on my shoulder and wrapped his hand around my waist.

"We are not doing anything, I just want to be with my girlfriend" I don't know if what I am feeling is right considering what he has done for me.

"I think you guys should get a room because there are kids around and some adults are here who has nobody to cuddle with," Annie said winking at me

"Good evening Annie, how are you doing?" Nick greets Annie as both of them enter the kitchen.

"Good evening Nick, I am fine, thank you" Annie replied him smiling

"Please if you excuse us, I want to take my girlfriend with me" I feel shy after hearing what he said, he is now letting everybody knows that I am his girlfriend.

"No problem, you can take your 'girlfriend," Natalie said emphasizing the word girlfriend, I feel embarrassed because I know that both of them are making fun of me.

"Nick, please give me some minutes to round-up here, I will join you soon" He nodded his head and give me a quick kiss on my lips.

"What else are you scared of Bella? If you see the way he is looking at you, you will understand what I am saying" Annie after Nick went out of the kitchen

"Bella, there is nothing to be scared of, you know I am a friend to Nick I have never see that type of Nick before" she moves closer to me and holds my hands "Bella please give him another chance and let him make it up to you, all what he and Jack have done for you. Nick is no more a billionaire playboy that he is before, Nick has changed into a better person. Please put your fear aside and give him another" I nodded my head positively and both of them hug me.

Chapter 44

I am so tired from preparing for the birthday party, Nick wants to make a big party for his son but he said no and I let him do what he wants.

"Hey, Nick said as I enter the room

"Hi" I said and he gestures with his hand for me to sit down beside her.

"I am sorry for making you tired, I just want to make a big party for our son and I invite all my friends and their kids for them to know my family." He said rubbing my shoulder "The cakes you made are so beautiful" He added

"Thanks," I said to him

"I got something for us" He announced

"You don't have to get anything for us again, after all, that you have done for us" He shook his head negatively

"Nothing I did for you and my kids is enough, so please accept these and it is for the four of us" He reached for the gift bags beside him and places them in front of me.

I open one of the bags and found a jewelry box, inside is a diamond necklace, it is so beautiful.

"No more buying expensive gifts for me again, all the ones you bought before are still there" I look at him.

"I will try but I did not promise you that I will stop and you are going to accept all these because I have already bought them" he pointed to all the gift bags on the floor and are still like four to five bags on the floor "Please darling" He has been calling me with many sweet endearments for some time now.

"We will wear these on Max's birthday" He picked another bag and opens it, inside are four printed sweatshirts with lovely words on them for the four of us, me, Nick, Mia, and Max.

He reached out for another bag and brings out beautiful matching dresses for me and Mia, and nice matching outfits of him and Him and Max. "We will wear these first during the party and cutting of the cakes then after that we will change to the sweatshirts later"

"Thanks Nick, but don't you think that all these things are too much." All the things he bought are so beautiful.

"Nothing is too much for you because this is just the beginning you have to get used to it," I thank him again and I pack all the stuff and put them in the closet for tomorrow.

I enter the bathroom to take shower and I went to bed after Nick also went to the bathroom to take shower. I am sure the kids will be sleeping by now because Nancy is with them.

After we have done, Nick comes to bed and he moves closer to me, he pulls me to him and hugs me from the back. He already promises me that he will not do anything to me until I am ready.

I decided to put my fear aside and enjoy the moment.

NICK P.O.V

The party is going smoothly the way I want it to be and I also invite the media. I intentionally invite them I want the public to know about my family, also I want all the girls to know that I am off-market.

"Hey buddy" Nate pats my back and sits beside me.

"I can see that your eyes never leave Bella" He winked at me

"I can't take the chance to let her go again, I am even thinking of asking her not to go back again. I know this is selfishness but I want to have them around me" I said to Nate

"Go ahead and tell her," He said and I nodded my head

"I will try, I even call the media to let the public know about my relationship with her, so she can know that I am serious about here." He let out a laugh and shake his head.

"You know I am happy to see you this way, to see you whipped by Bella. It is good to see you Nick in love, I am so happy for you my dear friend" He pulls me up and hugs me.

"Thanks friend, I can now understand all that you are talking about to settle down, you will be eager to go home when you have someone special waiting for you at home," I said still looking at Bella.

"So when will you pop the question? Nate asked me

"If it is possible to ask her today, I will but I want to take it slow not to scare her away because I just ask her to be my girlfriend two months ago" I smile looking at my Angel laughing with her friends.

Shortly after my conversation with Nate, the media arrives and the media arrives and they ask me about my son and I explain to them and also show Bella as girlfriend soon-to-be-wife. Bella looked at me shocked after I said, my soon-to-be wife.

After the questions and answers with the media, we cut the cake and also take several pictures with my friends and family. Soon the party comes to an end and our guest went home, we are sitting down in the living room with Nate, Natalie, and Annie.

"Thanks for everything, I really appreciate it," Bella said, when will she stop saying thanks to me.

"Please stop saying thanks for all what I did for you or my kids, it is my responsibility" I move closer to occupy the space between us.

"That is the only way to show appreciation for what you are doing for us" I nodded my head and wrapped my arm around her waist, placing her head on my chest.

Nate and Natalie are making fun of me, they said she is a good girl, not all the other girls that are only after me because of my money.

I really love this moment, I hope Bella agrees to stay because I don't think I can live without them again.

"Nick!!!" I heard my name from a familiar voice, instantly I know that there is trouble.

"MOM, what are you doing here?" I stand up and went to her.

"Is that how you will to your mother?" she said glaring at Bella

BELLA P.O.V

When I heard Nick's mom's voice, I know that I am in trouble. I don't know what to do, should I go and greet her or I should run upstairs. When Nick is talking to her she is giving me a cold stare.

"Bella, come back here" Nick scream my name when I am about to turn and run upstairs.

"Mom, meet Bella, my girlfriend, and the mother of my kids very soon she will be my wife," Nick told his mother holding my hand tightly so that I can run again.

"I already told you that I can't accept her as my daughter-in-law, I think you only have one kid with her, or did you want to father another person's child? She looks at me up and down and makes a disgusting face.

"Mom stop, I told you either Bella or no one and it is not anybody's business if I want to father another person's child," He said to his mom.

"What did you want from my son? How much did you want from his money? I will give and leave my son's life? You this disgusting idiot, you have nothing to offer my son yet you bring another child for him to take care of, you" Nick scream at her to stop saying that rubbish.

She takes a long stride and gets in front of me but before she does anything, Nick stops in front of her and pulls me beside him, I hide behind him but he pulls me to stand beside him.

"Mom please," Nick says sounding annoyed. I never see this side of Nick before even he made me scared.

"You want to ruin my son's reputation but I will never allow that, I will" Nick shouted at her once again.

"Mom, I am sorry to say this please get out," He said pointing to the front door.

"Nick, you can't say that to your mom because of me, I can't blame her she wants the best for you. I am not fit here. Please let me go" I removed my hand from his but he pulled me back before I walk away.

"You are the best for me and you are the one I want, can't you see all my effort to win you back, for you to give me another, to rectify my mistake with you" He runs his hand through his hair "Can't you see that I love you," He said everything went silent.

After what he said, I remove my hand from his and run upstairs. I slide down the door and cry my eyes out, he said he loves me and I also have feelings for him but his parent does not approve us. How is that going to work?

Why is it that when I feel some light coming to my life, something will try to take them away from me.

"Bella, please open the door" I move away from the door, he enters and pull me up from the floor and make me sit on the couch beside him.

"Nick, please let me go, your parent does not like me, and how will this work? Your mother was right I have nothing to offer you. Please don't father another person's child, Mia is my daughter, she is my responsibility, I will take her with me" I wipe away my tears "If you want me to leave Max with you for some days then we will schedule the day you want him to be with you and me" He pulls me on his lap and hug me.

"I will never let you go, Bella, stop saying all that rubbish, you will be my wife and the mother of my kids and more kids very soon. Mia is my daughter and nothing can change that, not even my parents. As I said before Bella I love you" He said not releasing me from the hug.

"What about your mom, she" He connects his lips with mine not let me finish what I want to say.

"Forget about them, nobody will choose for me," He said and wrapped his arm around my waist.

"You must be tired, come and take shower and rest" He carried me and drop down gently inside the

bathroom "For your information, don't think you can run away tomorrow because I have locked all the doors and I am not going to work tomorrow," He said and close the door.

After I finish he also went to the bathroom and come back to bed and cuddle with me.

Chapter 45

The next day I talk to Natalie and Nate, they told me not to mind Nick's mom and enjoy myself with Nick.

I drive Annie to the airport and she also told me not to mind Nick's mom and I should not run away, she said this time I should face my problem if I love Nick, since Nick had confessed his love for me so I should not be scared.

"Fight for your love and running away does not solve the problem" She hugged me and went away.

When I come back home, I met Nick and the kids playing in the living room.

"Mama, Uncle Nick said we are going back again, he said I will be going to a new school" I look at Nick and he shrugs his shoulder.

"Nick, what about my work?" I said to him

"You can find another work her and Mia will be going to a new school," He said

"No, Nick we have to go and we will come back again" I leave him and went to the kitchen to find something to eat as I am hungry "What about all our things over there, at least I need to tell my boss first before I resign. I have to return the house to the owner, we have to go back" I take out all the ingredients to make dinner.

"I can send someone to do that and if you don't like that we can go together and do it" He said sitting on the kitchen bar.

"At least I have to stay there for at least a week before till I finish everything," I told him

"Don't worry I will follow you, I will stay with you till you finish then we will come back together. I will start preparing for Mia's school now, when we want to go back to Florida Nancy will stay with the kids till we come back" He says then stand up and walk around the table and stand beside me. He reaches out and put a strand of my hair behind my ear "Bella, I will never give you a chance to run away, I will never let it happen again" He give me a kiss on my lips and went away.

NICK P.O.V

It has been almost three months that Bella has moved in with me, I am so happy and fulfilled having them around.

After she resigns from her job in Florida and also does everything she said she wants to do, she moves in with me and I told her not to think of running away because I will not give her any

chance. She has started working in one of the restaurants here in the city, I told her not to work but she insists and I let her do it.

"Good morning love" I try to wake Bella up but she did not answer me. Today is Saturday so she is not going to work. "Sleepyhead wake up" I gave her a kiss on her forehead.

"Go away Nick" I gave her another kiss on her cheek.

"I am going out and I want to see your face before I go" She turned to the other side.

"Please Nick let me sleep, you will see my face when you come back" I grab her face and give her a long kiss on her lips which makes her open her eyes.

I moved on top of her and started planting kisses all over her face, which made her giggle uncontrollably. I roam my hand from her shoulder to her breast and massaging her boobs, she was not wearing a bra which made her nipples so hard and they are straining through her shirt.

"Nick I oh ... I think you said you are going out" She said weakly moaning underneath me.

"That can wait," I said

I lifted her shirt and attached her breast with my mouth sucking on her right nipple, while my other hand fondling on her left nipple. I move my hand to her pyjama short that she is wearing and remove it. I slide one finger inside her fold and thrust in and out.

"Nick oh" She said moaning

I can feel her reaching her peak so I started pumping my finger in and out faster. A moment later she cum on my hand, I lie down next to her and pulled her with me.

"Bella" I called her but she buries her face in my chest.

"Hmmmmm" She responds

"Wow, my love is feeling shy" She hit me on my chest.

This is the second time we did something like this, everytime I approach her, she always said she is not ready. At first, I thought may she was ignoring me but one day I tried again to approach, she closed her eyes I told her to open her eyes and enjoy the pleasure I am giving her but when she opened her eyes she pushes me away and I landed on the floor. Since then I have been taking it slow with her.

BELLA P.O.V.

Nick went inside the bathroom to take shower after our morning session on the bed.

"Darling I am going out, I will come back soon," Nick said while wearing his shoe.

"But today is weekend and did you remember that you promise the kids that you are taking them out today" I remember him

"Yeah, I am going out together with them and their nanny. I want you to rest because I am the one that wakes you up. Call me when you wake up I will come and pick you up" He picked up his car key and his wallet.

"Ok" He walks up to me and kiss me on my lips then went out.

When I wake up, I find a note on the bedside on top of my phone. 'I have run a bath for you, and there is a dress I want you to wear on the couch in the closet. When you finish give me a call.'

I stand up and went to the bathroom and I saw the bathtub full of rose petal and light scented candles by the side of the tub.

I take off my clothes and relax in the tub, after some minutes I come out and get dressed and I finish it with light makeup.

After I am good to go out, I call Nick and told him that I am done, he said that I should go out that I will find his driver outside waiting for me.

"How are you, Mark?" I greet his driver

"I am fine" he replies and opens the car door for me.

"Please Mark I have told you several times not to open the car door for me again" I always told him not to open the door for me again.

"I am sorry but Mr. Nick told me not to mind you" He moves around to the driver seat and starts driving.

"Don't mind him, whenever he is not with us please don't open the door for me" I said to him and said ok.

"Thank you," I said to him

After a long drive, Mark parked the car in front of a building. I saw Nick and he comes up to me and kisses me on my lips.

"Nick stop, we are outside," I said pulling away from him.

"You are looking gorgeous my queen" He kiss me on my cheek ignoring what I said.

He leads me inside and there are lots of high-class people, rich men, and women. I don't know if I am fit in here because this is my first time coming to this kind of party.

He introduces me to some of his friends and some of his business partners, later I saw Nate and Natalie. I and Natalie went to sit at a corner and I order some juice. I don't what occasion they are celebrating.

"Nick, where are my kids? I asked Nick when he came to sit beside us

"They are with Nancy," He said and I ask him where Nancy is but she said she must be somewhere around.

After a while, I feel hands wrapped around my eyes but I am so familiar with the scent.

"Annie," I said

"How did you know that I am the one? She comes around and hugs me.

"After all these years, how will I know that you are the one" She settled down beside us "When did you arrive and what are you doing here?" I asked her

"I was invited here by someone," She said

"Please can anyone tell me what the occasion they are celebrating here is?" I look at Nick, Annie, and Natalie but after my question, Nick excuses himself and went away.

All of the sudden, all the lights went off and there was a spotlight on me, I saw Nick standing in front of me.

"I had no idea what I did to deserve an amazing woman like you but I promise you that I will never hurt you again, I want to spend the rest of my life making it to you, our kids, and our future kids.

He brings out a jewelry box and got down on one knee, he opens the jewelry box and I saw a beautiful ring.

"You are the reason for the smile on my face today, I am asking you to put it there forever. Bella, will you marry me?

I wipe my tears away and I look around and found Annie and Natalie nodding their head for me to say yes.

"Yes," He put the ring on my finger and give me a kiss on my lips.

"Thank you for saying yes, I am so scared maybe you will say no" Soon all the light was turned on and all the people come around us and congratulate us.

"My daughter" I look back to that voice and I saw my parents, they are holding Mia and Max.

"Mom, dad" I move closer to them and hug them.

"Don't cry my daughter, today is your special day" My mom said

"How did you get here? I mean how" My mom released me from the hug and said "Nick is the one that came to us and ask for our blessing" I look at Nick and he nodded his head.

"Don't worry we will talk when we get home" My dad said.

A lot of people congratulate us as we celebrated our engagement.

Chapter 46

After we get home, my parent explained to me that Nick came to them and told them that he is Max's father and they said he explained all that happened between us to them. He asks for their forgiveness and promise he will never hurt me again.

They also said after that he comes back again and asks for my hand in marriage and he wants them to be present at our engagement party.

"Thank you so much for everything, I don't how to show appreciation except to say thank you," I said to Nick after we are in our room.

"Bella please will you stop saying thank you to me again, I am the one that supposed to say thanks to you after I have hurt you and all the bad things I have done for you yet you still forgive me." He pulled me to him and make me sit on his lap "I am sorry for saying bad words to you when you told me that you are pregnant and thank you for not aborting the baby then and giving me a precious gift as Max, I am sorry for abandoning you while you are pregnant instead of me supporting you throughout the pregnancy, I am sorry for saying you are not worthy to be my wife and thank you for making the happiest man on earth by saying yes to be my wife today." He said

Some months later

"Finally my dear Bella is getting married," Annie said and hug me

"Thank you so much for the support you both gave me during my hard time, I really appreciate all your effort" I hug both of them, Natalie and Annie.

"What are we friends for?" Natalie said.

After that they both help me with my wedding dress and my makeup, later Nick's mom enter the room and sit beside me.

"I am so sorry my dear, as you said earlier I just want the best for my son" Nick's mom apologized to me.

"No problem mom, I understand" Two days after our engagement party, Nick's parents came to our house and they apologized to me for being rude and I forgave them since then Mia and Max have been spending weekends with them.

"I know you love my son so much and I have no doubt that he loves you too, thank you for coming to my son's life and for changing him into a better person" She pulled me into a hug.

"I have something for you" She reached for a jewellery box beside her, she opened it and bring out a silver necklace with matching earrings. "This is a gift from my husband on my wedding day and I want you to have it" She help me to put them on.

"Thank you so much mom," I said to her as I trace my hand on the necklace.

"See this as a blessing from us to both of you but don't mistake it as your wedding gift, I will give that to you after your wedding," She said and hug me

"You are looking beautiful mama," Mia said as she enters the room with my mom, my mom hugs me and told me how happy she is today.

"Mama, can I ask you something?" Mia said

"Yes my princess," I said and put her on my lap.

"Can I call uncle Nick daddy because Max calls him dada and I also want to call him that" I turn to my side and quickly wipe away my tears.

"If you want, no problem," I said to her

"I want to ask you first before I tell him" I nodded my head and hug her.

When it is time to go out, the people that are with me move out and my dad comes inside. My dad and my mom pray for me and I can see tears in their eyes.

"It's every parent dream to see their child walk down the aisle and get married to the one they love and I am so thankful to God for making me alive today to walk my only daughter down the aisle," My dad said with tears

"I am glad that both of you are here with me today, thanks for all that you have done for me and my brothers till today, I love you both" I move closer to them and hug them.

My dad walks me out.

NICK P.O.V

"Hey buddy, relax"

I felt a tap on my shoulder followed by the laugh of my friends I turned around and see Nate, my best man holding my shoulder while laughing and holding Mia.

"I wanted to talk to you," Mia said looking at me.

I carried her and put her on the seat beside me "I am listening to you, my princess"

"Max calls you dada so can I call you daddy?" Immediately she said that I feel tears in my eyes but I try to hold them back.

"Are you sure?" I asked and she nodded her head

I pulled her into a hug and kissed her forehead.

"We have to ask your mom first"

"I ask her and she told me ok," She said

"Yes, my princess you can call me daddy" I pulled her into a hug again.

"Thank you daddy" She hugged me and Nate interrupted us and said it is time to come out.

After ten minutes of waiting, I heard all the guests clapping, whispering and some are saying wow when I look in the direction they are looking I saw my queen with her dad walking toward me.

I hold my breath when they are moving closer to us and suddenly I feel tears rolled down my eyes. She looked so beautiful under her veil because it is a transparent one.

She looked beautiful in her white dress, the woman who makes me smile again, the woman who let me know the difference between right and wrong, this woman made me learn the true meaning of love, she is now in front of me walking gracefully towards me and she will be my wife today, I feel another tear coming from my eyes when she looked at me and smiled.

Her dad takes my hand and put her hand on my hand and said "Please take care of my daughter"

"I will dad, thank you," I said to him and he takes his wife to have their seat.

After the vows and blessing, we exchange the rings, we started the reception immediately because I can't wait to be alone with my wife. We are officially husband and wife. I am so happy for today, today is the happiest day of my life.

"You look beautiful my queen," I said

"Thanks," she said shyly

"Don't be shy, you are now my wife" I move closer to her and kiss her on her lips.

Chapter 47

NICK P.O.V

It has been three days that we are here in Paris to celebrate our honeymoon, Bella is enjoying her day here and I take her to any place she wants to see. Now we are on the couch relaxing from today's outing and she decided we should watch a movie.

She is sitting on my lap now, concentrating on the movie she is watching but I can't. I have not touched her since our wedding day and she did not make any attempt, I am thinking to approach her but I don't know what she will say. Sitting on my lap now does not make me comfortable at all because I can feel my junior in my pant.

I don't know what scene she is watching that makes her laugh and she shift on my lap which makes my dick twitch a little, I don't understand how she does not feel my bulge under her.

"Are you enjoying it? She asks and I nodded my head

"Yes" She turns to look at me

"What happened to you? Are you tired maybe we should go and sleep and we will continue tomorrow?" She said looking at me

"No problem, let's continue," I said and she moves to face the movie then she stopped.

"What is this?" She raises her hips and touches what is disturbing her inside my pant. She gets hold of my dick and turns around with a confused look and I smiled.

She leaves my dick and sits next to me as quick as she can, using her hands to cover her face, I move closer to her and removed her both hands from her face. I watched her face turn bright red and she smiled before burying her face in my chest.

"I am sorry" My wife is such an innocent girl.

"You don't need to be sorry, it is what you make me feel whenever you are around" I can hear her laughing.

"What will you do to it? I mean does it pain you? What can I do to make it come down no no I mean what I attached her lips with mine.

"Don't worry about that, you know I have promised you that I will touch you until you are ready" I said to her

"I think I mean..... I am ready" She said with a low voice but I hear what she said.

"What did you say?" I asked her

"I said I am ready," She said it quickly

"Are you sure, I don't want you to do what you will later regret" She shakes her head but she did not face me, she buries her face in my chest.

I stand up and she wrapped her leg around my waist, I went straight to the bedroom to finish our business.

Some months later

I and my kids are baking a cake for Bella because today is her birthday and we want to surprise her.

We are full of flour and all that you can call it.

"Now kids let's go and sing for mummy" I carried Max and hold our cake in one hand then Mia followed me.

When we get to our bedroom, Bella was coming out of the bathroom and we start singing for her. After singing a happy birthday song for her, Mia told her to make a wish and blow the candle.

We cut the cake and feed her, she also does the same for us.

"Thanks for all this" She gave Mia and Max kiss on their forehead and also give me a kiss on my cheek. after that, she started laughing because of how I look been covered with flour.

I take the kids to Nancy and told her to dress up for them because I have a plan for my queen.

"Happy birthday to you my love," I said to Bella as I enter the room.

"Thanks honey, I really love this surprise" She moved closer to me and wrapped her arm around me.

"Did you have plans for today?" I ask her

"No at all" I lie down on the bed with her beside me.

"Did you still want to sleep or what because you look tired?" I ask her because she is not feeling fine for 3 days now.

"I am fine" I cuddle with her for some time before we go out.

After some hours, I wake Bella up because she slept off while I cuddle her on the bed and I decided to leave her. I think I need to take her to the doctor.

She went to the bathroom to take shower while I get dressed up after she comes back she also gets dressed and we walk out of our bedroom.

"Where are the kids?" She asks when we come down to the living room.

"They are with my parents," I told her and she said ok.

"Where are we heading to?" She asked as soon as I started driving the car.

"It's a surprise," I said to her

BELLA P.O.V.

I try as much as possible to make him tell me where he is taking me to but he did not answer, he said if he told me now, it is no more a surprise anymore.

He stopped in front of a nice restaurant and he comes around to open the door for me.

We walk inside the restaurant and it is very warm and cozy, the inside of the restaurant is so beautiful, I hope one day I will open my own bakery shop and it will be more beautiful than this.

"Mama" I heard Mia's voice, that is when I look around and see some familiar face in the crowd. This place looks new because it is just the table and chair our families are sitting on that is available here, no other tables and chairs. How come there are no other customers here?

'Don't think too much, your husband is a billionaire so he can do and undo" My mind says.

I look at the people around, Nick's parents, Nate, Natalie, Annie, Nancy, Mrs. Davis, and some other people I don't recognize.

Nick dragged me in the middle of the people and they brought cake and they started singing a birthday song. They told me to make a wish and blow the candle.

We all settled down and then a toast was made to me.

Everybody wish me one by one and give me a hug. Nick was the last person that I hug.

"Thank you so much darling" I wrapped my arm around his neck and I can feel tears in my eyes. Why am I crying?

"Please don't cry my queen because there is still one more surprise for you," He said and wipe away my tears.

He takes me outside the restaurant and told me to look at the name in front of the restaurant, it is written 'BELLE RESTAURANT AND BAKERY'

"Do you like it? That is your birthday gift" He said to me

"Me you mean this restaurant is for me" I feel shocked

"Yes, my queen it is all yours" I feel dizzy a little bit

"I don't know what to say, I did not expect something like this" I move closer to him and wrapped my arm around his waist, then I let go of all the tears I am holding back since. "Thank you," I said in between sob.

"You are welcome my love, please stop crying" He wipes away my tears and we went to sit down with our families.

Annie and everybody congratulates me on the new restaurant. We all eat, drink, and celebrate.

Nick introduce the manager to me and also the workers that are working there.

"My wife is now a proud owner of a restaurant," He said putting his hand on my back leading me to the car.

"It is all thanks to you, thank you for everything you have done for us," I said to him and he hugs me.

Chapter 48

"Please love let me take you to the hospital," Nick said to me

"Nick, I am fine, I told you yesterday that we have an order of wedding cake and it takes so much of our time that is why I am so stressed" He closes the gap between us and feel my temperature with the back of his palm

"Ok, but promise me that you will go and see a doctor or call me if you are not feeling fine," He said

"I promise" saying that I take my handbag and head to work.

When I get to my restaurant, I went to my office and see what I can do because there is not much to do. I always help my workers in the kitchen if there are lots of works but today there is not much to do in the kitchen.

"Hey, what happens to you, Bella?" Annie said while she takes a seat in front of my desk.

"I am fine, I am just a little bit stressed for the past because of the order of the wedding cakes we made," I said to her but she looks at me as if there more to say.

"Are you sure?" She asked and I nodded my head "But what I seeing now is different from been stressed"

"What is it that you are seeing Doctor Annie?" I asked

"When last did you see your period?" There we go again, she is the first person to notice when I am pregnant with Mia.

"You have started again, Doctor Annie, did you remember my pregnancy with Mia?" She started laughing.

"I am serious" She went to the nearest pharmacy and bought 2 different types of pregnancy kit. I use it and it came out positive.

"Doctor Annie, you have said and it came out positive," I told her when I come out of the bathroom.

"Congrats my dear friend" She stands up and hugs me.

"Thanks" I said weakly.

"Hope there is no problem, I suppose you should be happy," She said and pull my hand with her to seat on the couch in my office.

"What if he is not happy about it? What if Nick said he is not ready to have another child? What if "

"When will you let go of your fear? Have you told him and he said no? Bella, Nick loves you so much, he can't say such things" She wipes away my tears and hugs me.

"Thanks, don't you think I should go to the hospital to confirm before I told Nick?" I told her

"Yes, that is what I want to hear from you," She said and we both went out.

The doctor confirms that I am 5 weeks pregnant and she warns me not to be too stressed because of my health issues and my past issues during pregnancy then she prescribe medicines for me.

After I finish work, I head home but I slept before Nick comes back.

NICK P.O.V

"I will take her to the hospital tomorrow either she likes it or not," I said to Nancy.

She told me that she notices Bella not feeling fine because it has been some days now that she did not eat dinner and she also sleeps early before I come back from work which she never does.

I notice that she goes to bed early for the past one week now, sometimes she acts weirdly, I realized that she always complained of been tired, she always complained when I use perfume or body spray, she said the smell is not nice and this is the spray I have been using for years, whenever we want to eat breakfast she always said she does not have any appetite. With all these, I can't let her go to work tomorrow unless after we see a doctor.

"Bella either you follow me to see a doctor tomorrow or I carry you there by myself, your choice," I said to her sleeping self.

"Good night my queen" I kiss her forehead and went to the bathroom.

I woke up to the sound of someone puking, I get down from the bed and saw Bella kneeling in front of the toilet.

I move closer to her and kneeled by her side patting her back, when she was done she fell weak that she hardly stand on her own, I made her sit on the bathtub, I splash water on her face and brush her teeth after that she told me that she wants to take a shower and I should do it for her.

After I shower for her, I wrapped her in a towel and carried her into the room, I made her sit on the bed and went inside the closet to get a cloth for her to wear.

"Should I make anything for you to eat?" I asked her but she said she wants only water.

I went to the kitchen to bring a cup of water for her and I also brought a jug of water with me in case she wants more. After that, she told me to lie down and snuggle closer to me.

"I can't take this anymore Bella, you are going to see a doctor tomorrow," I said to her and she nodded her head positively.

I pull her closer to me and rub her back until she falls asleep.

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I wake up looking at my queen sleeping beside me, her face is dull and she looks weak. I am not happy about it at all. I can't let anything happens to her.

I slowly untangled myself from her and made my way downstairs to prepare something for her to eat.

I make pancakes, fried eggs with toast because that is her favorite and I make a cup of orange juice. I made my way to the bedroom to wake her up.

"Good morning love," I kissed her on her forehead.

"Good morning dear" She replies and turns to the other side.

"Please stand up and have your breakfast" I climb on the bed beside her but she snuggles up to my waist.

"I want to sleep more," She said

"Bella stand up and come and eat, then I will take you to the hospital, don't think you will escape it this morning" I help her to the bathroom and she brushes her teeth.

I put the food tray on her lap but she covers her nose telling me to take away the fried egg that it smells bad. I don't understand anything again, friend egg also smells bad to Bella now which once her favorite.

"How are you feeling?" She eats the pancake and drinks the orange juice.

"I am fine, thanks"

I made my way inside the closet to change my cloth and also get cloth for her to wear.

"Nick, how many times have I told you not to use that perfume and body or whatever you use" She scream angrily.

Immediately I removed all my clothes and wear another one without anybody spray or perfume. I remove the cover from her head and pull her to me while I rest on the headboard.

"Bella, what is happening to you? Why are you behaving like this because I can't understand anything again?"

"It is your baby that made me behave like this," She said

"The kids are with Nancy, how are they disturbing you?" This girl wants to make me crazy.

"Your baby here" She takes my hand and puts it on her belly.

"You mean your wait" My eyes widened in surprise when I understand what she is trying to say "You mean you are pregnant" I sit upright and pull her to face me.

"Yes," She said and I pull her into a tight hug.

"Thank you so much" I feel tears rolling down my eyes.

"Nick, why are you crying?" She wipes my tears.

"I remember the last time you told me you are pregnant with Max, I was such a jerk back then that I called you with different types of bad names, I am so sorry for hurting you then, I don't know this is what you are going through yet I still hurt you. I promise you I will be with you throughout this pregnancy" I kiss her forehead and rub her belly.

"Thank you my queen for forgiving me, thank you for making me a better person, thank you for been my wife after all that I have done to you, thank you for this good news, thank you for making me the happiest man" I pulled her closer to me and kiss with all the love I have for her.

Epilogue

5 years later

I woke up to a soft body sitting on my chest. "Daddy, wake up," Martin said and bite me on my nose.

"Good morning my boy" I carried him off my chest and laid him beside me.

"Where is your mom?" I asked him.

"In the kitchen" I carried him on my neck and we head to the kitchen.

I saw my beautiful queen and my princess in the kitchen, while Max is in the playroom, I put martin down to go and join his brother in the playroom. I can't live without them.

I look at my beautiful pregnant wife, she always looks beautiful day by day, she is the best thing that ever happens to me and I can't do without her.

I thank God for been drunk 7 years if not this beautiful damsel will not be mine and maybe I will still be living the life of a playboy.

"When you finish snapping my picture with your eyes maybe you can answer me" Bella's voice brought me out of my thought.

"What are you saying?" I said moving closer to them.

"Good morning dad" Mia greets and I kiss her on her forehead.

"Good morning my princess" She takes some plates and she leaves the kitchen.

"How was your night my love, hope you both sleep well?" I hug her from the back and rub my hand on her small baby bump.

"I thank God we are fine," She said and continue her cooking.

I kiss her neck a few times and I start moving my hand from her belly up to her breast under her shirt.

"Nick stop, we are in the kitchen and the kids can come here at any time" I did not listen to her, I continue with what I am doing and she stays still for some time, all of a sudden she slaps my hand away and turn to face me.

"Nick, you can't do this while" I stop her from talking by connecting my lips with her. After some seconds she puts her hand on my chest and push me lightly.

"Bella stop and let me enjoy my moment with my beautiful wife, Nancy is with the kids they can't come here" Saying that she take the spatula that she is using and pointed it at me.

"If you move closer again, I will hit you with this" I stand away from her and think of what to do about her.

"I want you so bad, love" I move closer to her and carried her bridal style which made the spatula to fall down.

"Nick, you are really stubborn," She said wrapping her arm around my neck.

I told Nancy to check on what my wife is doing and I carried her to the bedroom and lay her down in the middle of the bed.

I stare at her face for some seconds before I broke the silence between us.

"At this moment, I couldn't wish for anything else from my life because you already fill my life with all the happiness I wish for. Thank you so much Bella for being my wife and changing me into a better person. I am" She stops me from talking by putting her finger on my lips.

"Nick, when will you stop saying sorry and thank for what has happened in the past?" She said

"I will keep on saying it till we grow old together" She smile and I connect my lips with her kissing her showing all the love I have for her.

"I love you my queen," I said to her

"I love you too my dear husband" saying that I took her lips for another earth-shattering kiss with a promise of never letting her go.