



TABLES TURNED

AMARIS RICCI

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Chapter ONE

Tobias Grant the best handyman you could ever want around your home. He is quiet and humble. Feona wanted to make some changes around her house. She needed to make it look like a home and not just some place to sleep. She was browsing through the Nation Newspaper and she saw a classified ad and dialed the cell number.

“Grant Services, how can I fix you today?”

“Hi, my name is Feona, I’d like you to take a look at my house, I need some work done. Are you available today?”

“Sure, where are you?”

“Atlantic Shores, Christ Church.”

“Lucky you, I’m in Oistins with a client, WhatsApp your directions to this number and I will be there in about 10 minutes.”

“Okay thank you.” She hung up, saved his number and sent the information

About 10 minutes later she is standing outside with her cell in hand, resting on the fencing and a navy green Nissan Pathfinder shows up. The driver stops at the gate and gets out. Tobias already has wealthy clients and the size of the house has no effect on him at all.

“Good morning are you Feona?”

“That’s me. Don’t park out there, come inside the gate, this will take while.”

Tobias gets back into the truck and reverses into her driveway. He gets out once again and follows Feona to the open door. He smiles at the way her hips sway and the caress of her dress across her legs as the wind blows gently. Her skin is dark, smooth, clean and thoughts of licking droplets of water off her as she steps out of the shower cloud his mind. Her hands are slender, and when she reaches up and lifts a lock of her hair, Tobias pauses. What’s wrong with him?

Feona turned away quickly not because she wanted to get the meeting over with but Tobias was very good looking. She could smell his cologne wafting through the air when he first got out of the truck. She was trying to act all professional but it just wasn’t working.

“Now, I would like to change the cupboards in the kitchen, change the sink to a deep molded ceramic looking one, add an island and a pantry with a wine-rack.”

Tobias took out his padfolio and began to jot down what she was saying.

“Any specific design or would you like me to recommend something?”

“You recommend something.”

“Okay, next area.”

Feona took him into the living room.

“I would like a seat with storage underneath for this window. That’s it for this room. Follow me.”

Tobias followed her into a huge room downstairs which was empty.

“This is the guest room, sometimes I have lots of people over around Christmas time and there are never enough beds. What I would like for this room is to have four built-in bunk beds, with steps in between, along with a walk-in cupboard on the opposite side with an adjoining bathroom. There are 3 bedrooms upstairs excluding mine, so one guest bedroom holding about 4 to 6 people should suffice for now. Follow me.”

“This is where you will create my masterpiece. I want a gazebo-bridge built over the pool from this end to that one along with a storage shed for all the pool equipment, lounge chairs, tables etc. The bridge will have a retractable set of steps that lock into the bridge making it apart of the walk way. I also want to dig up the garden and plant more colourful flowers. I also want a love swing under that tree and some outdoor seating made from loading crates.”

Tobias continued scribbling and listening.

“I think that’s it for now.”

Tobias continued scribbling and when he was finished he looked up.

“I estimate your costs at around \$25,000, labour and materials inclusive. If it costs less I will refund you the difference. If it cost more I will let you know in advance. I will work in stages, room by room so you don’t have too much disturbance. I can handle the inside work and the guys will work on the outside

when I am done. The garden and gazebo-bridge will be done last. I figure about a month to 6 weeks should do the trick.”

“What? Oh okay not a problem.”

“No questions?” Tobias was skeptical of a woman who did not ask about cost or time frame.

Feona was busy staring at his lips. She kept thinking his lips would feel nice kissing hers, his big rough hands gripping her ass as she rode him.

“Oh um, how can you finish so quickly?”

“My workshop is big enough to build certain aspects, then a truck delivers the pieces and I join them together. It’s faster and easier that way and you won’t need lots of workmen around unless it’s necessary. I can have the official estimate in two days, with all the details. Do you want me to buy the material or will you have it for me when I get here on mornings?”

Tobias looked at her and realised she was staring at his mouth and not his eyes. She was a rich, beautiful woman and he knew he didn’t have a chance so why bother. It didn’t stop the images of her naked, begging him to take her. He shook off the thoughts.

“I’m trusting you not to steal from me Mr. Grant, I will write you a check for the full amount, but know this, I am not one to be messed with, are we clear?”

“Yes ma’am. When would you like me to begin?”

“Now.” She whispered.

“Ma’am?”

“Stop calling me ma’am, it’s Feona. You can begin as soon as you can. I can work from home for the time you are here. I have a storage shed you can store your tools and the materials in for safety.” She was beginning to perspire and her heart beat was picking up the pace. She couldn’t understand why she was having such a reaction to this stranger. He wasn’t the type to run in her circles, he didn’t have the body type she usually went for but something about his presence and attitude towards her was conjuring up a heat she never felt before. The one thing she liked about him was that he didn’t react to the house and he was acting like he was trying to impress her. She had problems with contractors before. As soon as they saw the house, they knew she had money and over charged her. They would

tell her whatever she wanted to hear and not make any suggestions, even if she wanted the impossible.

“That’s fine with me. Now unless there is anything else, I have to go get something to eat.”

“You skipped breakfast to meet with me?”

“Yes I did but that’s okay, I will get something on my way to the supply store.”

“I can make you something and we can discuss the project further.”

Tobias hesitated. Was she mad? No one had ever wanted to make him breakfast not even his children’s mother.

“Well?”

“Okay thanks, if it’s no trouble.”

“Great, let’s go.”

Feona really wanted to get to know him better.

“What would you like for breakfast?”

“I can make it you can watch and learn.”

“Is that a challenge?”

“It is.”

“Deal. The kitchen is yours.”

Within fifteen minutes, Tobias was finished.

“Wow. I am impressed.”

Tobias made smoothies and pizza bread.

“Breakfast is served.”

Feona was loving her treatment. Tobias created something so simple it warmed her heart. No fuss and he worked quickly. He had asked her to get some samples from his truck and they discussed what colour schemes she would like, materials etc. When they were finished Feona got up to wash the dishes.

“No let me, you were kind enough to let me do my thing, I will go all the way.”

“I could get used to this, be careful.”

“Surely you have men falling all over you, you are beautiful.”

Feona laughed.

“Falling all over, trying to see who they can meet and get business contacts. No thanks, I like genuine people. If a man is genuine, he’s got me.”

“I see.” All of a sudden Tobias felt uncomfortable, he realised he could never be the kind of man Feona was used to.

“Thanks again Feona, I will be back in the morning to begin. What time do you wake, I don’t want to come too early.”

“Come as early as you like.”

“Okay, I will see you in the morning then.”

Feona noticed the change in his demeanor, it seemed as if a light was turned off. Maybe she could turn it back on and see what else she could find.

Chapter TWO

The next morning around 5:30, Tobias parked in Feona’s drive way. He ordered the supplies the previous afternoon and the truck would be there in half an hour. He sat and recalled the morning before. All throughout breakfast, he kept seeing her pregnant with his baby, he saw her sitting in his lap drinking coffee. Driving the children to school, waking up next to her every morning and making love to her every night.

‘Tobias, you are in over your head, she is just pretending to like you, quit it.’

Just then a figure walked past him in a track suit.

“Well good morning Mr. Grant, you are definitely early. Come in and have coffee with me, I’m making breakfast this time.” She walked away, unlocked the door and went inside.

By the time Tobias got inside the coffee percolator was bubbling. Feona had wanted to prepare a surprise for Tobias, so she prepped the night before. She flicked on the oven and sat down.

“Should be ready in about fifteen minutes. So what are you plans for today? Which room will you start in first?”

“The guest bedroom, the delivery truck should be here soon.”

“Okay I will keep out of your way. If you need me for anything, my office is the detached building next to where you parked. Oh and here are the keys to the shed in case I’m not here and a key to the house.”

“I will take the key to the shed but not the house, if you aren’t going to be here, I will work on another job site.”

“Why do you plan to steal from me?”

“You already paid me twenty-five thousand dollars, why would I steal? No, but having been in a situation where I was accused of something I didn’t do, I am not about to go through that again.”

“What happened?”

Tobias shrugged. He didn’t want to give her the wrong impression of him but her warm smiled forced him to trust her.

“It was the biggest job I had ever gotten. The client spent a lot of time overseas and he gave me the keys since he was not going to be there all the time. His wife on the other hand had ideas. I was 25 and she was 40, her husband was an older man too but he was kind to me, he even paid me all of the money for the project. \$35,000. Six weeks in to the project, I go to the house early as usual, he was away she was supposed to be taking the children to school. I opened the living room door and went to the bedroom I was working in and there she was, naked on a chair.”

“Either you do this or you will be sorry.” She said as she spread her legs wide.

“No thanks. Tell your husband, I will be back when he is here.”

Tobias tore through the house, left the keys on the kitchen counter, got into his car and left.

“The next day the cops show up at my house, handcuffed me in front of my family and took me away. She claimed I attacked her and stole a piece of her jewelry. They found it under the driver seat of my car. Her husband came to the station to see me. He looked me right in the face and asked me if I did it. It told him *I* didn’t. He understood me perfectly. It hit the news, I had to go to court and I lost all my clients. My last day in court the husband took the stand as a witness for the prosecution but when he started to speak, I was blown away.”

‘I am not a racist man your honour and sometimes we as human beings need to understand that skin colour does not stop people from being evil towards others. Tobias is a white man in a predominantly black populated country. My wife is a black woman and as you can see, I am white. Sometimes in life we think we need something, we realise too late, it was only a want. Tobias Grant is not a thief and I have come to understand that the woman I’m married to, is a vindictive racist. She confessed last night that she planted the jewelry in Tobias’ car and she propositioned him for sex and he refused. I wish that the charges be dropped and this young man be allowed to get on with his life. If he wishes to continue working for me I will be grateful, as my wife is no longer living there.’

“He got up and left the court room. He was waiting for me when I came out. He told me he would pay my lawyer fees and he would like to invest in my business as a silent partner. I agreed and the rest is history. All my clients came back and ten years later the business is fully mine and I still do work for him free of charge.”

“I’m sorry you went through that but take the key. I won’t take no for an answer.” Feona had an ulterior motive and she would put her plan into action as soon as she had all the info she needed.

Over the next few days Feona enjoyed waking up to the smell of saw dust, cologne and hammering. Tobias would close the door and put a cloth at the bottom to block out the sound and smell but she knew he was there and by 6 every morning, they would sit and have breakfast together.

“Why don’t you have any children Feona, you don’t have to answer if you don’t want to.”

“I guess I never found anyone I wanted to try with. Do you have children?”

“Yes two, a girl 15 and a boy 18.”

“Wow not too far apart.”

“Yeah, I thought I was in love but some women aren’t meant to be mothers. I love my children but their mother was a mistake I will regret for the rest of my life. It’s only now the children are older they come see me whenever they want but I had to fight to get joint custody. Anyway, you should have at least one child. Thanks for breakfast, can’t afford to get fired now can I.”

Tobias was beginning to question the closeness he was feeling with Feona. He hadn’t been with a woman since Sherry had gotten pregnant with Kendra. He focused on building his business and providing for his children. His parents were getting old and he took care of them too with little money left to socialize. He couldn’t even think about asking Feona out to a simple dinner.

“Oh well Tobias, you are here to do a job, do it and leave.” He muttered to himself.

The work inside the house was almost finished, and he handed her back the house keys.

“Keep it, I may not be here and you may need to use the bathroom or the kitchen, it’s not a problem.”

Feona resigned herself to thinking she was just horny and needed a fix, she woke up every morning craving the touch of Tobias. Was it because he was always around, smelling nice and listening to her babble on? Maybe, but she needed release and she reasoned she must have it.

One morning, Feona took her shower and waited until she heard Tobias' truck. Her bedroom door would normally be closed and he would walk quietly past and begin his work. This morning Feona lay on her bed naked and began touching herself. She knew he would be able to see her. Much to her dismay, Tobias, reached in and softly closed the door to her bedroom. Feona was in shock. She was also furious. She didn't even bother to continue. She got up, got dressed and went down to make breakfast as usual. Tobias never came down for breakfast. Feona got so angry she stormed over to the guest room and pushed open the door. He was painting the bunks.

"Are you gay Tobias?"

"The only way I could reject a woman who looks like you is if I'm gay? Thanks a lot. I'm sorry you feel that you need to degrade yourself to get my attention. When I am finished here I will send my crew to start the garden and the bridge. This is my last day here."

"Degrade myself? I wanted you to come to me and you shut the door as if I wasn't even there."

"Feona, I have sat and ate breakfast with you for almost 6 weeks. Do you think I don't notice when your nipples get hard? Do you think I don't smell your arousal when you pass by me? Do you think I don't want to sit you on my lap and plunge myself so deep inside you that your body meshes with mine? I am a grown man, I have feelings. I am just your handyman, isn't that what you told your friends? So don't insult me further by thinking because you flaunt yourself in front of me that I will jump at the opportunity. Now can you please leave I need to finish so I can get the hell out." Tobias was furious.

Feona ran from the room. She knew he was right and the fact that he told her to her face made her respect him even more. She went into her office and left the door open.

A few hours later, she saw Tobias walking across the lawn to the storage shed. She got up and followed him. He was putting up the tools the fellas would need to start the gazebridge the next day. She stepped into the shed and closed the door.

“I’m sorry Tobias, I was wrong to do what I did, especially after what you went through and I would really like you to stay on and finish the work yourself. I promise not to compromise the relationship we have built over the last few weeks again.”

“Apology accepted. You are a wonderful person Feona, you should never have to do that to get a man’s attention. All you had to do was ask. I’m still pissed at the just my handyman part but I guess I’m not good enough to be considered a part of your circle, I accept that and it’s not a problem for me but that’s something you need to deal with on your own.”

“I’m sorry for that too, I’m just trying to sort out my feelings. Surely you can understand that.”

“What I don’t understand is how you allow people to dictate who you can and cannot see. I may not have some cushy job in a big firm but I work hard to feed my family and I will never let anyone tell me I am less than I am worth.”

“I said the handyman bit the first week you were here, you mean more to me now than that. I understand how you must think of me and now I need to ask something of you, think about it and when you come in the morning you will know what to do.”

“What’s that?”

“Make love to me.”

Tobias stepped back onto a shelf. Knowing someone wants something and hearing them say it are two different things.

“Why wait until tomorrow?”

“I was giving you a chance to say no.”

“I’ve been working all day, I need to go home, take care of my parents and check on the children. I will call you when I am done, when you answer the phone say yes or no. If you say yes you can’t back out, if you say no you can’t back out either. I won’t play games. You have about three hours. It’s now 4:30, I will call you back at 7:30 sharp.”

“Okay, I won’t say no though. Bye.”

Chapter THREE

Feona left and went back to her office. Tobias closed up, and left for home. The drive was quick, he was aching to call her back and say that he was on his way but he also knew his priorities. He went home and his parents were sitting on the porch sipping lemonade.

“Hello son.”

“Hello you two, did you have a good day?”

“Yes, the children are inside, they spend more time here now than ever.”

“Well they are realizing what kind of mother they have. I want to go out tonight, will you be okay without me for a few hours?”

“Is she pretty?” His mother asked.

“Why would you think it’s a woman?”

“You have never been out since Kendra was born. Not once, so I ask again, is she pretty?”

“She is beautiful, I hope you get to meet her soon.” He kissed his mother and went into the house.

“Dad!”

“Who are you? You don’t live here. Run away, run away.” Tobias was immediately pounced on by his two children Kendra and Gavin.

“Dad can we stay here tonight? Mom’s boyfriend is sleeping over.”

“Sure but I have a date and I won’t be back until late.”

“Are you getting married again?” Gavin asked.

“Haven’t gotten that far yet, would it bother you if I did?”

“No dad, we are almost grown up and you need someone other than children and parents around, you have always been there for us.”

“Thanks you two. Now, I need to go get dressed and do the folks meds.”

“We can do it, gran taught us how in case you weren’t home.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes dad.”

“Well okay, I will see you in the morning, you need a ride to school?”

“Yes dad.” Two voices responded.

Kendra was in her last year at Secondary school and Kavin was in his second year at community college.

Tobias was nervous as hell. He picked out a pair of navy blue slacks, a cream shirt, brown belt and shoes. He took a shower, got dressed and put on his favourite cologne – Armani Emporio Nights. When he got down stairs there were cat calls and whistles from the others.

“Have a good night son.” His father said.

“Thanks dad. Are you sure the kids can do your meds? Maybe I should do them before I leave.”

“We will be just fine, now go.”

Tobias gave slight bow and went through the door. He drove slowly for five minutes and parked alongside the road. He picked up his cell and dialed Feona’s number.

“Yes Tobias.” Then she hung up.

“I guess that settles it.”

When he pulled up to the house, two lights were on, the garage light and her bedroom light. He still had the key so he got out, locked up and went inside. He took off his shoes, rested his cell and car keys on the counter and made his way to her bedroom.

Feona was sitting on the bed and there was a bottle of wine in an ice bucket on a stand next to the bed.

“You need to get drunk to be with me?” He asked with a grin.

“It’s not opened and we don’t have to drink any. Aren’t you as nervous as I am?”

“Yes I am actually. You know this will change everything right?”

“Yes I know, maybe I need things in my life to change. You need to get a bit closer, nothing can happen if you are all the way over there.” She patted a spot on the bed next to her.

When he sat down, Feona launched at him, she climbed onto his lap and started kissing him. Tobias responded even though he felt a bit uncomfortable at first.

Feona was fumbling with his belt buckle.

“Stop.” She ignored him.

“Stop Feona.”

She pulled back and looked at him.

“What?”

“I think I figured it out.”

“What?” She asked again.

Tobias stood up with Feona, turned and lay her on the bed. He quickly took her clothes off and just stared at her. She was breathing heavily and his eyes were dark.

Tobias pulled her to the edge of the bed and knelt down between her legs and before Feona could say another word, he leaned forward and kissed her.

“Oh.”

Tobias took her hands and placed them on either side of his head and waited.

Her hips moved. He was breathing lightly on her. Then slowly she began moving his head around to where she wanted her pleasure. When she found a spot she liked she pulled his head and it was then he really began.

“I can’t anymore, stop please Tobias.”

“This is what you wanted, take it like a woman.” Tobias was giving her oral like never before. He would bring her to the point of release and then stop abruptly. Feona felt she was going mad.

“Oh God make it stop, make it stop.”

“As you wish.” Tobias got up, and stripped.

Feona raised her head to look at him. His skin was a pale in comparison to hers, he had wispy hair from his collar bone down to his groin. When her eyes found their target, she wanted to get up and run.

He climbed onto the bed and lay next to her.

“Touch me Feona.”

Not only did she touch him but she did the same thing he did to her earlier the difference is when he couldn't stand it anymore he flipped her on her stomach, took a condom from the dresser and put it on.

“I won't hurt you.”

She nodded silently but when she felt him touch her entrance she froze. No, no, that won't do.

Tobias grabbed her by the waist to stop her from moving. He pushed the middle of her back and spread her legs wider.

“Don't run from me.” He eased forward again. Feona groaned into the pillow. She reached back to stop him but Tobias grabbed both her hands and held them behind her back.

“Ya' know what I can't stand about you black women? Yes I said it, you black women. You want a man who is well endowed, yet when you have him, you want him to stop. Make up your mind honey.” He pushed a bit further.

When he was all in Feona was trembling.

“Does it hurt?”

“It's weird, I feel full, but no it doesn't hurt.”

“It will in a minute.” Tobias began a rhythm. She screamed into the pillow. He wanted to make her pay for that handyman comment. Any bet she wouldn't tell her friends how great he was in bed.

He pulled out and fixed the condom. Feona did not move. Tobias lay down beside her and she turned her head and looked into his face.

“You said you wouldn't hurt me.”

“Did I?”

She nodded.

“I'm sorry, I guess I'm still angry at the comment you made to your friends. Come, I want you on top, you can do whatever you like this time.”

Feona was 175lbs. Tobias was 250. He positioned her to straddle him and put his hands behind his head. He watched as she lowered herself onto him until her ass cheeks were touching his legs.

“Are you okay?”

“Yes I’m fine.” She began to move slowly, feeling him pulsating inside her.

Tobias was trying to control himself but she felt fantastic. He put his hands on her hips and began to move with her. She let out a little laugh.

“Share the joke honey.”

“I remember the first day I met you, I pictured your hands on my ass while I was riding you.”

Tobias laughed as well and pulled her down to kiss him.

Feona was close to her release, she didn’t want their love making to end. She was afraid things would change too much and she wasn’t ready. Tobias had other ideas.

“Get up honey.”

Feona sat up straight and eased herself from him and the condom came right off with her.

“That’s embarrassing.” She said.

“That’s why there are three in the pack. He watched as she pulled it out and threw it in the bin close by.

“How about a bit of fun?”

“Sure.”

“You started something, I need you to finish it.”

“Oh. Now?”

“Yes.”

“..... But don’t you want to....?”

“In time. Right now, I need you to be comfortable with me. Lay back and touch yourself.”

Feona lay back on the bed and after pausing for a few seconds, she closed her eyes and began rubbing her hands over her breasts. She teased one of her nipples as she moved one hand down her body. When she touched her most intimate place, Tobias groaned. He turned on his side and sucked the free nipple into his mouth and then whispered into her ear.

“You are a beautiful woman Feona. I want you to make yourself come while I watch and then I will make you come again.” He reached down her body and inserted a finger inside her. She began to rub herself faster as Tobias’ finger moved in and out of her slowly. The sensations he was bringing out in her were too much

and in no time her orgasm hit her. Tobias didn't wait, he managed to put on a condom somehow and he pulled out his finger and pushed himself inside her.

"Oh Tobias."

"I'm here honey."

"What you did earlier, can you do it again?"

"I was angry sweetie, I am not into pain."

"It felt strange, but I enjoyed it, I think I was scared at first but can you do it again, just for me?"

"Are you sure?"

She nodded.

"Come with me." He held out his hand. She took it and got up from the bed. He walked her downstairs in the dark to the guest bedroom he had completed and stood Feona between the bunk bed steps. He rested her on the highest one and placed her feet on the adjacent bars. It was perfect.

"Trust me?"

"Yes I do."

"Be right back."

Tobias returned with two silk scarves and tied Feona's wrists to her ankles.

"Are you comfortable honey?"

"Hurry up, im dying over here."

He plunged into her with one thrust.

"Tell me if it gets too much."

Feona closed her eyes and waited.

It was punishing. She couldn't run, move or do anything and every stroke shook her body.

She was loving it. All her nerve endings came alive, she had never felt like this before.

"Open your eyes honey."

She did as she was told.

He picked up speed. She closed her eyes again. He stopped.

"Do not close your eyes honey I want you to see me."

"It's too intense, I, oh God...."

Tobias felt Feona's body go rigid. Her head fell back and she shouted his name.

He held on to her until she stopped trembling. He untied the scarves and she almost collapsed. He lifted her up and took her back to the bedroom. When he lay her on the bed, she opened her eyes and looked at him.

“You didn’t.....?”

“I’m fine.”

“I’m sorry.”

“For what?”

“I’m not pleasing enough for you to finish.”

“What kind of men have you been with?”

“I don’t understand.”

“You will soon enough. Can I lay down with you?”

“Sure.”

Tobias gets into the bed and curls up with Feona who at this point is still confused.

“Tobias?”

“I’m fine Feona. I’ve practiced tantric sex all my life, I haven’t been with anyone since Kendra’s mother got pregnant. The next time I have an orgasm it will only be to get someone else pregnant. Understand now?”

“Yes. Can I be that person?” Tobias stilled and turned her on her back.

“Feona?”

“Are you surprised?”

“Very much so. We aren’t from the same circle honey, your friends will tear you apart. My friends and family on the other hand will love you to death. What brought this on?”

“I thought this need was just me being horny but you touched me like no one else and I am scared to death of how you make me feel. Honestly I don’t care what people think. I can handle my friends. I just hope if you decide I am worth the trouble, I can live up to your expectations.”

“I see. Honestly, I am scared for you, I’ve dealt with socialites quite often and I usually end up telling them where to get off. I will defend you to the end but you need to think long and hard about what life with me will be like. Right now I am struggling to make ends meet, I won’t depend on you for support but I will do my best to give you all the love, care and attention I can muster. When business picks up, things will be different, just be patient with me.”

“I can help you with the business.”

“Don’t honey. I will make it through.”

“Why won’t you let me help you?”

“Do you understand anything about men at all? We need to be in control of our own finances and any man who tells you different is a liar. My children are getting older every day and with college coming up I need to be able to get them where they need to go. Fortunately they both want to come work with me but I need them to stay in school for a few years. Look, let’s date for a while and if we see eye to eye on the really important stuff, then we can think about getting married and having a child. I can’t promise you more than that right now.”

“I understand.” Feona yawned.

“I’ve worn you out.”

“I haven’t felt this good in years.”

“Oh it gets better honey, much better.”

Tobias waited until Feona was in a deep sleep and locked up the house and made his way out. He picked up his cell and keys and realise he had twenty miss calls. It was the children. He pressed re-dial.

Chapter FOUR

“Dad, oh God, we are at the hospital, come quickly.” It was Kavin.

Tobias hung up and raced through the streets at top speed. Good thing it was after 2am and there weren’t many vehicles on the road. He pulled up to the QEH, parked and ran to the A & E. The children were sitting outside in the waiting area.

“Dad, I’m so glad you’re here.”

“What happened sweetie?”

“It was my fault, the medication mixed up and I realised it too late, Granddad had already taken it.” Kavin choked out through his tears.

“Let me go talk to the nurse, is mum in there too?”

“Yeah she went in with Dad but she isn’t sick.” Kendra said softly.

“Okay you two go sit and I will see what’s going on.”

Tobias went to the nurses’ station and inquired about his father. The nurse looked at him funny and buzzed him in. On his way in he saw his mother in a chair crying.

“Mom. I’m here.”

“Oh Toby, it’s your father, he’s gone, he’s gone.”

Tobias held onto his mother for what seemed like hours. He knew the children would take this very hard as he himself struggled with his guilt. He wanted to be with Feona so badly he entrusted the care of his parents to the children.

The next few days was the hardest, his mother seemed to let go of life and within 3 days of her husband dying, Alicia Grant died in her sleep. Tobias made the all the arrangements and they were buried together. She had left a letter for the children telling them she will always love them and not to blame themselves about the mix up. While their grandfather was in the hospital he told her to let the children know it wasn’t their fault.

The children weren’t coping. Kendra was having nightmares and Kavin wasn’t sleeping at all. The day after the funeral, Tobias was sitting on the sofa and the doorbell rang. Kendra got up and answered it.

“Hi, is Tobias here?”

“You must be Feona, come in. Dad, she’s here.”

Kavin flew up out of his seat and went to look.

Feona was now face to face with both Grant children.

“Hi.”

“Hi. Kendra, Kavin, this is Feona Rawlins.”

“Feona, these are my two rugrats.”

“Nice to finally meet you both, I just came to see how you were doing. I won’t stay long.”

“Stay, Dad’s making us lunch.” Kendra offered.

“Feona, let me warn you, Dad is a mean cook, so I hope you don’t like those hips of yours, they will grow a few inches.”

“Oh I know how good he can cook, how do ya’ think I got these hips in the first place?”

They all laughed for the first time in a week.

Feona sat at the table and Kendra said grace. They talked and asked questions. Tobias had called Feona and told her what happened and asked if he could delay the garden and pool for a bit, she immediately agreed.

The children got up, cleared the dishes and went to their rooms, leaving Feona and their father to chat.

“I’ve missed you.” Tobias whispered.

“I’ve more than missed you but with everything going on, I didn’t want to intrude especially when.....”

“When what?”

“I kept you so long, if you had gone home sooner they would both be alive.”

“Feona honey, my parents were both over 90, as much as we all blame ourselves for the events of that night, I am positive they wouldn’t have blamed us. My mother told me dad was the one who got the meds mixed up and he should have known he was taking the wrong one. I don’t actually dispense the meds, I just watch and see they take what they need. By the time Kavin realised, it was too late. I need you to see something. Come.” He held out his hand and she took it.

He led her into his home office and offered her a seat. He went to his drawer and pulled out a small box and put it in her hand.

“Tobias?”

“Marry me Feona.”

“Yes.”

“I have stipulations.”

“Whatever they are I will abide by them.”

“We get married a year from today. In that year, if we feel we need to be with someone else, we come clean and remain friends. I would love to have a baby with you. I want you to move in with us.”

“Deal. I have stipulations as well.”

“Anything for you honey.”

“You let me help you with whatever money you need within the year. Let me introduce you to some new clients and I would like two children not one. My house is much bigger and the children would love the pool and with more children coming we will have to move anyway. We can fix this one up and make money from it.”

“I will think about the financial part. Right now I just want to make love to you but I have to stay here with the children, with both my parents gone, I have to be here for them.”

“I understand honey, I have a few things to do today, and I can come back later and cook dinner if you like. What made you change your mind?”

“Life is fickle, my parents’ death taught me that. They loved each other unconditionally and whatever problems they had, they worked on them together. I’m cooking dinner. I’m sending the guys to start the garden, I will come back out in a week when I’ve finalised my parents’ estate.”

“Okay.” Feona looks up and the desire in Tobias’ eyes is clear. She knows he is hurting and needs to be with her but the children are priority.

“Do you trust me Tobias?”

“Yes I do actually.”

“Then let me do something for you, just say yes and I will get started.”

Tobias gives her a slanted eye look.

“Okay, go ahead.”

“I will be back later.” She tiptoes and kisses him.

What was supposed to be a gentle kiss turned into a hot, sizzling, tongue twirling lip lock. When they pulled away, they were breathing heavily. Tobias rested his forehead on hers and closed his eyes.

“Go before I drag you to my room and scare the children.”

Feona laughed and left.

She went to the office and sat down. She knew Tobias wouldn't accept any money so she did the next best thing. She prepared a promotional email and asked her secretary to send out to their clients. She had taken photos of the work Tobias had done so far and she attached them as proof.

Tobias was at home going through some of his parent's paper work and his cell phone rang. It was a new client who needed some work done in a few weeks and asked for a site visit. He set a date and time and logged it in his book. He clicked off and it rang again. For the next hour his cell kept ringing with new clients wanting site visits and quotes on work around their homes, schools, parks, everywhere. When the phone finally stopped ringing, he called Feona.

Chapter FIVE

"Before you say anything, I just opened the door, you have to do the rest. I know you wouldn't take money from me so this was the least I could do." She expected anger.

"Thank you honey, I hope I won't let you down."

"You haven't so far and you are most welcome. Now, let me get some work done, a tall sexy man promised me dinner." She hung up and tried to get as much work done as possible.

Five o' clock came and Feona was beat. Her best friend Vanessa borrowed her cell to make a call because her bill hadn't been paid. She saw a photo of Tobias and wanted to know who the fat guy was.

"Vanessa, if you refer to him like that again you can forget you even know me."

"Are you fucking him? God he must be 400lbs."

"You know, I used to think we were better than those less fortunate or those who didn't look like us and for a long time I lived an empty life because of that selfish, backward thinking. Tobias is the best thing to happen to me and I'm not giving him up because he doesn't fit the criteria of the social elite."

“God you must be menopausal. What’s he do for a living?”

“He is a handyman, I hired him to make some changes around the house and he is fantastic and he can cook too.”

“A handyman? Feona have you gone completely mental? Your friends and family will never accept him.”

“He said that and frankly I don’t give a shit. All of you spend your lives with your heads in the air and look down on people. I chose him and nothing any of you say can change my mind. I’m having dinner with him and his children tonight so if you excuse me, I have to go.”

“He has children? Any bet 6 from 9 different women.”

“Actually he only has 2, from one woman and they were together since he was a teenager. Goodbye Van.”

“I hope he’s good in bed, ‘cause that’s about all he can offer you. Later.”

Feona dropped her head onto her forearms. She could not believe the things Vanessa said. Of course now her love life was in the open, Vanessa would tell everyone who she was dating, the fall out would be catastrophic. She got up to get her bag and leave when her cell rang. It was her mother.

“I would think I raised you better Feona, a handyman of all things. End this Feona or you will be sorry.”

“Are you threatening me mother?”

“You know your father left everything in his will for you, I can get him to change it if you continue.”

Feona felt sick, she wanted to throw up.

“Go right ahead mother.” She hung up.

Her cell rang again. It was her sister.

“If you’re calling to tell me how stupid I am as well, save it.”

“Actually big sister, I would love to meet this Tobias. Anyone that can make my sister go against our mother is worth the fight. Do you love him sis?”

“I’m not sure yet, we haven’t known each other that long and he just lost his parents and is really hurting. He won’t let me help him financially....”

“Wait you offered him money and he refused? Invite to my house for dinner sometime.”

“Seems you are the only one in my corner. He isn’t the average man and I don’t care, all the men I’ve dated turned out to be jerks. He makes me feel so alive and his children are nice too.”

“Sweetie, go for it, grab happiness when you can or you will end up like me.”

“Sis what’s going on?”

“Michael is cheating again, the 25 year old called the house crying because he made her have an abortion, the second one in 2 years. She also said her sister had one for him as well but she ran away and no one has seen her since. Mind you the sister is 18.” Kaila sighed heavily.

“Oh God I’m so sorry. Let me cancel dinner with Tobias and you can come over.”

“No. I’m not fit for public appearance.”

“He hit you again? Kaila you have to leave him or he is going to kill you!”

“The children aren’t old enough for me to leave and I have no money.”

“You can stay with me, I have enough money for all of us. Jesus, don’t stay there please.”

“Go after Tobias sis, no matter what. I love you, bye.”

Feona didn’t know what to do, if she went over to the house Michael would know Kaila told her something. She went home, took a shower and got dressed to go to the Grant household.

She kept thinking about her sister and what she could do to get her out. Michael had been hitting her since the day they got married. He got drunk at his bachelor party and had sex with the stripper the guys hired. Someone had videotaped it and sent it to Kaila. When she confronted him he punched her in the face and raped her. She spent the next week in the hotel room until her face healed. She had told the only one she knew she could trust, her sister Feona. She begged her not to tell their parents and for the next 8 years Michael hit Kaila whenever he felt he was losing control. One time he punched her in the stomach and she lost the baby she was carrying. Kaila was not a strong person, she had been manipulated by her mother all her life and she was suffering for it. Feona was the opposite, she had a mind of her own and broke away from the grip of her family, mainly her mother, started her own business and never had to depend on them for anything.

She pulled up to Tobias house and heard screaming and yelling. She walked up to the door and rang the bell.

Chapter SIX

Kendra came to the door in tears and hugged her tightly.

“Sweetie what’s wrong?”

“Our mother is here.”

“Well let’s go meet her shall we?”

“No, you don’t know what she’s like. She is nothing like Dad.” Kendra held her even tighter.

“Oh I can handle your mother, let’s go.”

“Who’s this bitch?”

Feona looked behind her.

“I’m talking to you, the skank with my daughter.”

“Wow Kendra, are you sure this is your mother? I would have thought with two wonderful children like you and your brother, she was someone else. Someone with manners perhaps?”

“Hi Kavim, hello Tobias. I’m here for dinner and since I can’t smell anything, I will go start. Children come help me, let your parents talk.” She held out her hand to the children and ushered them into the kitchen.

As she was passing by, Sherry grabbed her arm in an attempt to stop her. Feona shifted, grabbed Sherry’s thumb and twisted it backwards.

“I will tolerate you calling me names because that is your mouth and you are free to say whatever you want but trust.... if you ever touch me again, I will dislocate some part of your body you didn’t even know you had.” Feona let’s go of her and continues into the kitchen. Tobias, the children and Sherry are stunned.

For the next half hour Sherry resigned herself to lowering her voice and when Feona comes out of the kitchen, she floors everyone.

“Sherry, this isn’t my home but I am sure the children would love if you could sit and have dinner with us and only if Tobias agrees.”

The children smile, Tobias on the other hand is not only staring at Feona but he walks over to her and kisses her. When he pulls away he looks at Sherry.

“You are welcome to stay for dinner.” He puts his arm around Feona and makes his way to the dinner table.

They were almost finished eating and Sherry got up the courage to talk directly to Feona.

“What made you ask me to dinner?”

“You have two wonderful children Sherry and I hope someday when I have children of my own they will turn out like them. You and Tobias are no longer a couple, you need to get over that and focus on your children. No one can stop you from being their mother. Tobias and I are seeing each other now and when we get married, these two will become my responsibility and you need to get over that as well.”

“Who the hell are you to tell me what kind of relationship I can have with Tobias or MY children. You and your rich attitude can’t just come into our lives and dictate how we should live.”

“Rich attitude? Okay here is a question for you. Since Tobias started the business, have you promoted it? Told people he is available for work? Have you taken the children when he needed to work? No you just sit and collect child support. As for me telling you anything, I am merely saying what no one else wants to tell you. You need to grow up. I started my business in my bedroom and I have worked hard every single day for all the money I have. Both his parents are gone and you come in here blasting off at the mouth. How can your children respect you as a woman? Have you been to any of Grant Services job sites? Tobias is a professional at what he does and if the children are as smart as I know

they are or can be, they will get involved and make it a family business because that's what I intend to do. I offered him money to help and he turned me down flat, do you know why? Because of women like you, you take and take and give nothing back so when someone like me who really loves him comes along he assumes I will be just like you. I have nothing against you but if you cross my path, I will step up to the plate and protect my family."

Everyone at the table was silent.

Feona dropped her fork onto her plate, got up, snatched her bag and headed for the door. She was about to hop into her car when she felt strong arms around her.

"I'm sorry Tobias, I had no right to speak to her that way."

"You said you loved me."

"I do, I didn't realise what it was at first and I struggled with it, everything I was taught, the people I associate myself with. I never felt so fierce about someone. I pissed off my mother and it felt great. I find myself thinking about you and the children, living together, going on vacations. I came here tonight to ask you and the children to seriously think about moving in with me. I also came to ask you if we could move up the wedding, I don't want to wait a year. I want to be your business partner and merge the two companies. I came here to tell you so many things that right now don't even seem to matter. I'm sorry I ruined your night, tell the children good bye for me."

She turned to get into the car and Tobias spun her around and kissed her. When he pulled away she fell back against the car door.

"Marry me Feona, I love you, my children love you, we can do this. We can be married in two months, if you want."

"Yes, Yes!"

"Come let go back inside. I will ask Sherry to leave if she makes you feel uncomfortable."

"The children must be so embarrassed."

"Not those two, when you were going through the door, Kavin looked at me and said 'Dad, go after her.' They are just fine."

They held hands and went back inside. Sherry was picking up her bag.

“I must say Feona, you are right about many things and I guess, I’ve always been angry at how Tobias and I turned out but yeah we do have two wonderful children. I won’t bother you or them anymore. I will look for a job and try to be a better mother. Tobias is a good man, the children have never lacked for anything, I guess I never saw that. Anyway, I will go now.”

“Sherry? If you send me a CV, I can ask around for you.”

“You would do that?”

“I’m a sucker for people that try.”

“Thank you, I will get on it. Tobias, I’m sorry for all the gripe I put you through. You deserve someone like her and I know she will be a good role model for the children. Have a good night.”

“Mom, can we come with you? Dad has been doing everything since grams died.” Kavin asked.

“It’s okay you two, I won’t ask you to leave your home, stay here and chat with your mother, I need to get home anyway, I have business to take care of.”

“You aren’t leaving Dad are you?” Kendra whispered when she hugged Feona.

“Not a chance.”

“Wait, did Dad ask you?”

“Kendra.....”

“Daaaaad.”

“We will talk about that another time, right now I will see Feona out.”

Tobias took Feona’s hand and went back to her car.

“What did Kendra want?”

Tobias shrugged.

“She wanted to know if you could go shopping with her to buy a dress for her graduation.”

“Sure, just let me know when.”

“I gave her the money a few days ago but she wanted you to go with her.”

“Does she have everything else?”

“No, I will have the money for that by this weekend.”

“Let me, please.”

“Feona, we discussed this.”

“You know what I don’t understand about you white men, you say you want a good woman and when you get one you don’t know what to do with her. It hurts me when you refuse to let me help, don’t you value me at all?”

“Honey..... look.... I remember what you said about men using you, I don’t ever want you to feel that way about me or the children. I’ve struggled to feed my family and I’ve done a good job so far. It’s just hard to let go of that control.”

“You didn’t ask me, that’s why I’m offering. You want me to be your wife and a mother to your children, how could I sit by when you need me and just watch you struggle? What kind of person would that make me?”

Tobias thought about what she was trying to tell him. He remembered something she told Sherry earlier. Sherry was a taker and she was the only example he had to go on, so he expected all women to be the same.

“Promise me you won’t go overboard?”

“I promise! Thank you.”

Tobias hugged her tightly and got an instant hard-on. He groaned.

“I need you too honey. Come by for breakfast in the morning if you can, you still have the key.”

“I will definitely try. I miss that body wrapped around me. Tell you what, I will talk to the children about moving in with you, if they agree, we will get it done before the wedding, is that okay with you?”

“Oh why not move in tomorrow, the house could do with some more people and Sherry is welcome to visit as long as she doesn’t cause trouble.”

“The children will love that. Good night honey, call me when you get home.”

“Will do.” She got into her car and drove away.

“She’s nice Tobias.” Sherry said from behind him.

“She is more than just nice.”

“I really am sorry for everything, if I had been different we would have been married long ago and our children wouldn’t be back and forth.”

“We make mistakes Sherry and you and I both made ours. I asked her to marry me and she said yes. If the children agree, we will move to her house and she said you were welcome to visit the children.”

“Congrats and tell her thank you for thinking of me, not that I deserve it.”

“Sometimes in life we get a second chance, your children love you, I still love you and I want all of us to get along.”

“Thank you Tobias. I’m going home now, I have a CV to write.”

“Why would you need to write a CV, you are great at cooking, it’s one of the things I always liked about you. Talk to Feona, she does business plans and helps people find the right types of investors for startup companies.”

“I will definitely do that. Have a good night.” She tiptoed and kissed him on his cheek, got into her car and drove off.

“Dad? Can we talk?” It was Gavin.

“What’s up son?”

“I’m thinking about quitting school and finding a job.”

“Not gonna happen. What’s this all about?”

“You’re struggling Dad, with grandma and granddad gone, everything falls on you.”

Tobias walked over to his son and hugged him tightly.

“I know you mean well and I admire and respect you for wanting to help but as your father it’s my job to struggle for you. Feona sent about 20 clients my way so things will work out, so no dropping out.”

“Okay Dad, well at least let me help out on weekends then.”

“That we can do. I need to talk to you and your sister, go get her and come back.”

Gavin came back with Kendra walking behind him.

“Feona said yes, we are getting married in two months and she wants us to live with her. The house is bigger and you can have your own rooms there.”

“Yes!” Gavin hollered.

“Oh Dad, I’m glad she makes you happy and yes we would love to move in with her. Did you ask her about going shopping?”

“Oh yes, she said not a problem and she will pay for anything else you need besides the dress but don’t go overboard, she has had a bit of a time with people trying to use her because she has money.”

“Understood. When do we move?”

“We can start tomorrow and I will fix up the house and rent it out, the money will go into a trust for both of you.”

“Okay, night dad.” She kissed him in the cheek and left the room.”

“Congrats Dad.”

“Thanks son, now get to bed we have lots of work to do tomorrow.”

“Night.”

“Night.”

Just then his cell phone rang, it was Feona.

“I miss you already.”

“I can come back if you want, I know you wouldn’t want to leave the children alone.”

“Don’t tempt me and for what I have in mind, I can’t let them hear you scream my name through your orgasm. They are ready to move in with you, are you sure you want to do this?”

“Positive, they make me feel loved. This house was too lonely anyway.”

“The children have gone to bed, I am about to lock up and get there myself. What are you wearing?”

“I’m in my bathrobe on my bed.” She could hear Tobias walking through the house, locking up.

“Are you wearing your headset?”

“Yes.”

“Follow my instructions, don’t make a sound. Lay back on the pillow and slowly push away the top right part of your robe. Feel the cool air on your breast as your nipple gets hard. Tease it with your finger slowly. With your next hand, slowly part the bottom of your robe and feel the air caress your thighs. Now take that hand and touch yourself. I know you’re wet. Take a finger and feel your wetness. Now taste it.”

“What?”

Tobias laughed.

“Goodnight my love, don’t do anything else, save yourself for me, if you make yourself come I will know. Love you.” Tobias hung up.

Feona lifted a finger and tasted herself. This was new.

“Oh he will pay for this.” She laughed, pulled her robe together, took out the ear piece and drifted off to sleep.

Chapter SEVEN

Feona awoke to the feel of lips between her legs. She knew it was Tobias because she could smell his cologne.

“Mmmm”

He lifted his head.

“Be quiet, the children are making breakfast. I am gonna have to sound proof this room.”

Feona gripped the sheet and bit her bottom lip. Tobias worked his tongue like a man hungry. Feona was so pent up from last night it didn’t take long. She grabbed a pillow and screamed into it as she lifted her hips from the bed. She flopped back down and her body trembled.

“Breakfast will be ready soon.” Tobias went into the bathroom took a spare toothbrush from the cabinet, brushed his teeth and left Feona sprawled across the bed.

“Good morning you two. What’s for breakfast?”

“Cinnamon buns, vanilla cocoa and fruit salad with yogurt.”

“I’m gonna get fat with you two around.”

“Thank you for inviting us, I know yesterday was kind of awful the way mom acted.”

“I told you I could handle your mother, I just felt I shouldn’t have spoken to her the way I did.”

“She needed to hear it, she hasn’t been very nice to dad, and actually I can’t ever remember her being nice to dad, even after Kendra was born.”

“Well hopefully things will be different now. When would you like to move in?”

“I know we told dad we could start moving in today but we don’t want to intrude. Kendra and I talked it over and we will stay with mom until after you come back from your honeymoon. Mom agreed.”

“Oh I just love you two. No move in this week, Dad and I will cope. Come on eat up and you can tour the house, I need to talk to your dad for a bit.”

Tobias looked at his children laughing with Feona. He knew in his heart he was doing the right thing for all of them.

Just when breakfast was finished, Tobias wanted to go to the shed to check up on supplies as he wanted to pick back up the construction of the gazebo.

“Be back in a minute guys. Feona, come help me with the stock taking, I have some heavy lifting to do and I need a writer.”

“Sure, lemme get my shoes.”

They walked across the lawn hand in hand laughing. As soon as the shed door was closed. Tobias grabbed Feona and bent her over. She held onto the edge of the work table to keep from falling over. He ran his hands up her legs until her reached her ass cheeks.

“I have been thinking about you, I need you. I’m beginning to think it was a mistake to bring the children.”

He pulled her panty aside and massaged her gently. She moaned softly. He undid his jeans and maneuvered himself out of his boxer. He stepped forward and rubbed himself against her wetness.

“Please.”

“No.” She tried to push backwards and he stepped back.

“Don’t make me beg Tobias.”

“Oh beg you will Feona, you will beg me with your lips, your eyes and your mouth and when I finally take you, the children won’t be here.” He let go of her, redid his jeans and opened up the windows to let in some air. Feona quickly fixed herself.

“You so hate me.”

“It gets worse. Now take up that notepad and pen and write down what I tell you.

They were almost finished with the list when they heard voices raised. Feona dropped the things on the table and ran towards the house. Much to her dismay, it was her mother. She had Kendra by the arm and Kavin was yelling at her to let go of his sister.

“Let go of her!” Feona yelled.

“Feona, what are these two brats doing here, I caught them stealing from the refrigerator.”

“Miss, I don’t know who you are but I am asking you very nicely not to call my children brats.”

“You *must* be Tobias Grant. The fat handyman.”

“That I am and who might you be?”

“This Tobias is my mother. Marlana Rawlins.”

“Children, take what you were eating and go outside, you can sit by the pool, don’t go in the gazebo isn’t safe as yet.”

“Yes dad.” Feona sniffed as Marlana let go of her arm.

“Oh God mother what did you do? Look at her arm!”

“I thought she was stealing so I grabbed her.”

“Her skin is bleeding for Christ’s sake. Kendra honey, go into the cabinet by the laundry room and bring the medi-kit. I swear mother sometimes you sicken me with the way you act towards people. Why didn’t you just ASK who they were? She is just a child.” Feona was furious.

“I don’t know why you have his bastard children in this house far less this neighbourhood. They aren’t suitable company.”

Tobias stepped forward and Feona blocked his path.

“Get out.” Feona gritted through her teeth.

“What?”

“Get out of our house.”

“What do you mean our house? They live here?”

“They do now, now you are no longer welcome so get the HELL OUT and tell the rest of my family if they have the same attitude they aren’t welcome either.” Feona was angry and in tears.

“You are no longer my daughter. When you decide you want to socialize with people of your own kind, you know where to find me.”

“Don’t count on it.”

Marlana, turned in a huff and left the house, got into the backseat of her car and the driver left.

“Oh God. I’m so sorry.” She collapsed into the nearest chair.

“Are you sure you aren’t adopted? Jesus.”

“I’m sorry we are so much trouble. I will go find Kendra.”

Kavin went to find his sister and she was in the bathroom crying.

“Did she ask us to leave?”

“No, she threw her mother out.”

“She wants us here?”

“Well that’s obvious. Come on let’s get you cleaned up.”

Feona tended to the scratches on her arm and put a bandage around it. She put away the kit and washed her hands.

Feona started to cry again.

“I’m sorry my mother was nasty to you. I don’t care what she says, you are my family now. I want you to stay but let me warn you, you will see much more of that if you stick with me.”

“We can handle it with you and Dad as back up.”

“Okay, no more tears, Tobias honey, let go finish that stock list and I will take Kendra shopping while you two fellas work on our gazebo. You two go sit by the pool, you can re-raid the refrigerator if you want.”

She turned and headed for the shed. Tobias was frighteningly quiet and she felt his anger towards her mother and she couldn’t blame him at all. She went into the shed and waited for him to come in. She locked the door behind him and paused. Tobias spun around to face her.

“Oh Jesus, honey please don’t.” She walked up to him and hugged him.

“She insulted my children Feona. I don’t think I can subject them to this. I can take anything anyone sends my way but not my children.”

Feona let go and stepped back.

“You don’t want to be with me anymore?”

“I.....”

“I see. Just like that you give up on me.” She turned to walk away and he caught her wrist and spun her to face him.

“I want you pregnant with my baby. I want to stand up at the altar and watch you walk towards me. I want to be there when you have to drop your teeth in a glass beside the bed. I also don’t want you to forget your family because of me and my children.”

“Our children, I love them too and it tore me apart when I saw Kendra’s arm. Don’t leave me, please.”

“I’m not going anywhere.” He pulled her into his arms and kissed her. Their movements were frantic. The work table was clear of tools and clean. He lifted her in his arms and lay her down on it. He stood between her thighs and placed her heels on his chest. He caressed her legs as if he never saw them before, kissing each one slowly. Her scent was rising to his nostrils. He wanted take her but with the children nearby and not yet a part of the household, he was willing to wait.

“I need you so bad Feona. I’m taking you on a date tonight, I need to do this properly.”

“Take me now please, I’m aching for you. I want your baby, please!”

“Honey? Okay what’s wrong?” He took her legs down and pulled her to a sitting position.

“I...I feel like I’m losing you, if I had a child I would have a piece of you with me.”

“Baby, I told you I’m not going anywhere, we have to do this right, I never thought I would fall in love again and here you are. I’m not the type of man you would usually go with I am sure of that but you love me anyway. Why would I let that go? I want my wife to have my child not my girlfriend, can you understand that?”

She nodded.

“Come on, we have to finish the list and you have to take your daughter shopping.”

She wiped her face and held out her arms for a hug.

Chapter EIGHT

Around 4 o'clock, Feona and Kendra pulled into the driveway.

"Dad! Kevin!"

"Here!" Two male voices responded.

The girls put the bags in the living room and went out to the pool.

"You finished it. Oh my God you finished it!"

"I pulled all the crews in today, I wanted it to be a surprise, you like it?"

"Oh I love it, thank you. This calls for a party."

"Pool party?"

"Yep you can invite a few of your friends."

"Did you to buy the whole of Bridgetown?" Tobias said eyeing the multitude of bags on the floor.

"Just half." Feona whispered, Tobias sounded angry.

"I asked you not to go overboard with her."

"I'm sorry, I never went shopping with a teenager before and frankly I enjoyed myself, my mother never took me shopping."

Tobias realised Feona never had a proper childhood, being in a rich family she was never shown much affection and now that she had Kendra to dote on, she was grabbing on to the feeling.

"I'm sorry honey."

"She's my daughter too." She whispered.

"Dad?"

"Yes pumpkin."

"Did I do something wrong?"

"No you didn't, I was just upset at the amount of things yall bought."

"It won't happen again. I'm sorry Feona, thanks for today, I really enjoyed it."

Kendra left and went into kitchen.

"She hates me now." Tobias said.

“Not at all, she loves you so much but today wasn’t about you. For the first time she got to be a little girl and not have to worry about her father who is always there for her, not having to leave himself out for her.”

“She’s growing up.”

“You had a good hand in that sweetie, have faith in it.”

“Pumpkin?”

“Yes Dad?”

“I’m sorry I got upset.”

“It’s okay, I didn’t want you to worry about getting anything for my graduation, so I asked Feona to buy everything and I would help her out on weekends. She refused and said she would do anything to make you happy because you make her happy. We had so much fun today, we tried on stuff and we had a snack together and we talked about girly stuff. I never had that with mom.”

“I understand, this is my issue to deal with and I’m sorry things are bad financially but it will get better soon I promise. Now, I want to take Feona out to dinner tonight, so you two are off to your mother’s house, so call and let her know.” He kissed Kendra on her forehead and went to find Feona.

“Feona.”

The sound of his deep voice made her insides liquefy. She turned and Tobias was standing in the doorway, propped on one side.

“You are beautiful and I doubt myself at times. I wonder what you see in me besides the sex. I am struggling with the wealth you have but that’s my cross to bare not yours. Kendra said you bought everything. Thank you.”

“Listen. For centuries men have supported their families and I do understand how you feel but every once in a while, let me help, that’s all I ask.”

“Deal. Now, I’m taking the children to their mother’s, you and I have a date. See you at 7.”

He walked over to her and kissed her warmly, then left.

Feona waited until she heard the truck pull away and unpacked her bags. She bought the perfect outfit. It was a white body fitting long sleeve dress with two layered triangle splits in the front. Kendra had picked out a gold and silver

necklace set with matching earrings and bracelet. She chose a pair of red Pierre Dumas, a bag to match and she was ready.

She heard the truck pull up and when she peeked outside her body took a nose dive and the heat between her legs was enough to drop her to the floor. Tobias was wearing a black suit, paneled front, satin collar and cuffs. She immediately decided she wanted to stay home and undress him.

“Feona honey!”

“Be down in a minute.”

She double checked herself put on her shoes and went down stairs.

“You cannot possible expect to go out dressed in that!”

“You don’t like it?”

“Like it? I love it! So much I wanna’ rip it off you. Let’s go before I ruin our night.”

Tobias took Feona to a lovely Restaurant in Holetown, they were seated quickly and as soon as they sat down the manager came to the table.

“Tobias, how are you my friend?”

“Hello, I haven’t seen you in a while. This is my girlfriend Feona Rawlins, Feona, this is Chris, he owns the restaurant.”

“Nice to meet you Chris.”

“You as well. Be sure to let Tobias tell you how we met, it’s a very funny story. Now, whatever you want it’s on the house, it’s not often you meet people like him. Enjoy your night. Oh Tobias, now that I see you I remember I need some work done up here. Call me in the morning and we will chat yes?”

“Sure thing Chris.”

Chris patted Tobias on the back, gave Feona a slight bow and left. A waiter quickly came to the table to take their orders. Tobias ordered a Spaghetti Aglio, Oilo E Pomodorini with chicken and she ordered Grilled Mahi- Mahi, they both wanted warm apple crumble and Tobias added and a bottle of Laurent Perrier

Cuvee Rose Brut N.V. Tobias had a plan and hoped that he could execute it properly.

“Darn, I need to go to the little boys room, be back in a minute honey.”

“Okay.”

Tobias got up and kissed her on the cheek. He made his way to the kitchen and tracked down the head chef. He told him what he wanted and the head chef was delighted to help. He went back to the table and Feona was nodding her head to the music playing.

“Do you have any idea how much I want to spend the rest of my life with you?”

“Yeah I do ‘cause I feel the same way.”

They ate and drank and talked about business, plans for the future. When the dessert came, Tobias’ stomach twisted in a sailor’s knot.

“Oh this looks lovely.”

“Not as lovely as you. To us.” He lifted his glass in a toast and clinked it with hers.

She took her fork and started to eat. She ate from the outside and graduated to the middle. When the last piece was left, she put the fork down.

“Oh gosh I am stuffed, I can’t handle another bite.”

“Aw come on, surely you can eat that last little piece.”

“Nope, my hips are complaining at the moment.”

“You know don’t you?”

“I’m sorry honey, I saw when you detoured to the kitchen and the \$300 odd bottle of wine gave you away.” Feona took her fork and lifted the last piece of dessert into her mouth and closed her eyes. When she stuck out her tongue the ring was at the end. She took it off and placed it on her finger.

“Why you little minx.”

“Yes Tobias Grant I will marry you.” She got up and sat on his lap and kissed him. Tobias thanked the head chef and paid for the bottle of wine. On the way home, Feona talked about what she wanted from the marriage and Tobias realised he really did make the right choice.

When they got home, they were both bursting with desire. They left a trail of clothes from the front door all the way to the foot of the bed.

“God I need you.”

Tobias wasted no time, he lay Feona on the bed and crawled on top of her. Then he remembered something.

“Time to beg.”

“Now?”

“Yes now.” He got up and snatched a scarf from the door knob. He blindfolded her and used his own tie to bind her hands to one of the spindles by the headboard.

The room went quiet.

“Tobias?”

“Be quiet honey.” He quickly spread her legs and when his hot mouth touched her. She almost screamed.

“Mm.”

For the next hour Tobias brought her to the edge and then pulled her back.

“Please Tobias, please, please.”

“Is that begging I hear?”

“Yes, I’m begging you.”

“What do you want honey?”

“I want you inside me.”

“Oh that’s not what you really want to say. This will be our bedroom, you can say and do whatever you want in here. Now tell me what you really want.”

Tobias knelt between her legs and positioned himself at her entrance. He rubbed himself against her like he did in the shed.

“I can’t say it.” He pulled back.

“If you don’t say it, I will leave you here and go down stairs and watch television.” He rubbed himself against her again. She was so wet and hot.

“Say it Feona.”

“I can’t, don’t make me.” She started to cry.

“Whoa, hey, don’t.” He quickly untied her and took off the blindfold and lay down with her.

“Talk to me.”

“I was with this guy years ago and I really liked him and the night we were about to have sex for the first time, he teased me like you did, he was a bit

inexperienced but I was enjoying myself and at one point I told him what you just asked me to say. He got angry, put on his clothes and left. He sent me a text the next day telling me I was a rich slut and he never wanted to see me again. He told all his friends what I said and they would laugh whenever they saw me.”

“Honey, I am a man, he was a boy, people have this thing about using such words, sex is primitive and some words are just an expression of the act itself. I would never make you feel dirty for saying them. Have you ever heard me use them around the children or a job site?”

She thought for a minute.

“No I haven’t.”

“They are just words honey, you should never feel ashamed to use them with me.”

“Okay.”

“I want us to have the kind of relationship where we can tell each other anything. I don’t want to go through what I went through with Sherry. If I do something you aren’t comfortable with just tell me and I will do the same.”

“I understand. Do you still want me?”

“I always want you, never doubt that. I can’t wait to make you my wife. I love you so much. The children talked about you all the way to their mother’s. I have a surprise for you but you will have to wait until our wedding day to get it and I hope you will like it. Now enough talking, I’ve tortured us both too long. Lay back and close your eyes. You cannot open them unless I give permission.”

Feona did as she was told. She felt Tobias spreading her legs apart, she felt his breath on her and the warmth just relaxed her. He took a condom from his pocket and put it on. He stood between her legs and slowly slid himself inside her.

“Oh.....”

“You will feel every stroke. You will feel me touch every part of you. Do not touch me, grab the sheet.”

Tobias was in perfect control. He teased and tormented Feona and she wanted to scream.

“Tobias, you need to stop.”

“I didn’t give you permission to speak.”

“Listen to me, I want you to fuck me and quit theOh YES.”

Tobias knew she wanted more than he was giving her. He dragged her to him sinking himself into her.

“Took you long enough. Now we can begin.”

For the next two hours, they tried different positions, and Feona discovered she loved the sideways 69.

Around 2am Tobias got up to leave, he hated this part but he knew it wouldn't always be this way.

“Please don't leave me.” Feona mumbled, she was still asleep.

Tobias was torn, he needed to go home to the children. Sherry said she would stay with them until around 1. He pulled the covers over her, kissed her forehead and left.

When he got home, he checked on the children and Kendra was still up.

“Dad?”

“Yes pumpkin.”

“You didn't have to come home, we aren't babies anymore.”

“I know but, I wouldn't feel right, don't worry you two will be moving in soon.”

“Hurry up, we want you to be happy, you deserve it.”

“Thanks shug, now sleep, you have school today.”

“Love you dad.”

“Love you too.”

Tobias closed the door and went to his bedroom. The bed felt cold and unwelcoming. He fell asleep quickly and willed the morning to come soon.

Chapter NINE

Tobias woke up at 5am and made the children breakfast, then packed lunch for them to take to school. Around 6 he went to wake them up. They got up showered and got dress for school. Sitting at the breakfast table Tobias told them about an idea.

“When we move to Feona’s, I want to turn this house into a guest house and the money will go into a trust for both of you. I will get Feona to do a business plan so we can maximize on its usability.”

“Great and when I finish school I can help run it, if that’s okay.” Kevin chipped in.

“I like that idea. Now, I need you two to keep a secret for me.” “Dad?” Kendra looked worried. Her father never kept secrets.

“I bought a home gym, it should arriving here today, I have a plan to lose weight and get fit for my wedding day.”

“....but Dad, Feona loves you the way you are.” Kendra said.

“Yes I know but I’ve been this way for too long and I’m not only doing this for her, I need to do it for myself as well. I work hard yes but I’m beginning to feel uncomfortable.”

“How will you keep it a secret from Feona?”

“Tell her I have a contract and I won’t be able to see her often. I have to trust that she trusts me. She will be busy planning the wedding and I will talk to her everyday over the phone.”

“Do you love her more than you loved mum?”

“Honestly, I do and I think your mother and I were never meant to be but we just ended up together so we could create you and that I will never have an issue with.”

“Okay Dad.”

“Eat up, I’m taking you to school today. I have to go see Feona about the guest house idea.”

Tobias drops off the children and makes his way over to Feona. When he arrives he sees an unfamiliar car. He walks up to the door and unlocks it. He is met by a man around his age who clearly isn’t pleased to see him.

“Who the fuck are you?” The man asks.

Tobias cocks his head to one side and walks past him to go to find Feona.

“Honey?”

“In here love. Looking for some documents for Patrick.”

“The unmannerly guy in the living room?”

“What did he say?”

“He asked who the fuck I was.”

“Did you hit him?”

"I wanted to but no. Who is he?"

"My ex. We had started a small company together but I found out he was sleeping with our secretary. I never officially quit the company so that's what I'm looking to do now and I told him to send my profits to a charity of my choosing."

"Keep him away from me. I don't like him."

"You want me to tell him to leave?"

"I would never do that honey, this isn't my house."

Feona flinched.

"I treat your children like mine, you have a key, no one else does and you say this isn't your house?"

"Honey, he was rude to me but I have no rights to tell him to leave. You let him in, that means he is still your friend."

"He was never my friend. Excuse me." She walked past him with the papers in her hand. Tobias followed quickly.

"Here, now get out."

"Aw come on babe, get rid of the mack truck and we can pick up where we left off."

"I would take this mack truck over your scooter any day, you insignificant bastard. This is my fiancé and if you ever think about being rude to him again I will punch you in the face. Now get out."

"Why you bitch, Linda was a great fuck, can't say the same for you and your boring ass. I will be leaving now." He snatched the papers and left.

"Now Mr. Grant, this house is just as much yours as it is mine, if anyone comes here and disrespects any one of us you have all the rights to throw them out by whatever means necessary. Now we have a few hours to ourselves, make love to me please."

"I love the way you think." He looked around and the perfect place came to mind. He had installed a closet just off the living room for linens. He took her by the hand and led her to it. Pulling her in, he closed the door. He wasted no time. She was conveniently wearing a flare skirt and no panties.

"Mm." Tobias moaned as he touched her soft skin.

He lifted her onto one of the shelves and braced each leg on the side of the closet.

"I love you exposed like this." He leaned forward and tasted her.

“Oh... yessss.”

“Tell me what you want me to do honey.”

He raises his head and looks at her. Her head is resting on the wall of the closet and she licks her lips every few seconds. The light overhead casts a soft glow on both of them, Feona is already glistening with perspiration.

“I....I....”

“Tell me.....” Tobias growled.

“Make me come, please.” She whispered.

“Your wish madam.”

Tobias resumed his position between her legs and continued licking her. He moves her legs from the sides of the closet and places them on his shoulders. They were talking in bed once and she mentioned that she reached orgasm better when her legs were close together. Tobias pushed back her legs and she moaned loudly.

He wanted to give her more pleasure, so he inserted a finger into her and pressed downward. Feona let out a hiss. She was already supported by the shelf so he let go one of her legs, brought his arm over her hip and pulled back on her pelvic area. Her clitoris was now exposed even more and he sucked even harder.

Feona swore she was being turned inside out.

“Tobias!”

He turned his finger upward and started a slow movement, then he pressed into her and that did it.

“Oh.....I’m coming.”

He rode the seconds out with her, letting her pleasure take her over. She was breathing so loudly now and she was trembling furiously. Tobias lifted her off the shelf and took her into the bedroom. Laying her on the bed, he sat down and watched her. She was still shaking and as she opened her eyes and looked at him, she wondered if something was wrong.

“Honey?”

“Yes baby.”

“Are you finished?”

“Do you want me to be?”

“No, I need you inside me, I always need that.”

He stripped off his clothes and suddenly he felt ashamed of his body. When he was finally naked he lay down and didn’t touch Feona.

“Do you think I’m sexy?”

“Of course I do love. What’s wrong?”

“I know I make you feel good because you tell me so, but meeting every one of your friends, they always mention my size as if it’s a disease. Patrick looks like he stepped off GQ, how can I compete with that?”

“Tobias Zachary Grant, I have never heard you talk like this. You know it’s funny, I’ve been with three guys in the last 20 years all of them looked like they stepped off GQ and NONE of them can compare to you. They were lairs, cheaters and severely obnoxious. I love who you are, I was attracted you from the day you came to look at the house, don’t you realise that? I used to be so caught up with looks and money and popularity that I missed out on what really made me happy and you came along and opened up a whole new world. We have two beautiful children and when we get married some more will come along, I have never wanted a baby so bad from any of them. If you wanted to go to the gym, I would go with you but in my eyes you are perfect for me and I don’t care what others think.”

“Thank you, I needed to hear that. Let me love you now.”

“I want you to do something for me.”

“What’s that?”

“Spank me.” Feona blushed.

“Feona?”

“I’ve always wanted to try it but I never trusted anyone that much not to hurt me.”

“Hmmm, anything else you want.”

“Sometimes when you’re inside me you push so deep, it hurts at first but then it feels more like pressure.”

“You want me to do that now?”

Feona nodded slowly.

“Turn over on your stomach.”

Feona turns over so quickly, she almost falls off the bed. Tobias laughs at her.

“You really are excited by this spanking thing aren’t you?”

“Mmm hmm!” She is already in position with her ass stuck high in the air, eyes closed and waiting.

Tobias sits next to her on the bed and begins to rub her ass slowly and when she relaxes he delivers the first slap. She screams into the pillow. Tobias rubs the

area as it begins to redden. Her breath is coming quickly as she anticipates the next one. Tobias keeps rubbing and as she relaxes again, the second one.

“Inside me now, please.”

Tobias reaches into the drawer and takes out a condom and puts it on. Feona turns onto her back and pulls her legs up to her chest. Tobias moved between them and wait for her nod. She gives it and in one swift motion he plunges.

“You are so wet honey. Did the spanking turn you on that much?”

“You turn me on, just by giving me what I asked for, it just makes me hotter for you.”

Tobias pushes forward a bit more.

“Deeper.”

Tobias grows and pushes as far as he can possibly. Feona arches against him.

“Oh my yes, yes, make it hurt.”

Tobias goes rigid and stops.

Instantly Feona feels shamed.

“Honey, why would you want me to hurt you intentionally, is there something you haven’t told me?”

“I..... you were angry with me because of something I said and you were so intense, it felt good. I said you hurt me because I didn’t want you to think I was weird. Oh I can’t explain it, it not the pain that gets me excited, it your intensity. Never mind, just make love to me.”

“Feona. I need you to be honest with me.”

“Okay.”

“Were you molested as a child?”

Feona sat up straight and pushed Tobias from her. She flew into the bathroom and locked the door.

Tobias got up, put on his clothes and went down to the living room.

Half an hour later Feona came down looking for him.

“Hi.” She had showered and put on a halter top and flared skirt.

“Hello.”

“I..... how did you know?”

“I did a counseling course before Kavin was born, it included signs of molestation. Most people who were molested as a child manifest an urge to feel pain. They believe they were bad somehow and need punishing.”

“It was my school teacher, he was supposed to be giving me lessons. He was my mother’s friend and when he insisted I needed music lessons she was all for it. He would make me.....”

“I’m not pushing, you can tell me when you are ready honey.”

“I have to talk about it, especially with the man I have grown to love so much, you need to know the real me and decide if you still want me.”

“I’ve already made up my mind love, I’m here until the end.”

“Lessons started around 4:30 three days a week. He was nearby the school, so I walked over with him. He had a piano in his living room. I was so excited at first and one day I was playing a piece I had practiced hard on and he touched me. He didn’t ease into it, he walked up behind me and put his hand between my legs. I was 14 and by then my body was flourishing in every way possible. He knew what he was doing because within a few minutes of him touching me I had an orgasm. I started to cry not because of what he did but because I thought I had done something wrong. When I looked up at him he smiled and led me into his bedroom. He undressed me quickly and knelt down in front of me. When his lips touched me, I leaned into him. I had my second orgasm in less than fifteen minutes. I never told him to stop. All these feelings were taking over my body. I wanted more so I continued the music lessons until I turned 18. One day I showed up and there was another girl there, about 14. I realised, he now saw me as too old. I went to the Principal’s office the next day since I wasn’t going to school anymore and I told him my story, he told me I was only telling it because I got replaced. I think a lot of things died in me that day. He never did more than oral. Anyway, I finished my classes and my mother was pushing me towards another friend of hers. She wanted me to get a music scholarship and the only way to do this was to suck up to one of the board members. Every time he came to the house for one of her soirees she pushed me at him. I was 18 years old and my own mother wanted me to get involved with a man who was 35. She got what she wanted but not the way she wanted it. He wasn’t interested in me until I played the piano at a charity event. All of a sudden, I was the object of his attraction or more like obsession. He introduced me to every influential person in the music industry and I realised too late what was happening. I was falling in love with him and he was falling in love with my mother’s money and my potential to become a star. He took my virginity one night after a concert. I was half drunk and so was he. We made it to a rented apartment without crashing his car and when I woke up the next morning, I saw the blood on the bed and I took a shower and went home. My mother called

me every name in the book and told me I was a worthless whore. I had an aunt who was always on my side. I called and told her everything and I moved in with her. I have lived here ever since. When she died my heart broke but I was determined to make something of myself and the money she left me started my business and as time went on I fixed up the house, the rest is history.”

“Thank you for telling me. My mind hasn’t changed, I still need you as my wife.”

“I thought you were going to get up and leave. I have felt dirty for so many years, I don’t get depressed when I think back but I find I have these kinky urges, like the spanking and the other thing.”

“I fully understand honey and honestly, I can be kinky as you well know but I will never punish you. I got angry that day and I vowed never to be that way with you. I like dirty talk, and toys but hurting you intentionally, no and I won’t encourage it. I can handle being intense and right now I wanna be inside you again, come here.” He held out his hand and when she took it he pulled her to straddle him. He was as hard a rock. He quickly freed himself, pulled a condom from his pocket and put it on.

“Ride me honey.”

Feona fitted herself to Tobias and slowly sunk herself onto him. She immediately felt full. She scooted forward and rested her head on his shoulder. When Tobias placed his hand on her ass cheeks, she began to slide backward and forward.

“Tobias!”

“I’m here with you love.”

“I love you.” She whispered into his ear.

“I love you too honey.”

She increased her movements and when Tobias felt she was close he got up still inside her and turned to lay down on the sofa. He settled once again and he opens his eyes to look at Feona. Her eyes are open as well.

“Please Tobias, I can handle it.”

Tobias does not answer, he begins a slow rhythm and tries to maintain control but as Feona begins to feel him she wants more.

“Deeper please Tobias, go deeper, I need you to.” She pulls her legs from around his back and locks her feet at the back of his neck. Tobias is lost.

The feel of her taking him all in creates a heat inside him. He has to hold off or he will burst into flames.

“Yes, that’s it.”

Tobias pounded into her and she stayed with him. He had to admit he loved this about her, the fact that after all she went through she could enjoy every aspect of sex.

“Oh God Tobias, I’m coming.”

“Half an hour later they are still wrapped up in each other on the sofa. Tobias’ watch alarms and he groans.

“Baby, I have to go get the children.”

“Can I come with you?”

“They would love that, we could go somewhere and grab some food. Oh wait no, they will want to go home and shower and change clothes.”

“That’s okay, we can go pick them up and go to your house and wait for them.”

“I’m surprised you have the energy to even talk. Are you okay, I didn’t hurt you did I?”

“If I could only explain how that feels to me, you would understand. Come on let’s go take a quick shower.”

They took a shower and Feona surprised Tobias with new jeans, shirts, socks and a pair of Timberlands.

“Not a word, after the performance you just put down, I would buy you a whole wardrobe.” She said laughing.

“Thank you.”

Chapter TEN

As the weeks passed Tobias began moving into Feona’s house, every once in a while a friend or family member would visit and it would end up in an argument over the man she chose for a husband. Feona decided she would only invite her sister to the wedding and it would be very small and intimate. The children invited their mother and a few aunts, uncles and cousins.

Tobias makes a complete physical change – over the two months before the wedding – he trains; and hard. On the wedding day he is every woman's dream.

When Feona walked up the aisle, she thought Tobias had changed his mind, she didn't recognise the man wearing the suit. He timed it perfectly. When she got to the top of the carpet, he turned to face her.

"Tobias?"

"It's me honey."

"What, how, when?"

"I will tell you later, right now we need to get married."

"I now pronounce you man and wife. Ladies and gentlemen I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Grant.

The reception was held at the restaurant he had taken her to. When it was time to make the speech and toast, Tobias stood up and began to speak.

"Life has a funny way of changing you. Physically, mentally, emotionally and even financially. I have two beautiful children and although their mother and I aren't together anymore, my wife saw to it that she remained an integral part of their lives. When I met Feona, it was just to do a job. She never treated me like an outcast even though her friends made mention of my weight and the fact that I wasn't rich like them. She treated me like a man and all she asked for in return was love. She took an interest in my family and my business and I have the utmost respect for her. I lied to her about one thing, sorry honey but I wasn't working on any jobs, I wanted to train and make our wedding day as perfect as it could possibly be. I trained at home and this is the result. Now, there is one person here I would like to thank. Mrs. Rawlins, I know you still believe I am not good enough for your daughter and contrary to your beliefs, I do love her and I will make her the happiest woman alive. I know you think you were doing the right thing but this, is not acceptable and it tells me that you underestimate your daughter's potential as a woman."

Tobias held up a piece of paper and tore it in half.

"My thanks goes to you because you gave me the best woman in the world who is now my wife. I hope one day you will realise your error and welcome your new family. To everyone else here, thank you for joining with us on our special day, enjoy the rest of your night.

Feona snatched up the piece of paper and put her hand to her mouth. The tears flooded her eyes, then as she searched for her mother she saw her leaving the restaurant. She got up to follow her but Tobias stopped her.

“Don’t honey, this is what she wants, to spoil your day.”

“You turned this down for me?”

“Honey, no amount of money can make me leave you.” He kissed her softly on the lips as people came over to talk and congratulate them.

After the cutting of the cake, the photographs, it was time to go home. One of Tobias’ clients had given them a honeymoon to Ocho Rios and Kaila volunteered to stay with the children at Feona’s house.

The week passed quickly and Tobias was eager to see the children, so was Feona. They had a wonderful honeymoon and were now ready to get back to work. Feona called her sister.

“Thanks for keeping them Kaila.”

“Not a problem sis. I am so happy for you. Before I forget again, how much did mom write that cheque for?”

“Let it go babe, I just got back and I don’t need thought of mother ruining my bliss.”

“Humour me.”

“\$375,000. What’s so important about that?”

Kaila plunked down onto the sofa and let out a frustrated groan.

“Kai, what’s wrong?”

“A few months ago, I went to mother about starting my own business. She told me flat out no. I went to dad and she told him to say no and he did. I went to the bank to get a loan and for some reason I was told my credit rating was high and I didn’t have a job so I didn’t qualify. The thing is, I don’t have a bank account in my name, nor credit cards, higher purchase accounts – nothing. I called the Credit bureau and they told me the places that I owed. Apparently my husband has been buying things and putting them in my name claiming they are for me as gifts. The

next thing I find out is that my mother paid him to stay with me when we got married and she would give him money every month. I saw his account and I crossed referenced it with dad's cheque book, she paid him \$375,000. That's all we are worth to her Feona. Well I've had enough, I'm not going to stand around anymore and let her and my husband ill-treat me." Kaila hangs up from her sister and goes over to her mother's house.

On pulling up in the driveway she sees a familiar car. Michael is there.

"Why is he here?" She gets out and quietly makes her way inside. She gets the shock of her life when she sees Michael and her mother in a hot and passionate kiss. She backs away slowly and goes back to the front door. She opens it and slams it shut.

"MOM! Are you here?"

"Lower your voice Kaila, the entire neighbourhood does not need to know you have arrived."

Kaila takes a deep breath and prays she can follow through with what she came to do. She makes her way over and when she has her mother in her sight, she launches a verbal attack.

"Imagine, you tried to pay Tobias not to be with Feona. Of all the dirty things you could do to your own daughter. I don't get it! Why do you feel the need to control every living thing around you? You twist and turn people to suit your fancy and then when they are of no more use to you, you discard them like an old candy wrapper. Why mother, WHY?"

"Tobias is not good enough for Feona, she will learn this sooner or later."

"That's not for you to decide. How could you?"

"Kaila, that is none of your business, stay out of it." Michael finally finds his voice.

"As for you, I don't know what I ever saw in you. The 375 that she paid you couldn't have lasted long, how much more is she paying you to stay with me Michael?"

Kaila's mother never faltered.

"Bite your tongue young lady, he would have left long ago if it weren't for my grand babies."

“The babies you have never spent more than five seconds with? The babies you took three months before you even saw the first one and 6 months before you saw the second one? The babies who are not allowed to call you gran? You were never a mother to me so I shouldn’t expect any more from you. So tell me, how much is she paying you Michael?”

“Five grand.”

“I am only worth five thousand dollars a month, wow. I’m not surprised though. Tobias is a better person than BOTH of you!”

“Enough of your insolence. Michael and I have business to discuss, leave.”

“I find it amazing that I could be so stupid for so long. I wonder if Dad knows you are fucking your mother-in-law!”

“I said ENOUGH!”

“NO MOTHER, I have had ENOUGH. You two make me sick. I now realise why Feona left. She knows the depths you will go to for control, well no more. Every time he hit me I came to you and begged you to help me and you told me I was a bad wife and mother and I must have done something to upset him. You can consider me out of your lives, both of you. I feel sorry for dad, he actually cares about you but you will never see that.”

Kaila turns and runs out of the house. She gets into her car and speeds off to her house. She feels so liberated now. She will grab the children and ask Kaila if she can move in with her for a while.

The children are at nursery and primary school, she will pack up some things and find an apartment until Kaila talks to Tobias.

She was in the middle of walking through the living room with a few bags when Michael stormed into the house. She drops the bags and attempts to run but he catches up to her quickly and punches her in the face. Kaila knows she needs to get out, she no longer cares what people will say about her, she needs to get out before Michael kills her.

“I married you because your mother wanted me to, she promised to further my career and introduce me to the corporate world. You *think* for one minute that I will let you ruin this for me?” He kicked her in the ribs.

“Six years, I put up with you and your stupidity. You can’t do anything for yourself, everything your mother must do for you.” He kicked her again. Kaila groaned in pain. She was beginning to lose consciousness. Somewhere in her head she pictured her children coming home from school and finding her dead.

She pretended to pass out. Michel bought it and left for the kitchen. When Kaila felt he was far away enough she summoned up every ounce of energy and quietly made it to their bedroom. She locked the door and quickly called Feona.

“Hey sis what’s up?”

“I need you to come get me, I don’t want to do this anymore. Bring Tobias with you Michael is mad. Hurry please!”

Feona called Tobias.

“Honey, Kaila is in trouble can you meet me at their house?”

“On my way.”

Feona got there first. Michael was beating on the door of their bedroom.

“Michael why don’t you leave her alone, haven’t you done enough?”

“Stay out of my business bitch, you and your bad influence has turned my wife against me now get out of my house!”

“I am not leaving without my sister. Kaila, sweetie, I’m here let’s go.”

Feona heard the bedroom door open and Kaila charged through it, knocking Michael off-balance.

He recovered quickly enough to grab her dress as she was passing. She stumbled and fell. Feona rushed over to her.

“Feona, get out, this is between me and my wife.”

“You mean your fist and her face. Look at her!”

“She deserved it. Now get out.”

“I said I’m not leaving without her. Come on Kaila.”

The two women struggled to get up but they managed to get as far as the front door when Michael grabbed Kaila's hair and threw her to the floor.

"STOP IT!"

"If you don't leave you are next."

"I am not afraid of you Michael, you are a punk and a coward. I'm calling the police."

Feona turned away to pull her cell phone from her bag when Michael spun her around and back-handed her across the face. What he didn't know was that Tobias had pulled up and saw it from outside. Imagine his surprise when the crash he hears is the sound of Tobias smashing the glass doors.

Tobias glances at his wife laying on the floor on one side and his sister-in-law on the other. Everything in him fires up. He walks over to Michael and begins a punching tirade. Michael tries his best bet he is no match for Tobias. It was only when several officers grabbed him, he stopped hitting Michael. The police dragged him away, handcuffed him and shoved him into a police car.

Both Feona and Kaila were unconscious. When Feona wakes up, Kevin is sitting at the foot of the bed asleep.

"Hi sweetie." She whispers groggily.

"You're awake! Be right back."

Kevin flies out of the room and returns with Kendra, Kaila, and her father.

"Dad what are you doing here? Where's Tobias?"

"He's in jail Feona, I just came to see how you and your sister were doing."

"Jail? Why? I need to see him, get me a doctor right now."

"Calm down sis. I will go find the doctor, dad can you please leave for now. The children will stay with her."

Their father shrugged and left.

"Kaila found an attorney for Dad, they are charging him with assault and Michael is pressing charges as well. The police say they did not see Michael hit either of you only Tobias hitting him, so it's your word against his."

“Pack my stuff, I need to see my husband.”

Kavin packed up Feona’s things into her carry bag and they sat and waited for the doctor.

Chapter ELEVEN

The judge decided to try both cases at the same time. In court Kaila relives her marriage, Feona testifies to her attack but when it was Tobias’ turn to take the stand a man walks in with a brown envelope and approaches the judge. When the judge opens it, there are over 50 letters from Tobias’s clients vouching for his character. The judge puts Michael on the stand.

“How old are you Mr. Carrington?”

“45 your Honour.”

“Mr. Grant was defending his wife and her sister, you were just abusive. I am sentencing you to 5 years in prison with chance for parole in 2 years.”

“Wait, no!” It was Kaila.

“Mrs. Carrington?”

“Your honour, my children are still babies, I don’t want their father in prison, I will find another home to live in. He can see them when he wants just don’t send him to prison and he has to agree to counselling. I love him because he gave me my children and God knows I have given him many chances to change. People will say I am stupid but I believe there is some good left in him somewhere and if it’s there, I have to try to find it.”

Michael hung his head. The realization of his actions punched him in the gut.

“Your honour, I will agree to anything she wants, I will move out and she can stay there with the children, she has always wanted to work and I stopped her because it gave me control over her. She has always been good to me and I abused her for so long so anything she wants she will have it. Even though I was abused as a child I have no excuse for treating someone as lovely and forgiving as her like that. Feona, I know you were just protecting your sister and I’m sorry for hitting you as well. Tobias, I will drop the charges.”

The judge sits back in his chair. Most of the time an abuser will maintain his animosity towards people and he knew some men were good lairs. He gave it a few moments thought.

“Mr. Carrington, your wife has made a very special plea on your behalf. I do not believe you will change over-night but I am willing to give you the chance to change your life. You are on one year probation, I will assign an officer to keep tabs on you at random. You are to move out from your current home and allowed visitation to be decided by your wife. If you so much as raise your voice to her, we won’t be doing this again. You will also be signed up for a counselling class and the only way you can miss a session is death. You are free to go. Now Mr. Grant, I must say you must be an exceptional man from the types of clients you have vouching for you. Although I do not condone what you did to Mr. Carrington, I understand why. I hereby sentence you to fix up the Children’s Home nearest to you free of cost to them. You are also free to go. Before you go though I need to see you in my chambers alone. Follow me.”

The judge banged his gavel and got up. He opened the door to his chambers and took a seat. Tobias followed and took a seat as well.

“Read this.” He handed Tobias a letter. Tobias read it and was trying not to laugh.

“Go ahead, laugh, I cannot believe her.”

Tobias burst out. The judge’s wife had written a letter telling him if he even thought about putting Tobias in prison, he wouldn’t get any sex for the rest of the year. She said if he beat someone up they deserved it. They were a young couple and just the threat of no sex for even a few days was totally foreign to him.

“I didn’t know it was you who worked on our house. It’s hard to find someone who can satisfy my wife, she is a hard woman to please and yet you gave her exactly what she wanted. I am impressed. I will see to it that you get more work. You should think about opening a training school. If you do, I will send you all my first time offenders as punishment. You can stop laughing now.”

“Thank you your honour. Tell your wife, I appreciate her help. I will think about the school idea. My wife is great at that stuff.”

Tobias left the chambers and went out to meet his family who were anxiously waiting. Michael was sitting by himself looking lost. Tobias went over to him and sat down.

“Do you want to turn your life around Michael?”

“I have to for their sakes, I can’t believe I hurt her so much and today when she could have thrown me to the dogs she put herself at the risk of looking like a fool. She loves me Tobias, that has to mean something. I will do whatever needs to be done to make it up to them.”

“The judge just gave me an idea and I think you will like it but know this, I will kill you the next time.”

Tobias got up and went to the others.

“I love you Mr. Grant, let’s go home.

As the weeks followed the Grant household was a happy one. Kaila was healing nicely and the children got to see their father three supervised days a week. Michael went to counselling and never missed a day. Tobias opened the training school and put him as the accountant. Feona’s mother stayed away from both her daughters. Her husband found out about Michael’s affair with his wife. He cut off all her access to his money, sold the house and put her in a small town house while he took a vacation to get away from it all.

“Kendra’s late honey, did she tell you she had an extra class or something?”

“No hon and this is not like her to call.”

Just then Tobias’ cell phone rings.

“Kendra honey where are you?”

“It’s me Dad.”

“Son? Where are you?”

“You gotta come quick, Kendra was in an accident. We are at the QEH.”

Tobias grabbed his wife and flew out to the truck. Fifteen minutes later he was at the reception desk asking about his daughter. He was buzzed in and told she was in bed 8.

“Are you her parents?”

“Yes we are. How is she?”

“She needs blood, follow that orderly and he will show you what to do. Quickly.”

“Tobias, Kavin, Feona, Kaila, their father, even Michael all came to the hospital to give blood. Sherry was called but two hours later she still hadn’t shown up. Feona decided to go find her.

Feona pulls up at the house and she sees Sherry standing in the doorway and when she sees her she steps back for her to pass. Feona storms into the house.

“What kind of a mother are you, your daughter needs blood and you haven’t even gone to see if your blood will help?”

“I can’t Feona.”

“Kendra needs you, what the hell is wrong with you?”

“I have AIDS Feona.”

“What?” Her voice is barely a whisper.

“Now you know why I can’t give blood. Now please leave.”

Feona doesn’t go home. She fears she is infected and now that she’s pregnant, she fears for the baby as well. She is only two months and she was waiting to surprise Tobias. She calls her sister and they spend the night in a guest house. Tobias calls and calls and she refuses to answer. The next morning. Her sister calls and tells him Feona doesn’t want to see him ever again.

“At least tell me what I’ve done.” His voice is broken and he can barely get out the word.

“Ask Sherry.”

He calls Sherry and when he hears what she has to say everything in him went downhill. He needed to clear up the mistake but then he decides to give his wife some time. A few days turned into a few weeks. Kendra was recovering from her injuries and was at home healing nicely. At the end of two months Tobias couldn’t take it anymore. He and the children were miserable. He went to her sister’s house and demanded she tell him where his wife is.

“Like hell I will, you of all people Tobias. I sided with Feona against our mother and you go do this? How could you not tell someone you have AIDS and marry them?”

“Feona thinks I have AIDS and rather than tell her I chose to infect her?”

Tobias sat down and put his face in his hands.

Kaila was beginning to wonder if things went wrong somewhere in between Sherry’s mouth and Feona’s ear.

“Tobias? You don’t have AIDS?”

“No I don’t. I didn’t even know Sherry had it until she told me today. She obviously got it after we had Kendra and I never touched her since, I didn’t want to have another child with her so I went back to my parents’ house. I haven’t been with anyone since then either and I get medicals every year in case a client asks. I need my wife back Kaila. I need to straighten this out.”

“Here take this key and here is the address.” She gave him a room key and scribbled the address and directions on a piece of paper.

“Thank you.”

Tobias tore out of the house and followed the directions on the paper. He pulled up to the guesthouse and inquired as to where the room was.

“Across the lawn, it’s the single unit on its own.”

“Thanks.”

Tobias walked over to the unit and put the key in the slot. He pushed the door slowly as he didn’t want to frighten her. The unit was self-contained and all in one, so the bed room, kitchen, living and dining were all visible. The bathroom was tucked in a corner only recognizable by the colour of the door. Feona was fast asleep on the bed, on her back and as Tobias got closer, his heart broke into a million pieces. Feona now had a small belly and it was quite evident. Tobias walked over to her, lifted her in his arms and sat down on the bed. He seated her between his legs and rested his hand on her belly.

“Mm.” Feona moaned in her sleep. When he looked at her face she had several tear stains on her cheeks, his heart broke even further to think what she went through in the last two months.

“You know what I don’t understand? We promised we wouldn’t lie to each other or keep things from each other yet here you are pregnant with my baby and you didn’t tell me. Why Feona? What did I do that was so terrible, you needed to hide this from me.” His voice was low and soft. He began to cry. Feona stirred when his body vibrated through hers.

“Tobias?”

“Yes Feona, it’s me.”

“Let me up, you shouldn’t be here.” She tried to get up but he wouldn’t let her.

“You have two choices, either pack your stuff and come with me or divorce me.”

“You want a divorce?”

“I want you Feona and for the life of me I don’t understand how you could just run from me like this. Two months I waited for you to come home and let me explain but you stayed away. Do you have any idea how I feel finding out you are carrying my baby and I didn’t know? How could you?”

“Sherry told me she has AIDS.”

“SHE has AIDS I don’t. I didn’t even know she had it. I stop having sex with her when we had Kendra, the next woman I was so intimate with was you. Sherry didn’t give it to me, she got it from one of her lovers. Explain it to me Feona, I thought we were happy. How could you possibly think I would knowingly have AIDS and just give it to you? It never occurred to you that I gave blood to save my daughter?”

“Oh God. I panicked. I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I felt so alone, I didn’t know what to do.”

“You could have come to me, I’m your husband, and you promised you would always talk to me Feona. Imagine coming in here and seeing your belly. I..... look, I’m taking you home, the children aren’t eating or sleeping not knowing where you were. Your own mother was actually worried. Get dressed, we are leaving.”

“Okay, please don’t be mad.”

“I will stay mad until I decide. You had no right or reason to do this to our family. Now get dressed, I will pack your stuff.”

Tobias was hurting, he was lashing out and with good reason, all he wanted to do was get her home and he would deal with everything else after. He packed her things into the jeep and went to pay the owner of the guest house. When he got back Feona was sitting in the jeep waiting. He got in and drove away.

He pulled up to the house and the children were waiting on the front porch. When the vehicle stopped they ran to meet them.

Kendra yanked open the door and she stopped when she saw Feona's belly.

"You're pregnant?"

"She's pregnant?" Gavin repeated from behind his sister.

"Hey you two, ease off. Feona go inside and wait for me I need to talk to these two."

"I need to talk to them too."

"I said go inside Feona, this is not the time for you to be arguing with me." He raised his voice.

Feona flinched at the tone of her husband's voice, she quickly made her way inside tears flowing down her face.

"Dad what's wrong?" Kendra asked. She had never seen their father like this and especially not with Feona.

"Sit on the porch guys."

The children sat on the porch while their father stands to face them.

"Sherry has AIDS, she told this to Feona who in turn thought I kept it from her and infected her, that's why she disappeared, and as you can see she is about four months pregnant. I am angry with her but I will try my best to repair the damage that has been done. I don't have the disease and neither does Feona. What I need from you two is a little bit of patience while we sort this mess out okay?"

"Yes Dad, we already know about mom but she doesn't know. I saw her medication and looked it up on the internet."

"Your mom must be going through hell and knowing that she couldn't give you blood must have made her angry enough to implicate me but never mind. Right now Feona is my priority. Now I need to go talk to her, I think I scared her a bit today."

"You scared me too Dad, I've never seen you that angry, I thought...."

“I would never hit either of you and surely not my wife, pregnant or otherwise, never fear me in that way okay?”

“Yes dad.”

“Okay I will see you both later.”

Tobias went inside and found Feona asleep on the bed, she was crying again. Same as before, he picked her up and sat on the bed with her and rubbed her belly.

“Tobias?”

“I’m here.”

“I’m sorry.” She sniffled.

“Me too, I shouldn’t have raised my voice at you in front of the children or otherwise. I love you so much Feona and it hurts to think that you don’t trust me.”

“I do, I do but I was so scared.”

“I know honey, look I explained everything to the children, but we need to move on from here.”

“I agree, I missed you so much. I cried every night, my sister begged me to call you and tell you what happened but I couldn’t, I didn’t know how to even begin. Make love to me Tobias. I ache to feel you.”

“The children are home.”

“They have class today, they will be gone soon.”

“You remember that?”

“I love them too ya’ know, I missed them as well. This baby is blessed.”

“Baby. We are having a baby.” The pent up need in Tobias sent a rush through his body. He kissed his wife and it quickly became wanton.

“I need to check on the children before they leave, I will be back in a few minutes.”

He untangled himself from her and left to see the children off.

“Did you make up?”

“Are you getting divorced?”

“What? No, we are fine, I’m not angry anymore and Feona is resting for a bit. What time are you leaving?”

“In about ten minutes, we will take the bus, so you don’t have to leave Feona alone, I think she needs you right now.”

“Kavin, how long have you had your license?”

“Two years now Dad, why?”

“Here, bring it back when classes are finished, if anything I can always take Feona’s car.” He handed his son the keys to his jeep.

“I’m honoured Dad, thank you.”

“I will see about getting you a car so you don’t have to depend on me anymore. Make arrangements to pick up your sister. See you both tonight.” He hugged the children and went back to his wife.

Feona had gotten up and went to take a shower, when Tobias came into the bedroom he could see her walking around naked in the bathroom. He got hard immediately.

He stood at the bathroom door watching her. She was standing by the tub talking to her belly. Tobias felt his heart soar.

“You are so beautiful Mrs. Grant.”

“Oh! Thank you. Come.”

Tobias stripped his clothes and sunk into the water with her.

“I’m sorry. I’m so sorry.” She rested her back on his chest and put her head on his shoulder.

“Shush now, we both made mistakes, what’s important is that you are back home where you belong and I will try my best to show you that you can depend on me.”

“Mm.” Feona drifted off to sleep. When she awoke, she was laying on her side, covered with a sheet and she was dry.

“Tobias?” She turned on her back to see if he was in the bedroom. There he was sitting in a chair staring at her.

“Is something wrong?”

“I need to be inside you.”

“Come.”

“I can’t, I think I will hurt you.”

“You won’t and I need you too.” She held out her hand.

Tobias got up and let the towel he was wearing drop from his waist. He crawled up Feona's body. He wanted to pleasure her and he was finding it hard to control himself. His need was animalistic and raw.

He knew she was aching as well, he could smell her as she slept and now she was awake, she was driving him mad.

"You are even more beautiful now my love."

"All because of you. Now please."

Feona opened her legs and pulled her husband between them. Tobias positioned himself and slowly slid inside her.

"Oh..." Feona arched her back and before she knew it, her orgasm was upon her. Tobias hadn't even moved yet. She flopped back onto the bed.

"Sorry."

"I am amazed, how long did that take, a few seconds?" Tobias laughed softly.

"Oh don't laugh, that's months without you."

Tobias began to pull back.

"No, don't go, you didn't....." Feona stifled a yawn.

"That's okay honey, look at you, you can't even keep your eyes open."

"It's okay, I still want you." She yawned again.

Tobias laughed and completely pulled away from her. He nestled himself against her back and before he could rest his head on the pillow she was fast asleep.

Chapter TWELVE

Feona decided she would continue working until it was time for the baby to be born. She was now 8 months but she could barely walk. Tobias told her it was time to stay home.

"Can I at least work from home then?"

"No, I don't even want you to fluff a pillow. The children are on vacation and they will be at your beck and call. I moved some of our stuff to the guest bedroom so you don't have to go up and down the stairs. I will shift some of my work load and hire a few more staff."

"But..."

“But nothing, wrap up what you need to, delegate duties to your staff and come home, that’s final.”

Feona gave in and did as her husband told her to do. She spent the next few weeks preparing for the baby. They had decorated the nursery and it was ready for the new addition to the Grant family.

One day Feona was sitting in the patio, watching Kendra swim and she heard the doorbell ring.

“Someone’s at the door K, I will see who it is.”

“No! I will go.”

“Too late I am half way there.”

Feona regretted not letting Kendra go because as soon as she opened the door her day was ruined.

“What do you want Vanessa, you are not welcome here.”

“Is that any way to treat your best friend?” Vanessa pushed her way into the house knowing Feona was in no position to stop her.

“Vanessa, I will ask you politely, get out of my house.”

“I came to see how you were doing? Where’s that handy man of yours?”

“On his way here and you better be gone by the time he reaches.” Kendra said in her most venomous tone.

“Oh look one of his bastards, don’t test me little girl. I am not one of your school buddies so don’t think you can speak to me that way.”

“She can speak to you however she wants, this is her home. Now again, get out. Oh.” Feona put her hand on her tummy.

“Feona?”

“Baby’s moving, he must not like the intrusion to his quiet time.”

“Here sit down, Dad is on his way. Vanessa can you PLEASE leave, don’t you know when you aren’t wanted?”

“Fine!” Vanessa was on her way to her Mercedes when she saw Tobias’s truck pull up. He got out and slammed the door. As he walked towards her Vanessa felt a heat rush between her legs. This was not the man she had seen before. She had not been to the wedding and she hadn’t seen the changes until now.

Tobias was not pleased at all. Kendra had called and said Vanessa was there and she was upsetting Feona and to come quickly.

“Vanessa, glad to see you’re leaving. Walk faster.”

“I’ll be back.”

Tobias ignored her and rushed into the house.

“Feona!”

“In here Dad!” Kendra responded.

Feona was breathing deep and she seemed to be in a bit of pain.

“I think the baby’s coming.”

“Kendra honey, grab her bag from the bedroom and meet me in the truck.”

“OH!” Feona let out a shriek. “My water broke.”

“No contractions?”

“None yet but he’s moving a lot, I feel like pushing.”

“Come on, off to the hospital we go.”

Tobias lifted her into his arms and made his way to the truck. He was settling her into the back seat when Kendra hopped into the front and put her seatbelt on.

They arrived at the hospital and Feona was calm but taking deep breaths.

Tobias got out and ran inside to get a wheelchair.

“We don’t have any available, can you carry her?”

“Not a problem.” He ran back to the truck and lifted her out and took her inside, followed by Kendra. He rested her on a bed and the nurse pulled the curtain.

“Hello Mrs. Grant, let’s take a look at you.” A doctor appeared and smiled at them.

“How far are the contractions?”

“I haven’t had any but he is just moving and I feel like pushing.”

“As long as he is moving, try not to worry, let’s get you upstairs, we are going to monitor you for a bit. Don’t hesitate to tell me if you feel any kind of pain.”

“No pain just pressure.”

“Good, let’s go.”

Eight hours later.

“Dad she is so sweet, can we name her?” Kendra asked.

“Ask her mother.” Tobias smiled.

“You can have first name.”

“Theona.”

“Oh brownie points love.” Feona giggled at Kendra.

“Well that settles it. Welcome to the family Theona Alicia Grant.”

The Grant family was finally settled. Theona who they referred to as Ali, was a quiet child and never made much of a fuss about anything. Feona decided she would continue to stay at home and delegate as much of the work as possible. She hired her sister as her manager and business was going smoothly. The children were finishing up school and would both be off to University after the summer. They opted to stay in Barbados as the college had everything they wanted to study and then they would go overseas and complete whatever they needed to. They also suggested that they would work for Feona and their father when they came back.

Feona spent her days watching her baby daughter grow and when she was asleep she would play house wife to the rest of her family. She was at home about to do the laundry when Vanessa showed up.

“Not again.”

While walking to the door she dialed her husband and left the phone on.

“What do you want Vanessa?”

“I came to see how you were doing your days must be rather boring. You need to get out and go partying like we used to.”

“Partying? Woman have you gone totally loco? I have a baby and a family to take care of and WHY would I want to go anywhere with you ever again. You continuously try to destroy my marriage, my sanity, anything. Vanessa if you ever cared about me at all just please leave me alone.”

Alicia sensing her mother’s distress began to cry.

Feona turned away from Vanessa and walked over to the play pen and picked her baby up.

“You think you are so perfect, I know all about you so don’t think you can get rid of me so easily, I will tell Tobias everything.”

“Stay away from my family Vanessa, don’t you dare come into my house and threaten me. I need to feed my baby, leave or I will call the cops.”

“I warned you Mrs. Grant, my next move is your doing.”

Vanessa stormed out of the house and screeched her car out of the driveway.

“Did you get all of that?”

“Yeah I did, wanna talk about it?”

“When you get home, I need to feed Ali, it’s not as bad as you think and I know you won’t judge me. I love you Tobias, I need you to stay strong on this one.”

“There is nothing from your past we can’t get over. The woman you are today outshines anything, I love you too, see you in a bit honey.”

“Oh Vanessa why now? What are you up to?”

Feona fed Alicia and they both drifted off to sleep on the sofa. She awoke to the feel of her daughter being taken from her arms by her father. She kept her eyes closed and pretended to be asleep.

“Hello my pretty one. How was your day? Did that mean woman upset you and your mom? Don’t worry, Dad’s got you both.”

Alicia cooed at her father’s words. He changed her and put her in her playpen.

He walked back to Feona and kissed her on the lips and went to take a shower. When he came back down the washer was going, music was playing and Feona was cooking.

“I wanted to do that.” He put his arms around her and held her close.

“I didn’t realise I was so tired, I’m sorry.”

“It’s not a problem honey, if you don’t want to cook I can do it, today was an easy day for me, you are here with Ali all day. Something Vanessa said registered in my mind. Since our daughter was born the only place you have been is to the doctor for checkups. You need to get back into circulation, see your friends and family and go to the office every once in a while. Ali won’t be at home for much longer, she is already 4 months.”

“You want me to go back to work?”

“You can do whatever you feel comfortable but I don’t want you to think you have to stay home and be a house wife. I love coming home to find my two girls but I don’t want you to get lonely and depressed or feel worthless.”

“I will think about it but I must admit I love being at home with her and being here when you come home. Living such a corporate life doesn’t have the same appeal it used to.”

“Okay, just know that I am behind you always and now that the little tyke is asleep, talk to me.”

“Give me a few minutes let me finish up. The others will be home soon and hungry.”

She finished cooking and turned off the oven. She sat at the table facing Tobias.

“I have managed to keep this under wraps but now that Vanessa is on her tirade, it won’t stay hidden for long. Remember the music teacher I told you about?”

“Yes.”

“It was Vanessa’s father. Her sister found out and committed suicide and Vanessa didn’t put it all together until I told her certain things. She swore she would never tell anyone. She used to see little girls learning to play the piano every year and she never thought her own father was a predator. I don’t think this is just about her exposing my past, she wants something and knowing her, she will bulldoze everything in her path.”

“Whatever happens I am here.”

“I know and that sounds like our children.”

Feona had bought a Yaris for Kavın to get around and her only rule was that he make sure his sister got wherever she needed to go.

Things quieted down with Vanessa for a few days and then one day Feona was out shopping with Kendra and the baby and Vanessa saw her. She took out her cell and dialed the Grant household.

“Hello.”

Vanessa hung up. She got into her car and sped over to the house. She rang the doorbell and when Tobias opened she pushed her way in.

“What do you want since no one in this house has anything to do with you?”

“I always thought you were useless but now I see why Feona puts up with you.”

“I ask again, what do you want?”

“I want you Tobias, I need fucking and you are the perfect candidate.”

“You have GOT to be joking.”

“I am dead serious, I have wanted you for months now, so give me what I want or I will tell the world about your wife’s little secret.”

“I would never touch you Vanessa, not after I have been with the most wonderful woman in this universe.”

Vanessa quickly strips off her clothes.

“You will give me what I want or I will ruin her life. She thinks she is better than all of us and I will show the world different, she will lose all her clients and her precious family.”

“Vanessa, either you leave on your own or I will call the police and have you arrested for trespassing again.”

Vanessa ignores Tobias’ words and walks over to him. She reaches out to touch his chest. Tobias steps back and Vanessa surges forward and she trips and falls, hitting her head on the counter.

When she wakes up, there is a doctor, two nurses and two policemen surrounding her bed.

Chapter THIRTEEN

“You’re finally awake Ms. Seale. As soon as you can talk the police need to take your statement.”

“What happened? What did Tobias do to me?”

“Tobias Grant?”

“Yes.”

“He was the one who brought you in. Did he hurt you?”

“I went to their house to talk to Feona, his wife and she wasn’t there and he tried to rape me, that’s all I remember.”

“Are you saying Mr. Grant assaulted you and that’s how you hit your head?”

“I’m saying he attacked me and I don’t remember how I hit my head.”

“Okay we will take your full statement now and take it from there.”

Vanessa played the victim to the hilt. It was going better than she thought, the pain from the fall would go away but the stigma attached to Tobias would stick forever.

Feona had arrived home just after Tobias had returned and when she saw his face she knew something was terribly wrong.

“Honey? What’s wrong?”

“Vanessa was here again.”

“What did she want this time?”

“I finally found out what her game was. She wanted me to have sex with her.”

“Did you?”

“Feona?”

“I am asking. Did you have sex with Vanessa?”

“No I did not, I could never betray you like that. Vanessa said either I had sex with her or she would expose you, I told her to go ahead. She took off her clothes and came towards me, I stepped back and she fell and hit her head, I wrapped her in a sheet and took her to the hospital and came back here. I imagine the police will be here pretty soon to arrest me with the way she was behaving. I swear to you, I didn’t touch her.”

“You don’t need to convince me my love, I trust you. We are in this together. Let me give Ali a bath and feed her, we had a great day today.” She walked up to her husband, tiptoed and kissed him on the lips, she turned Alicia for a kiss from her father, he obliged.

About half an hour later, sure enough a police car pulled into the driveway of the Grant home. They rang the doorbell and Feona answered.

“Come in officers.”

“You were expecting us?”

“Definitely. Follow me please, my husband is feeding our daughter.”

Tobias looked up and saw the two officers.

“Good day officers.”

“Mr. Grant, we would like to ask you a few questions.”

“Go right ahead.”

“Ms. Vanessa Seale said you attacked her in this house earlier today. Is that correct?”

“No it is not. Ms. Seale was my wife’s best friend and even before we got married she has tried all sorts of schemes to come between us. She shows up and causes trouble. Her intent was to get me to have sex with her and I refused. She proceeded to take her clothes off and when she tried to touch me I stepped back and she fell and hit her head. I wrapped her in a sheet and took her to the hospital. Her clothes are in this bag.” Tobias handed one of the officers the bag.

“According to Ms. Seale’s examination, she was raped.”

“Not by me. I would never touch her in anger or otherwise. I only have eyes for my wife and Vanessa could never compare to her.”

“Okay, due to the allegations, you will have to come with us, you haven’t given us any resistance so far, please don’t or we will have to put the cuffs on you.”

“Sure. Honey take Ali, call our lawyer and have her meet me at the station.”

“I can’t believe she is doing this.” Feona said in frustration.

“It will be fine, I didn’t do anything wrong and no matter what, as long as you believe me, nothing else matters. Tell the children what happened.”

Tobias handed Alicia to her mother and left with the officers.

Feona was so pissed off, she called Kaila and asked her and Michael to watch the children until she got back.

Their lawyer met them at the station. Tobias was sitting in the Commissioner of Police’s office drinking a beer. When his lawyer came through the door, the Chief laughed.

“Hello baby girl, what are you doing here?”

“Tobias is my client dad.”

“Why am I not surprised. I am keeping him over night under house arrest, bail will be set in the morning. I know he didn’t do this and we know Vanessa has already did this before but we will let her think she is winning, when I drop the ball her social life will suffer a drastic end result. He is safe with me, go home get some rest, tell your mother I won’t be home until tomorrow for breakfast and I am bringing Tobias with me.”

“Ok dad. Tobias, I would tell you stay out of trouble but you are with trouble reincarnate. Night you two.”

After Belinda left a knock came on the Chief’s door.

“Sir, Mr. Grant’s wife is here.”

“Send her in, she will be glad to see him safe and sound.”

Feona came through the door a few minutes later.

“Hi Chief, I see you have my husband on lock down.”

“Yes my dear and you two are spending the night with me, everything you need is there so no need to go back home for anything. Where is that little munchkin?”

“The officers took her from me, they seem to think she is the best thing since a touch tone phone.”

“Bunch of milk sops, one cute face and they turn to mush. Now, this is how we will deal with Ms. Seale. I have a file on her so thick, she would make the Mob look like peanuts. She has been having sex with high profilers and black mailing them into secrecy. She has never had a job and her parents are about to cut her from their will when this gets out. I already spoke to them and they have decided not to interfere this time. She is on her own. They are all prepared to take a stand against her. I can keep their names out of public domain by having their statements read in a judge’s chambers.”

“No. Let me deal with Vanessa, this time she messed with the wrong woman’s husband. I don’t care if my name get’s out, my husband loves me and I love him. Keep him safe Chief. I am taking my daughter home and staying with the rest of my family. Tobias honey I will see you in the morning after I deal with Vanessa.”

Feona got up, kissed her husband and said goodbye. She pried Alicia from the officers' hands and one of them escorted her home.

Morning came quickly. Feona got up, made breakfast for everyone. Kaila, Michael, their two children, Kendra and Kavin. When they were finishing up Feona appeared in the door way dressed.

"Mom, where are you off to?"

"To see Vanessa. Then I am going to get your father. Kaila, Michael, take care of my family."

Feona kissed the three children and left. She headed to the hospital and when she got to the nurses station she asked for Vanessa Seale. A nurse directed her to bed 12. She walked up to the bed and when Vanessa opened her eyes, the expression that greeted her was one of pure fury. She tried to play the victim once again and appear all broken and depressed.

"Explain to me why you want to hurt me so much." Feona pulled one side of the curtain.

"You always get what you want, a good man, a good home, a good business and a good family. What do I get? A life of lies and men who use me."

"So you figure the only way to get what you want is to destroy me?"

"Hell yes, you have everything so I will just take it from you."

"By telling people that my wonderful husband raped you in our home?" Feona pulled the other side of the curtain and stood at the bottom of the bed.

"Your husband is a punk, he couldn't even get it up for me, I had to suck him to get him hard." Vanessa smiled widely.

"Weird, because I have never had that problem you must be losing your touch. Getting old Vanessa? The body you had 10 years ago isn't working for you now so you need to black mail people who slept with you?"

"And why not? It's a great way to make money. Never have to work a day when I have worthless husbands at my beck and call."

“Except mine, he doesn’t want you so stay away from him.”

“I won’t, he refused me the first time, he won’t a second time.”

“He refused you? How can someone rape you if they refused to even touch you?” Feona was smiling now. Vanessa was caught in her own lie.

“Oh he refused to have sex with me in your house but we made plans to get an apartment.”

“So, uh, if he made plans for another time, why would he need to rape you, in the same house he didn’t even want to have sex with you in?”

Another foul up.

“You are putting words in my mouth, he wanted me and we will have sex eventually.”

“Office, let me ask you a question. In your 30 years on the force, have you ever heard of a victim wanting to have sex with the man she accused of raping her, just the day before?”

“Not in my 30 years no and not only that but she said eventually, I take that to mean they have never had sex before.”

“I agree and your testimony will go towards clearing my husband of all this nonsense.”

“You tricked me!”

“I did no such thing, you lied to everyone as you have been lying for years, I don’t know how I ever thought you were my friend. Goodbye Vanessa, drop the charges or I will sue you with everything I have.”

Vanessa leaps up from the bed, pain and suffering all forgotten and grabs Feona. Her mistake was not only grabbing Feona but she did in front everyone who was on the ward. Feona simply punched her in the face and when she let go of her arm, she fell back onto the bed.

“If you come near me or my family again I will kill you, you understand me?”

“Look what she did to me! Nurse, nurse, help me, this woman is assaulting me!”

“Ms. Seale, it would suit you to be quiet, this is not a night club. I stood here and saw you fly out of a bed which you could not even make it out of to go to the bathroom. You have made our lives miserable since you came in now shut it before I have you thrown out and give the bed to someone who really needs it and

if you ever go near my husband again a punch will be the least of your worries.” The head nurse turned on her heel and went back to her station.

“Sorry about that, Vanessa seems to have been blackmailing half the married male population on this island. I hope she stops now that she has been confronted.”

“Oh I doubt that, women like that stop when an angry wife or husband kills her unfortunately.”

“Yeah life is funny like that. Thanks again.”

Vanessa drops the charges and Tobias is cleared once again. Vanessa on the other hand is after someone else’s husband.

Chapter FOURTEEN

Madison Chandler is a sexy woman, she was raised in a good home with both parents, completed three levels of her education and armed with a degree she applied to Raw Ideas for a job, Feona hired her on the spot. She was charming, pleasant and didn’t feel the need to use her sexuality reign in potential clients. She started off as Secretary and within 2 years, Feona hired a new secretary and promoted Madison to Assistant Manager. She did a fantastic job especially now with Feona wanting to stay at home more with Alicia. Madison had been married only eight months when her husband started acting strange.

“Jeremy, what’s wrong?”

“Why would you think something is wrong?”

“We hardly spend any time together anymore and you accused me of being with another man.”

“I am working more and when I get home I’m tired. As for you being with another man only you would know that.”

“How could you say that to me of all people? I’ve never been with anyone but you, what have I done wrong?”

“You need to quit your job, I can support the both of us.”

“Quit my job? but why? We agreed we would both work until we decided to have a baby, what’s changed?”

“I’ve changed, I need you here when I come home, I wanted a wife not a career woman.”

“I was a career woman when you met me, when we said I do, we have plans, don’t change them now!”

“You asked what was wrong, now I tell you, you won’t abide by my demands? What kind of wife are you?”

Madison stepped back.

“Who is she?”

“Who is she who?”

“The woman who is either feeding you this garbage or who is giving you what I can’t?”

Jeremy’s face flashed several emotions all at once. Anger, shame, frustration, sadness.

“No need to answer, I guess I should have recognised it sooner. It was bad enough you make love to me like I am a stuffed toy but what really hurts is the fact that you are having unprotected sex and you bring your diseases home to me.”

“You stopped having sex with me a few months after we were married.”

“I was in pain and you know that. You know how messed up my menstrual cycle is and I thought you understood! You took me being in pain as an opportunity to go have sex with someone else? For the last few months, I have been begging you to tell me what was wrong, if there was someone else and you lied to my face, you used my vulnerability to continue doing what you wanted. Who is she Jeremy I won’t ask again.”

“Vanessa.”

Madison turned and ran to the bathroom and threw up in the toilet. After a few minutes she brushed her teeth and came out of the bathroom.

“You slept with Vanessa Seale? Of all the people in this world you choose to cheat on me with, you choose Vanessa! Jeremy, Vanessa has been blackmailing husbands all over this country and you just had to go put yourself on her list. Her latest victim was Tobias, the boss’s husband but unfortunately for her Tobias stood his ground and turned her down flat, she accused him of raping her and Feona dealt with it. Then obviously she came after you. It makes sense now, all those times she came by the office and chit chatted she was just making sure I would be there

for a while. Wow, how stupid was I to think my brand new husband loved me enough to be faithful to me.”

“I have no excuse but you didn't make it any better. We haven't made love in months. I begged you and you rejected me each time.”

“Sex was too painful Jeremy. How can you stand there and justify screwing that slut. You couldn't be patient, just a while longer? God I feel sick. You need to go get checked for whatever germs you passed on to me. How much are you paying her?”

“A thousand a week.”

“So that's what those withdrawals are for. Now this is what's going to happen. Stop seeing her, if she wants to go public, let her. If you know you won't stop, then leave me alone, I don't need another infection. I agree with you that I haven't been fulfilling my wifely duties and as mad as I am, I do understand you feeling rejected but if you ever do it again, just file for a divorce.”

Jeremy visits Vanessa to confront her, he had gone to the doctor and was told he had gonorrhea. He tells her everything he knows about her and tells her not to contact him again and to stay away from his wife.

They argue and he slaps her and when she scratches his face before he leaves. Madison shows up right after.

“Oh Gosh what is this the gang up on Vanessa parade? What do you want now, some of what your husband just got? I'm not into women.”

“You bitch, I understand your need to feel worthless to men but you crossed the line when you fucked my husband. You need to go get checked Vanessa and stop spreading diseases.”

“Well whatever I have your husband just took some more, run along and get the left overs.”

Madison lunges at Vanessa and they scuffle for a bit. Madison decides she isn't worth the stress and leaves after warning her again.

“Stay away from my husband.”

After Madison leaves Vanessa is visited by yet another woman but no one saw her come into the building since she already lived there.

“You know Vanessa, I always used to admire you at first. I thought you were this hot sexy chick who had it going on but you are nothing but a gold digging slut and the day you decided my husband was going to be a part of your blackmail list, you signed your death warrant.”

Vanessa looked at the gun and laughed.

“Oh now I know who you are, only one man I know has a gun like that, plus, I am pretty sure he was carrying it the last time I fucked him on the couch in your apartment. Oh yes, every time you leave for work, I slip down stairs and fuck his brains out.”

When the woman left Vanessa was no longer laughing.

Neighbors hear a gunshot and calls the police. Seeing their history with Vanessa, Feona, Tobias, Madison and Jeremy are all questioned. Feona and Tobias have an alibi. Jeremy admits he was there and said he slapped her and how he got the scratch. Madison admits she was there and the fight but not to murder – Jeremy is cleared. They arrest Madison since she was the last person to see her according to witnesses.

Jeremy goes to visit her.

When Madison comes out she looks tired and she seems to have been crying.

“I want a divorce, I told you what would happen if you fucked her again.”

“I didn’t, is that what she told you?”

“She said you were there right before me and you had sex. How could you?”

“I have gonorrhea Madison that’s why I was there, to confront her.”

“I’m glad she infected you. I have never been with any other man but you and you chose to be with someone who not only doesn’t give a shit about you but used your time together to get money. Have you even seen the list? Hundreds of men Jeremy. I loved you from day one, I supported you in everything you did and all I

asked for was a bit of understanding but a quick fuck was all you cared about. Go away Jeremy, I hate you.”

Jeremy was shocked at Madison’s anger.

“What are you not telling me?”

“I’m pregnant Jeremy, after all the pain and suffering, I finally got pregnant for a man who I thought loved me and would do anything to keep me safe. Imagine being told ‘Mrs. Chandler, you are three months pregnant and you have chlamydia.’ I can’t be happy about my baby, I feel nothing for the life inside me and it’s your fault.”

Madison got up and went back to her cell. In the short few days she was in there, everyone fell in love with her. The female guards kept watch over her when they found out she was pregnant, the other inmates heard she killed Vanessa and they saw her as a hero. One inmate though, knew the truth, even though Madison never admitted to killing Vanessa, she knew she didn’t because this particular inmate was the one responsible.

As fate would have it, she had gone back to her own apartment after she shot Vanessa and spent the day drinking, she got into a fight in a bar and the cops picked her up. No one had a clue they arrested a killer.

THE END.

Will Vanessa’s murderer be found out before she leaves prison? Will she admit to killing Vanessa and free Madison? Will Madison keep her baby and work things out with Jeremy? Will Feona and Tobias live happily ever after?

Find out in Part 2 – Love Unfounded

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