

Lovely and Admired (The Lovely Series Book 3)

Pages: 450

Format: pdf, epub

Language: English

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Lovely

And

Admired

The Lovely Series

BOOK THREE

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Chapter 1

The snow falling outside was beautiful. I sat in a blue fluffy chair in Alyi's grandmother (Evelyn)'s living room, so I could watch the snow fall. The Christmas tree was next to me and shined bright with all its beautiful lights. It was decorated in white and gold with pieces of red throughout. My wife and Dominant, Alyi and I were at Evelyn's house for the Christmas holiday. We were in Tennessee to visit our families for the hoilday. I would spend Christmas Eve here in Evelyn's large home with Alyi and Christmas Day with my family at my parent's house without Alyi. She wasn't allowed at my parent's house, so she wouldn't be going with me. That was the way we had spent our holidays since we'd been together. I was happy with my plans since I couldn't change my parent's decision, but I had a little anxiety that my parents would find out that I was pregnant.

Alyi and I had had a go-round with our friend, Justin and I gotten pregnant. I was only three and a half months along, so it wouldn't be too hard to hide. All I needed was a loose sweater.

"How's it looking out there, Lovely?" Alyi asked as she came to stand by the chair I was sitting in.

"It's still falling. It's starting to lay and build on the grass. I would love a good snow, but I

need to be able to drive to my parent's tomorrow." I was a terrible driver and snow would not be welcome on the road.

"I can drive you if you want."

"I think that would drive my parents crazy, but I think you should. I'm not good with snow and driving." I rolled my eyes at her and she giggled at me.

"It won't be a problem. My Hummer goes great in the snow." The Hummer she left in Tennessee was now at her grandmother's house. The only car I had was in Seattle. My old car I had here fell apart and had to be thrown out.

"Thank you."

"No problem, baby. Speaking of baby – how are you feeling?" She looked thoughtful when she asked.

"I feel good. My stomach has relaxed and just sitting here watching the snow is calming."

"I'm glad to hear it. It's almost dinner time." Maria, the housekeeper, was making dinner before she left. She had cooked a turkey with all the fixings. "She's going to head home shortly, so she doesn't get stuck here. She lives almost an hour away."

"Sounds good. I'm hungry." We had all taken our turn helping Maria in the kitchen. She didn't ask for the help, but we all felt like it was a big meal for just one person to cook. I was sure she appreciated the help. I had already volunteered to help do the dishes after dinner. "It smells good, but I don't want to leave the snow. I'm afraid if I leave it, it will quit falling." I smiled at her and raised my eyebrow.

"I think it will be okay. It's supposed to snow all night. We're supposed to get a few inches."

"You'll definitely have to drive me to Mom's tomorrow."

"Don't worry, Lovely."

"Mrs. Scott, dinner is ready," Maria said to Alyi as she came into the room. "I am heading home now and I want to wish the two of you a very Merry Christmas. Have a good night."

"Thank you, Maria. Merry Christmas to you too," Alyi responded.

"Merry Christmas," I told her.

"Thank you ladies. Goodnight." Maria turned to the door and exited the room.

"Alyi," we heard Evelyn call out.

"Coming," she called back. "Come on, Lil. Dinner time."

"I'm coming," I told her. I got up and we walked toward the dining room.

Everything was laid out on the table. The turkey sat in the middle while there were dishes

of stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a dish of gravy. There was a bowl of dinner rolls as well. The view was perfect. My stomach started to growl just looking at it.

"This looks and smells great," I said to Alyi and Evelyn.

"Yes it does. I thanked Maria – from all of us – for dinner. She did a fantastic job. There is a cinnamon crumb cake for dessert," Evelyn told us. "I'm glad she was willing to spend her Xmas eve with us. It would have been difficult for me to get all of this put together myself. It's still hard for me without Jake here." My heart broke a little at that last comment. I knew it would have been hard, but she wouldn't have had to do it alone. Alyi and I would have helped. Alyi's grandfather had passed away from a heart attack a few months ago.

"We would have helped, Grandma. You know that," Alyi said in a quiet and serious voice.

"It was just easier this way, sweetheart. Let's sit down." We walked further into the room and took our seat at the table. Evelyn was at the head of the table and Alyi and I sat on either side of her. I wanted to sit next to Alyi, but I also wanted the table to be balanced. Evelyn said a small prayer before we began to dig in.

"This is delicious," I commented after I had tried everything on my plate. My stomach started to rumble and I was pretty sure it wasn't a good thing. Usually when I ate a meal – I threw up after about five minutes then I could go on eating the rest of my meal without another problem. I had gotten sick at breakfast and lunch and I knew it would only be a matter of time before I got sick again. Pregnancy could be crazy.

"I agree. I love turkey," Alyi said. Her grandmother was in the middle of taking a bite, so she just nodded in agreement. "Her gravy is really good. I know it's homemade. I can make biscuit gravy, but have no clue about meat gravy. I just buy the jars of chicken or beef gravy. Lilee does well with gravy." My stomach started to really become upset.

"If you'll excuse me for a moment," I told them as I stood up.

"Everything okay?" Evelyn asked.

"Yes. I just need the bathroom." I made my way out of the room.

I was almost too late, but I made it to the toilet just in time. I hated being sick. The throw and jerk my body felt was almost painful. I vomited three times, until my body felt calm again. I sat on my knees for a few moments. I got up and wiped and rinsed out my mouth. I took a deep breath and walked out of the bathroom – with my appetite intact.

"Welcome back," Evelyn greeted me.

"Thank you."

"Are you alright? You got up during breakfast, lunch, and now dinner. Is something wrong with the food?"

"No, no, not at all. The food is fine. It's just me."

"Lilee is pregnant, Grandma," Alyi interjected. Evelyn's fork fell and clattered against her plate.

"Excuse me," she asked. Luckily she didn't seem upset – just curious. I was shocked. I couldn't believe Alyi just blurted out the news. I was terrified of my parents finding out before Jelly Bean was born. We called our baby Jelly Bean because the first time we saw her, the only thing we saw was something the size of a jelly bean.

"Lilee's pregnant. She gets sick when she eats."

"How did that happen? Were you wanting a baby?"

"It happened the old fashioned way." I was even more shocked by the fact that she was about to explain to her grandmother that we had a threesome. I felt extremely shy.

"Well, like I told Alyi when she was a teenage, it only takes one time. Do you know who the father is?"

"Of course we do. We've only been with one man. He supports our choice to have the baby."

"So, you're happy with the choice?" Evelyn asked me directly.

"Very happy. We're excited. I'm due in June. Please keep this between us. I know I will have to tell my parents eventually, but I'm just not ready now." I gave her my most hopeful look.

"No problem, sweetheart. I'm honored that you chose to let me in on your secret. I hope I live long enough to see he or she. I couldn't even tell you were pregnant. I suppose you aren't far enough along yet. That's good since you don't want your parents knowing."

"You'll have to come out in the summer time. For now, our Jelly Bean is safe and sound in Lilee's belly. We're ready to meet her already," Alyi chimed in.

"Do you know she's a girl yet?" Evelyn asked

"Not yet, but we call her a she for now.

"Congratulations. I'm excited for you. I never thought I'd see great grandchildren. I wish Jake was here to see." I knew that Jake's passing was still hard on Evelyn. I was impressed she had been so put together for the holiday.

"I miss him too, but he's in our thoughts," Alyi said sadly. I had resumed my dinner and the second time around was even better.

"Does your stomach feel better, Lilee?" Evelyn inquired.

"Yes. I usually feel better after I get sick." Alyi said Evelyn never talked about being a parent because of how horrible her son turned out. She hated to talk about him or raising him.

"That's good to hear. Let me know if there's anything I can do to help. I know Alyi takes good care of you and I know you take care of her too. You ladies are great together." She was so supportive and sweet. We all smiled at each other then fell silent as we ate.

I sat and thought about what had just happened. I knew that Evelyn would be supportive. I hadn't planned on telling anyone so soon that I was pregnant, but I wasn't upset that Alyi told someone either. It just threw me off. It relieved me a little too. I knew Alyi would have been the

one to tell her grandmother regardless of when, but it was still a small weight off my shoulders. I couldn't even imagine the conversation I would have with my parents. I would have to lie to them. I knew I couldn't tell them the truth of how it came to be. I could just not answer the question when it came up.

"You look deep in thought," Alyi said quietly to me.

"I'm just thinking about my parents." I looked at her and took a bite of my stuffing.

"Anything good?"

"Not really. Just about our future conversation."

"Don't worry about it now, baby. It's fine for now and will be fine later. I will be here for you if you decide you want me to help you."

"Thank you, but I'm done with that for now. It's Christmas Eve and we're going to enjoy it."

"That's the spirit, sweetheart," Evelyn interrupted. "Tonight will be a good night."

Snow was still falling as we all sat around the Christmas tree. Evelyn had made hot chocolate for everyone and it was time to open presents. Alyi and I had brought the gifts we had bought for Evelyn and a few for us, but left the majority of the presents we got for each other at home. Alyi got up to distribute the gifts.

"Lilee, this one is for you." She handed me a small wrapped box. It was from Evelyn. I waited while all the presents were handed out before I opened any.

It didn't take long for everyone to open their presents. Evelyn had got me a pair of diamond earrings and a large family Bible. I loved the Bible. It was a thick one that was made for a family and had family tree information filled in. She said it was perfect now that we were having a baby. Alyi got me a few things, but my favorite was a picture of a horse stable. She had bought a small piece of land in Seattle and put horses there for me, so I could ride whenever I wanted to. I was so excited. The picture was just a tease.

"Thank you both so much. I love all my gifts," I told them both.

"You're more than welcome, dear," Evelyn replied. I was opening the box of expensive chocolate that she got for me when Alyi leaned over and kissed me.

"You're welcome, baby. I hope you enjoy it."

"Of course I will. I want to wait until I'm not pregnant anymore – plus we need warmer weather to ride," I told her.

"There are people that I hired to take care of the stable year-round, so no worries about that. I know you love horses."

"I do love horses, but I love you more."

"I sure hope so." I ate one of the chocolate pieces and took a sip of my hot cocoa. It was a great combination. The pieces were so smooth. Some of them looked crunchy, but I didn't want to eat too many pieces.

"These are so tasty," I told Alyi while she looked at her box of chocolate.

"I was just about to ask. They look good." She looked at me then at her grandmother. "Grandma, you look tired. Are you alright?"

"I'm just tired, honey. It's been a long day for an old lady," she answered. Evelyn really did look exhausted. "It's just my first Christmas as a widow. I'm enjoying our time together, but my heart is still a little broken."

"I know and I'm so sorry. I can't imagine how you feel. I know how I feel, but I'm sure it pales to how you feel. I wish there was something I could do for you."

"Don't worry about me, Alyi. I'm just ready for bed."

"That sounds like a good idea. We could all use some sleep. Lilee has a big day tomorrow. Her sister, Laurie is coming home for the first time in years."

"I heard about that. I hope it's not too awkward. I hope it's a nice reunion. Today was a busy day though. Let's get some sleep." Evelyn smiled and stood up. She gave Alyi and me a hug and a kiss then walked out of the room after a sad 'goodbye.'

"I feel so bad for her," I told Alyi.

"I know, but I think she just wants to be alone. She has always been like that," she said quietly. "Let's head upstairs to my bedroom. We could use some sleep too."

"Okay." I put my chocolate down, drank the rest of my drink, and stood up. I picked up Alyi and Evelyn's cocoa cups and took them to the kitchen.

"Are you ready?" I was asked when Alyi came into the kitchen.

"Yes. Let's go to bed." She reached her hand out to me and led me upstairs and into her bedroom.

"Let's shower first, baby girl."

"Okay, Mommy," I whispered. I didn't want Evelyn to hear me call her Mommy. I started undressing myself and Alyi did the same.

"Your little bump is so cute. It's small and barely there, but it's cute," she told me.

"I know. I'm going to enjoy watching it grow bigger. I love our Jelly Bean."

"I love her too." We were in the bathroom that was connected to her bedroom and Alyi was turning on the shower.

"I wish there was something we could do for your grandmother. I know she held it together just for us. I feel so sad about it."

"I know, but she's a strong woman. Her and I will spend the day together while you're gone tomorrow. Hopefully she will feel a little bit better."

"I hope so." We got into the shower and squished together. This shower was only half the size of our shower at home. There was only one shower head.

Our shower was quiet and to the point. When we got out, Alyi wrapped herself in her towel then reached out and grabbed mine. She dried me off then rolled my hair up in it. She grazed her fingers back and forth over my small belly. Alyi kissed me and pulled me back into the bedroom. I was feeling really tired.

"You look so tired," Alyi observed. "I thought we could play a little to celebrate the holiday, but we can wait until tomorrow night. We'll play when we get home too. How does that sound?"

"Well, it sounds good, but I think I'll be more tired tomorrow. Tomorrow will be exhausting. I want to see my family, but I'm kind of dreading it. We can play tonight if you want to.

"You sure?"

"Yes."

"Good. Lay down on the bed." I did as I was told and closed my eyes and prepared to enjoy what was coming to me.

Chapter 2

I woke up with my body feeling still satisfied from the night before. Alyi's arms were wrapped around me and she was still fast asleep. I always woke up before her. That's how it was at home. I had no responsibilities here though. It was Christmas and we were due at church in a couple hours then I was set to spend the day with my family. I needed the bathroom, so I crawled out of Alyi's grasp and made my way to the bathroom.

"Morning, Lovely," Alyi greeted me when I came out of the restroom.

"Morning, Mommy. Did you sleep well?"

"I did. Did you just get sick?"

"Nope. Just tinkled."

"Good." She looked at the clock. "It's time for breakfast then time to get ready for church."

"I'll put some clothes on and go make some breakfast." I picked up my sweats from my suitcase and grabbed a shirt.

"I'll get up and help." She grabbed some of her own sweats then we headed downstairs.

When we walked into the kitchen, we saw Evelyn cooking pancakes. The smell was assaulting, but in a good way. There was bacon on the counter already. Her hair was in a messy bun on her head and she was in her bedroom coat.

"Good morning, dears. Merry Christmas," she greeted us. "I hope you're hungry." She watched us for a moment and I saw her eyes focus momentarily on Alyi's scars. All of them were exposed while she wore a short sleeved shirt.

"Morning. Merry Christmas," we said at the same time.

"We were coming down here to make breakfast for you. Did you sleep well?" Alyi asked.

"Not well. I kept waking and tossing and turning, so I finally just got out of bed all together. I'll take a quick shower before church."

"Okay. Do you need any help?"

"No. I'm done after this last plate of pancakes. Well, you can get the butter and syrup out of the fridge. The coffee is ready."

"Do you want coffee, Lovely?" Alyi asked me.

"No thanks. Juice will be fine. I don't really want the caffeine today."

"Okie dokie. Sometimes you do and sometimes you don't. I thought I'd ask."

"Well, thank you."

"Welcome, love." She got coffee for herself and Evelyn.

Once everything was ready, we put everything in the dining room and took a seat at the

oak table. The bacon and pancakes were stacked nicely on their plates. They looked incredibly appetizing. I was hungry. We all reached out for food at the same time.

“Are you ready?” Alyi asked me when we pulled up to the church. There were a few inches of snow out, but not as many as I had thought. It wasn’t a big deal for someone who knew what they were doing. Evelyn rode with us even though Alyi would be taking me to my parent’s house after church. I didn’t think Alyi wanted Evelyn to drive alone.

“I’m ready. It’s just church.” I wasn’t afraid of church and a public meeting of my family. It was going back home that made me anxious.

“I’m interested in meeting your sister.”

“She got to my parent’s last night.”

“Ladies, let’s go,” Evelyn encouraged.

“Okay,” we answered together.

All of us got out of the car and I was thankful for the fur boots I was wearing. There were good for snow, but decorative as well. They were black and matched my white skirt and black sweater. My sweater was nice and loose, so they wouldn’t be any awkward conversations with my parents. No one should say a thing about my little baby bump.

“Just relax. It will all be okay,” Alyi whispered in my ear as she came to walk next to me and hold my hand. I knew my parents would disapprove of our affection, but I didn’t care. She was my wife, even though my parents didn’t know, and I wanted to hold her hand.

“I know. I’m just a little anxious about seeing my sister. She always seemed to be better than me and I don’t want to argue or let her make me feel bad about myself.”

“Don’t let anyone make you feel bad about yourself. If they do – you send them my way.”

“I’ve never met your sister either, but hopefully you’re making a big deal out of nothing,” Evelyn chimed in. My sister moved to Virginia before my father moved to the church where Alyi and her family attended. He was a Reverend.

“I hope you’re right, Evelyn. I’m not going to dwell on it anymore.” We were at the door of the church and I couldn’t let my anxiety go until I remembered the doctor telling me that stress was bad for the baby. My free hand fell to my belly and cradled my little Jelly Bean. I knew I had to relax.

“Let’s go,” Alyi said to us then opened the door.

The church was almost full. It usually was, but it was very full on Christmas. I could see my father at the front already and the rest of my family was sitting in the front row. I knew I would be sitting in the back of the church with Alyi and Evelyn. I wasn’t sure if I should have gone and said hello to them, but I chose to stay with Alyi.

“Do you want to say hi?” Alyi asked, echoing my thoughts.

“Not yet. I’m going to wait until after the service.” We took our seats and fell silent as everyone else sat down.

“Lilee, it’s so good to see you. You too Alyi,” Lucy, my other sister, greeted us after the service. My mother and my visiting sister, Laurie, were with her. Lucy had her blonde hair pulled back and her blue eyes shined. Laurie had her dark hair back as well. Her blue eyes were darker than Lucy’s and she looked pleasantly interested. Lucy lived here in our hometown, but Laurie and her family lived in Virginia.

“Hello, Lucy,” Alyi greeted her back.

“Hi, Lucy. Hi, Mom. Long time no see, Laurie,” I said to them.

“It’s nice to see you. It has been a long time. How are you doing?” Laurie asked.

“I’m great. Laurie, this is my partner, Alyi,” I said while Alyi reached her hand out to be shaken. They looked at each other and I saw Laurie’s eyes widen. She took in my goddess and I could see the judgement. I knew my parents had told her about Alyi’s sketchy reputation.

“Hello, Laurie. It’s nice to finally meet you,” Alyi said.

“Hello,” was all Laurie managed. She shook her hand limply. She was being the same smug bitch she always was. I wasn’t going to let her be rude to my wife. Before I could say anything, Laurie’s husband and children came to stand with us with my father.

“This is Laurie’s husband, Mike and their children, Nicky and Madison. Guys, this is my partner, Alyi,” I said to everyone.

“Hello, Alyi,” Mike responded in a nicer tone than his wife.

“Let’s head back to the house everyone,” my father interrupted. He ignored Alyi – like always. It’s a shame Evelyn was away talking to other people.

“Okay,” we all said. Everyone started to pile out of the church.

“I’m ready to go too,” Evelyn said, walking up to us.

“Okay. We’ll drop Lilee off then we’ll go home, Grandma,” Alyi told her. We headed out to the Hummer.

“I’m sorry, Alyi,” I said to her when we got in the car.

“Don’t be, baby. I don’t care.” She knew I was apologizing for my family being so rude.

“I care and it makes me unhappy.”

“It will be okay. Just try not to think about it.”

“It was the first time she met you. She should have at least given you a decent hand shake.”

"It was pretty pitiful, but my feelings aren't hurt and I don't want yours to be either."

"Okay. I will just not think about it." We were almost to my parent's house, so I took off my wedding rings. I left them on while in church. I was glad no one noticed them. "Will you hold these for me?" I asked Alyi. I reached into the front seat and gave her my rings while she was at a redlight.

"You sure?" She asked.

"I'm sorry, but I think it's for the best."

"No worries, baby. I'll hold them for you." She reached out and took the rings from my hand.

"Thank you, sweetheart."

"You're most welcome."

The drive to my parent's house was quiet, but quick. They didn't live very far from the church. When we arrived, my heart started beating faster. I didn't know why I was nervous. It was just my family. I imagined it was because I was afraid they would end up backing me into a corner – metaphorically – due to my lifestyle and personal choices. Ugh. Whatever – I wasn't going to stress.

"You ready, Lil?" Alyi asked me as we sat in my parent's driveway.

"I'm ready." I leaned up between the seats (I was in the backseat) and stole a kiss from my goddess. "I will call you when I'm ready to come home."

"Okay, baby. Good luck. Love you."

"Love you."

"Good luck, dear," Evelyn added as I was exiting the car.

"Thank you," I told her before I grabbed my gift bags and closed the door.

My walk up to the front door was oddly refreshing. The snow brought fresh air and it filled my lungs eagerly. I could do it. I could do it. I stood outside the door and just stared at it. I held my breath to see if I could hear voices inside. When I couldn't hear anything, I turned toward the Hummer and waved goodbye to Alyi before pressing the doorbell. She waited until my mother opened the door before driving away.

"Lilee! You made it!" My mother greeted me.

"Of course I made it," I muttered.

"How come you didn't drive yourself?"

"You know I love the snow, but hate driving in it. I'm glad to be here."

"Good. Come inside out of the cold." Mom reached out for my hand and tugged me inside.

"Lilee!" My sisters called out. I had walked into the living room and everyone was sitting around the Christmas tree that was standing in the corner and had a few gifts underneath it. I took my bags of presents and set them down next to the other bags from other people.

"Hello everyone," I responded.

"Welcome back," Lucy told me.

"Glad to be here. How is everyone?"

"Hungry," Dad said. I smelt food when I walked in the door. The smell was starting to get to me and my stomach was starting to growl.

"Me too. Something smells good."

"Your mother is making a ham today." I turned to look at her and noticed she had slipped out of the room. I assumed she had went into the kitchen.

"Sounds good too. Hello, Mike, Laurie. How are you doing?" Their cute kids were sitting in the floor playing with their toys.

"We're doing pretty good. We're enjoying the snow," my sister told me.

"Hi, Aunt Lilee," Madison, Laurie's daughter, said to me. "We slepted in your bed last night." She sounded so cute saying slepted.

"Is that so?"

"Yep. Me and Nicky."

"Well, I'm okay with that. I'm not using it anymore."

"Where do you sleep?"

"I sleep at my house."

"Oh, okay." She went back to playing with her, new I assumed, toy horse. Madison was almost seven and seemed to really enjoy her little horse. Her brother, Nicky, just looked at me, but decided not to talk to me. He was sitting next to his sister, playing with some kind of sports cards.

"I brought a few gifts. I didn't know what to get everyone, so it's just a little something." Lucy's gift was at her house, but she didn't know it. With Alyi's help, I bought Lucy a new car. She had been having some engine issues with her old car and I wanted to get her something that she needed.

"I'm sure whatever you brought will be fine. You know we don't value material things in this house," my father told me.

"I know." I felt awkward momentarily because I thought people were judging me for living a life of great material possessions.

"Lunch is ready," my mother called out from the kitchen. There wasn't enough places at the

table for everyone, so Lucy, Mom, Dad, and me sat in the living room while Laurie and her family sat at the kitchen table.

"Lunch was good, Mom. Thanks for making it for us all," Laurie said as she and her family came back into the living room after lunch was finished. I was shocked that I didn't get sick. I had an upset stomach, but everything stayed down.

"You're welcome, sweetheart. I'm glad I could do something for everyone."

"Mom, you do things for us all the time," I told her.

"Aunt Lilee, did you bring us any presents?" Madion asked me.

"Maddy..." Laurie admonished her.

"It's okay. I did bring you something. It's not much, but I didn't know what you liked." I told them. "I got Nicky something too." Christmas shopping had been rough on me. I didn't know what to get Laurie and her family. I bought something for the kids and got everyone else chocolate and gift cards.

"You did?"

"I sure did."

"What is it?"

"You'll just have to wait and see." She stuck her tongue out at me then went back to her horses – now there were two.

"You've been quiet today," I said to Lucy. She looked at me and nodded.

"I've been preoccupied. I'm seeing Sheldon tonight. I'm just thinking about it. Sorry. How have you been?" Sheldon was a guy that Lucy had been seeing for a few months. They met each other in church.

"I've been pretty great. It's nice to be here with all the family. I miss not being able to see you."

"I miss seeing you too. I'm glad you came. How did last night go with Evelyn?"

"Very well. She got me these." I pulled my ginger hair back and showed my sister my new diamond earrings.

"Oh, those are beautiful."

"Thank you." She knew better than to ask what Alyi got me. She was a no-no in my parent's house.

"I love those. They look great on you."

"I love them too. Are you and Sheldon doing anything special tonight?"

"He's making me dinner. He's big into books, so I found something he was missing from his collection. I hope he likes what I got." She was nervous, but smiling.

"I'm sure he'll love it. Are things getting serious between you two?"

"It's getting there. We have our hang-ups, but we're trying to work through them."

"Is it time for presents yet?" Madison blurted out, causing us all to laugh.

"Of course, sweetie pie," my mother answered. "Let's see what we can find." My father seemed to want to please the children, but was dissatisfied that it took presents to do so. "Henry, do you want to pass out the gifts?"

"I'll see what I can do." He got up out of his old leather chair and went to sit down next to the Christmas tree. My father started going through the bags of presents and called out people's names as their gifts popped up.

"Where's mine?" Madison asked after Nicky got his first present.

"It's coming, sweetheart," I told her.

When all the gifts were handed out, we all opened them. My parents had gotten me and both of my sisters new bibles. I didn't have the heart to tell them Evelyn had gotten me one too. Like me, Laurie got everyone gift cards. The children were happy with their presents. I got Madison a Furby and I got Nicky a remote controlled car. Everyone got chocolate from me too. Lucy gave me a cute dress. It was red and low cut. My father frowned at it, but I loved it. Alyi told me I looked great in red. She loved me in red or green.

"Thank you, Aunt Lilee," Nicky said to me for the first time. "I like my car."

"You're very welcome. I'm glad I found something you like."

"Thank you, Aunt Lilee. I wanted a Furby," Madison told me next.

"You're welcome too. I think those things are so cute. I almost bought one for myself." I smiled at her and was rewarded with her sweet grin. It made me imagine my Jelly Bean's smile. I couldn't wait to see it.

"Thank you for the bible and the gift cards. I appreciate it all," Laurie told us. "I can't wait to get into these chocolates you got us, Lilee. They looks delicious."

"They were expensive and very good. Evelyn got some for me too and they were yummy," I told her.

While everyone was looking at what they got, Laurie came to sit down next to me.

"I'm sorry we haven't gotten a chance to talk. I think I may have come off as smug earlier. Truth is – I was very interested in meeting Alyi. I'm sorry if I was rude. I just got a little confused. She's very beautiful." For some reason I felt a bit offended.

"And you didn't think someone like her would be interested in someone like me?" It may have come out a little harsher than I intended it to.

"What? No. That's not what I meant at all. I just had an image in my head and I was wrong. That's all. I didn't mean to offend you. I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry too. I've just been a little moody lately. I didn't mean to attack you." As if Jelly Bean was on my side, I felt a large cramp and my hands flew to my belly.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. My stomach is just upset."

"Do you think it was the food?" My mother chimed in.

"No. It's me. I'm fine. Thank you again for the bible."

"You're welcome, sweetheart. I hope you don't get sick."

"I should be fine." I hoped I didn't get sick either.

"So, tell me more about Alyi," Laurie started up again.

"On your own time. Not in this house," my father boomed.

"Henry, let the girls talk. Come help me in the kitchen." My mother came to the rescue. With a grunt, my father got up and walked out of the room.

"She's great. She owns her own business. She designs and builds small aircrafts. As you know, we live in Seattle with a couple of our friends and our two dogs," I told her.

"Dogs?" Madison asked.

"Yes. Two of them."

"What are their names?"

"The girl's name is Nyko and her brother's name is Nyklaus. They're a husky-wolf mix."

"Those are weird names." Apparently that lost her interest because she went back to her Furby.

"Those are unique names," Laurie added. Mike looked like he wanted to say something, but he kept quiet like he had been doing through our conversation. He had been having small conversations with my father throughout the day.

"Alyi named them. She got them, as puppies, right before we started seeing each other." I looked at the clock and it was past 5:00PM. I had no idea where the time went. I didn't want to still be out when I needed to eat again. I didn't want to get sick around my family.

"You look confused." Laurie brought me back to the room.

"It's getting late. I was just thinking that I didn't know where the time went."

"Do you have to be home by a certain time?"

"No. I just usually like to be home by dark, but it's okay."

"I know the feeling. I'm getting ready to go. I'm meeting Sheldon at seven. I need to get home," Lucy popped into the conversation. "I can take you home if you want."

"Thanks, but you don't have to. Alyi will come get me."

"I want to." Something sad flew across Lucy's face and I knew she wanted to talk to me away from everyone else.

"Okay. Let me call and tell her you'll be bringing me home." I pulled my phone out of my pocket and stepped into the other room. I dialed Alyi's number.

"Hey, baby. Ready for me?" Alyi answered.

"No. Lucy is going to bring me over. I think she wants to talk to me."

"Oh. You sure?"

"I'm sure." I hoped she wouldn't be upset.

"Okay. Maybe you can persuade her to run by her house, so you can be there when she sees her present."

"Oh, that's a great idea. I will see if I can pull that off."

"Good. Love you. Be careful and I'll see you when you get here."

"Okay. Love you too." I hung up the phone and walked out back into the living room. My parents had come back and were saying goodbye to Lucy.

"Lilee, goodbye sweetheart. I love you," Mom said to me when she saw me in the room. "Thank you so much for coming." She came to me and drew me into a bear hug.

"Of course I came. I love you too."

"Have a safe drive ladies. I love you both," my father added after my mother let go of me.

"I love you too, Dad," Lucy and I said together.

"We love you both," I told my parents.

"Call us when you get home. Now that the sun will be going down soon, the temperature will drop. Let us know when you get home safely," Mom told us.

"Okay." Lucy and I said goodbye to everyone else then made our way to her car. We put our gifts in the backseat then got in. She started her car, so it could warm up.

"Let's go by your house first," I told her as we sat in the car.

"Why? It's not even in the right direction. I don't know exactly where Evelyn lives, but I know the area."

"There is something I want to show you."

"You want to show me something that's at my house?"

"Yes."

"What?"

"It's a surprise. Just go there, Lucy."

"Fine, but we have to hurry. I'm only agreeing because I live close by."

"Thank you." Lucy pulled out of the driveway and headed to her house. She was right, it wasn't far away.

The ride to Lucy's house was quick. We were quiet most of the time. There were only a few comments here and there. It wasn't snowing anymore, but there was still white all over the ground. The sun was setting and I knew the weather would be cooler than before when we got out of the car. We pulled up to Lucy's house and she slammed on the brakes.

"Who the heck is in my driveway?" Lucy exclaimed. There was a brand new red Toyota Yaris sitting in front of us.

"Merry Christmas," I told her. She had a Toyota Corolla and wanted to get another Toyota, so I picked out the Yaris for her. It was nice and compact. Alyi didn't want it. She wanted something nicer, but I thought Lucy would like this.

"What are you talking about?" Her eyes were wide and crazy.

"This is your Christmas present from me and Alyi. You said your car was falling apart and I wanted to get you something you needed. I love you and want you to have it. Don't you like it?"

"Oh my gosh. Are you crazy? I love it, but I can't take this!"

"Too bad. This is your new car. Come on, drive me home in it." I didn't give her enough time to argue. I opened my door and got out. After I got my bag from the backseat, I went to stand by the passenger door of the Yaris.

"Where are the keys?"

"Under the seat. Hop in, Lucy."

"I can't believe this." She ran around the car and engulfed me in a strong hug. "Thank you, thank you. Thank you so much. I love it. I love you." She kissed my cheek then walked back to the driver side and opened the door. I got in my door.

"You're very welcome. I'm glad you like it." Lucy started the car and it purred to life.

"She purrs. I love it!" It seemed she had given her car a gender. It made me smile.

"So, what's been on your mind? You've been so out of it. I could tell you were uncomfortable at Mom's house." We had just pulled out onto the main road.

"She drives so well! Oh, right. I want to talk to you about something. I know that you won't judge me." I could tell she was nervous, maybe even scared.

"Of course. I will never judge you." I wanted her to know I would support her.

"I'm thinking about having sex with Sheldon." It was a whisper.

"I see. I know that's a big deal. I admit that I was sexually active before marriage. I wouldn't judge you if you did and neither would God. We all sin – no one is perfect. I know how you feel though. It goes against how we were raised, but I support whatever choice you make. I know how hard it is to hold back."

"We've been taught our whole lives to be abstinent. I'm torn. It's getting hard to resist. He's trying to be patient, but we just haven't gotten past this yet. I don't want to lose him."

"Whether you choose to have sex is your business and your choice, but make sure you do it for you. Don't change who you are for someone else. Do it for the right reasons."

"I know. I'm trying to decide. I want to though, you know?"

"I know. It's harder than I ever imagined. Falling into Alyi just happened. I didn't think twice about it. I just went with what felt right and what I wanted."

"I think I might. I think I want to."

"Then do what makes you happy. Don't worry about what you think would make Mom and Dad happy. There is no reason they have to know. Just be safe."

"Thank you. It's been on my mind all day, plus I'm just not that comfortable with Laurie anymore. I don't really have a reason why, but I just feel so much better with you. We've always been close." I agreed with her.

"I know." I thought about what Lucy was debating and how strong she was to tell me. It made me want to do the same. "I've got something to tell you too."

"Really? Okay."

"I'm pregnant." I looked at Lucy in the darkness and could see a stunned and shocked expression on her face.

"Excuse me? How did that happen?"

"The old fashioned way," I whispered.

"Oh my God. You cheated on Alyi?" She was appalled.

"No! Of course not! I would never. She was there too."

"I don't understand. Are you talking about a threesome?"

"Yes."

"Holy crap."

"It only happens with one guy. We aren't out whoring around."

"So...you do know who the father is?"

"Of course I do."

"Who is it?"

"Justin Davenport." He was a good friend of Alyi and mine. He was her previous Dominant and sometimes the three of us had some fun together. He lived in Tennessee, so we didn't get to see him that often.

"Oh, he's a hottie. Your baby will be beautiful. I bet it will have ginger hair."

"I'm betting on it."

"Is a baby what you want?"

"Oh, yes. I'm ready to be a mother. I'm so excited."

"How far along are you? I can't tell." Lucy seemed to be excited now.

"Almost four months." I used months instead of weeks. I knew the doctor used weeks and so did everyone else that was pregnant, but it seemed more logical. It was easier to understand – in my opinion.

"Do you know if it's a boy or girl yet?"

"Not yet. Hopefully we'll find out our next doctor's visit."

"Are you having morning sickness?"

"Yes. It happens when I eat. I'm shocked I didn't get sick earlier at lunch. I was waiting for it, but it never came."

"I'm happy for you. Are you going to tell Mom and Dad? I mean, you'll have to at some point."

"I know and it terrifies me. We haven't decided how to tell them yet."

"How does Alyi feel about the baby?"

"She's excited like me. We are ready to be a family."

"Wow. All I can say is wow. Were you planning on getting pregnant?"

"Good golly no. It came out of nowhere. Please keep this between us."

"Of course." Our conversation fell away as I had to give Lucy directions to Evelyn's house.

I was beginning to get really tired, but hungry too. My energy level was down. I really wanted to lay down when I got to Evelyn's house. The sun had set and the darkness was comforting. I couldn't believe the conversation my sister and I had just had. We both had decisions

to make.

"Here we are," I told Lucy as I pointed to the driveway.

"Okay." We drove up the long driveway and pulled up behind Alyi's Hummer.

"Do you want to come in?" I asked.

"I need to get home and get ready for my date, but I need to thank Alyi for the car. I will come in just for a moment. This is a lovely house."

"Fair enough." We got out of the car and I grabbed my small bag from the back. I led us up to the door and before I could knock, Alyi opened the door.

"Welcome back. Hi, Lucy," we were greeted.

"Hi, Alyi. I can't stay, but I wanted to thank you so much for the car. I love it. I know Lilee didn't get it alone."

"You're very welcome. Glad we could help."

"Have a good night."

"You too."

"I love you. Be safe," I told Lucy.

"I will. I'll let you know what happens." We hugged and she walked back to her car and left.

"How did it go with your family?" Alyi asked me as we walked into the house.

"It went well enough, but I'm exhausted."

"I imagined you would be. Do you want something to eat before we lay down?"

"Yes, please. What did you have for dinner?"

"We just munched on some turkey from last night."

"Sounds good to me. I could munch on some turkey."

"You and Jelly Bean get comfortable and I will bring you something to eat." She was so good to me.

"Yes, ma'am." I went and got comfortable in the blue chair that I loved in the living room. I relaxed and took my shoes off. Me and Jelly Bean were hungry. It didn't take Alyi long to bring us a plate of food.

"Here you go." She handed me a plate with a turkey sandwich and a side of stuffing. It made my mouth water.

"Thank you so much. I'm hungry." I took a bite out of my sandwich and groaned in

satisfaction. It was perfect.

"Tell me about your day. Was it as stressful as your thought it would be?"

"It was a little awkward, but it wasn't as bad as expected." I ate and told her about my outing and about what Lucy said to me in the car.

"I'm not surprised. Sex is hard to resist especially when you're attracted to your partner. Do you think Lucy will give in?"

"I do. I secretly hope she does – as long as it's what she wants." I finished my food and stood up when my stomach became upset.

"You okay?"

"I need the bathroom."

"Okay. I'll follow you and help. We'll take a shower when you're done."

"Okay." I made my way to the restroom.

I laid back on the bed with my legs spread. I could feel Alyi's tongue gently assaulting my clitoris. I had pleased her and now it was my turn. My hands fisted in her hair while the soft sparkle of the diamonds on my wedding rings caught my eye.

"Oh," I moaned quietly.

"That's my girl." Her tongue continued to flick against my sweet spot. It wouldn't be long before I came.

"More," I begged. She gave me more and my back arched off the bed when I orgasmed. I didn't know if it was the pregnancy, but my orgasms had become more intense. "Yes."

"How was that?" Alyi asked after she crawled onto the bed.

"Great. Just great." She was lying next to me propped up on her side. She smiled down at me and it made me blush.

"Glad to hear it. I think it's bedtime."

"I agree. I'm exhausted. Thank you for my orgasm."

"You're most welcome, Lovely." I leaned up and kissed Alyi's lips. A dark look ran across her face and she kissed me back, hard. "I've made the decision to look for my older brother." Wow. That came out of nowhere.

"Really? What made you decide that?"

"I've been thinking about it for some time and I mentioned it to Grandma. She wasn't sure what I should do either, but I think it's worth the shot." Alyi hadn't seen her brother since she was eight – when her grandparents took her away from her parents who horribly abused her.

"That's a big decision, but I support you. I'm here for you always."

"Thank you, baby. Let's sleep. We can talk about this tomorrow. We've got plans with Justin tomorrow too."

"Oh okay. Me and Jelly Bean are game." We stood up and pulled the sheets down before getting into bed.

"Goodnight, Lovely."

"Goodnight, Mommy." She pulled me close to her and we drifted.

Chapter 3

Breakfast had been delicious. Alyi and I had gotten up and made French toast for us and Evelyn. Now it was time to get dressed. We had plans with Justin later.

"Do you know what we're doing today?" I asked Alyi while I put my jeans on.

"We're meeting Justin for lunch then we're flying home later today. I'm ready to go home. We haven't been away for long, but I miss our bed and our dogs."

"I know. I miss home too. I've enjoyed our time here though."

"I agree. It was a good holiday." I smiled at her and finished getting dressed.

"You two are looking beautiful like always. Lilee, you really do have that glow. It's lovely on you. There is something special about a pregnant woman even if you aren't showing yet," Justin greeted Alyi and I when we met him at the restaurant. He was wearing jeans and a black sweater. His dark hair shined in the glare of the sun on the snow.

"Thank you. That's so sweet. I feel like I have that glow," I said after he hugged us.

"She's lovely," Alyi told him as we walked into the restaurant.

"How many today?" The hostess asked. *

How joyful can it be welcoming a baby? Lilee and Alyi finally find out together. They've made time for each other on the road that they are on. Once baby Alona is born everyone seems to want a piece of her. They have to juggle spending time with everyone else and with each other. Lilee finds that motherhood is rewarding and addicting. Alyi admires baby Alona and does everything she can to take care of her and Lilee. Can they keep up their roles as lovers and parents?

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