

## The Interlude

Willow sat with Mr. Cohen and told her everything she wanted from the divorce after giving the lawyer all the works details that made her feel sick. Knox was an engineer so he made good money, twice was she made so she wanted their place as well as a small amount of alimony and child support. She also wanted full custody of her child. Willow wasn't sure if she was being unreasonable or not.

"Call me petty or whatever you want but.."

"No I don't think you are petty in the slightest," Mr. Cohen responded. "In actuality you are being more than fair given the circumstances, with his income and his potential as he is just starting out I suggest you take in to court again in ve to seven years, you may not get alimony but you will most likely receive more than that in child support given that his income will most likely double." Willow nodded her head and thanked Mr. Cohen for his time. He told her that he would draw up the papers and have something to her within the week to look over.

Willow left the lawyers oce and didn't see Rowan again. That's not surprising as Rowan had abandoned her as a friend a long time ago. Her father had messaged her later that night.

Dad: how did it go today?

Me: rough, I completely forgot I had met him such a long time ago.

Dad: I wouldn't trust just anyone but the best with my daughter

Me: you didn't tell mom did you?

Dad: no, and I won't. When do you think you will tell her?

Me: probably after the party

Dad: I have to see that cheating bastard at my party?

Me: I never said he cheated dad.

Dad: I know the top reasons for divorce. see you this weekend.

Me: I will talk to you later.

Willow put her phone away and was surprised at her fathers actions. They didn't have the best relationship, they were working on repairing it when Willow decided she wanted to become a mom. She was surprised he even texted her. Willow groaned thinking about the upcoming party for her father. She did not want to attend at all.

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She returned to the house around four that evening and was completely numb to everything. Willow started doing her evening routine which was clean up then get dinner started. Knox got home after ve and then immediately got into the shower. Willow didn't think much of it until she realized Knox always showered in the mornings. He had met Regina sometime today and was washing the smell off. It was another knife to the heart.

When it was time to eat Willow didn't bother asking about the second shower. It wasn't worth it to hear a lie. She simply asked her husband how his day was. Knox responded with 'ne.' When dinner was concluded Knox cleaned up and watched tv the rest of the night while texting on his phone with a smile on his face. Willow didn't want to watch him so she simply decided to take a nice hot bath.

She went to bed that night and cried herself to sleep in her husband's arms. He slept like the dead, oblivious to her pain. Willow soaked it up knowing the storm was coming.

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Willow went back to work the next morning, she worked at a small publishing company. Willow loved her job, it wasn't what she went to school for, but she loved it all the same. Willow was a junior editor and loved getting lost in the stories she got to read every day. Willow hated turning down any books and felt so bad that she would often slip them into her coworkers piles. Willow reected on her inability to tell anyone 'no,' and wondered if that is how she got here in the rst place. Willow thought about that throughout her day.

Sadly work couldn't distract her all the time, she unfortunately had to return home knowing that her husband was still conducting an affair with the woman that tortured her through out high school.

In the days that followed Willow watched her husband with the knowledge that he was cheating. Willow hated herself for missing the signs that she thought weren't there. Knox didn't talk to her unless he wanted something, he was on his phone all evening, he wouldn't let her come near him. Touch him. This was new, they had up until recently a healthy s\*x life. When had this changed? The last few weeks? A month? Willow started to hate herself even more for not seeing the signs of cheating.

She wonders how she even got pregnant. Then Willow remembers vividly, it was their anniversary. Willow had practically forced her husband to go out to eat to celebrate their anniversary. Willow celebrated the night mainly by herself eating her meal. Knox had gotten quite drunk at the bar and came home and they had s\*x. When Willow woke up Knox was confused as to what happened. Thinking that he might of confused her for Regina made her throw up in her waste basket at work.

"Calm down Will, your imagination is getting carried away." It didn't help that she was picking out all of the cheating stories to read. Misery loves company. Willow decided to go into her bosses oce and have a frank conversation with her. The door was opened, but she knocked on the door frame.

"If it's not my favorite junior editor, come on in." Her boss Mary said and waved her in. Mary was around her mothers age and was the best boss to work with. She didn't care how you got your quota met as long as it was met. Willow walked in and sat down in one of the chairs.

"What's on your mind?" Mary asked. "You feeling better?" Her boss gave her a look of concern.

"That's why I came in. I'm actually pregnant," Willow's tone was at and it seemed that Mary didn't notice.

"Oh congratulations! I know you and Knox have been trying for so long! Where is he by the way? He hasn't stopped by here for so long?" Mary asked just continually digging the knife in deeper and deeper. Willow tried to ght back the tears but failed and a few fell down her cheeks.

"Yeah, he's been cheating on me for the past several months." Mary's mouth dropped in shock.

"What!? He was so in love with you!" Mary told her and she gave a watery laugh.

"Yeah that's what I thought. I just wanted to tell you because the pregnancy has been causing a lot of morning sickness as well as the divorce has been giving me a lot of migraines." Mary gave her a sad look.

"Sweetie you can always work from home." Willow nodded, thanks to the pandemic she did quite a bit. Though she liked doing things the old-school way.

"You know I'm old school." Mary nodded,

"How about you work from home on Tuesday and Thursday. They are our slowest days."

"We always have meetings on Mondays and Fridays as well," Willow chimed in. They nished up and she left feeling better but worse now that another person pitied her for what she was going through. Willow left Mary's oce feeling better about her work situation, but worse that some one else knew she was being cheated on and her marriage had failed.

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Willow woke up feeling super nauseous so she was glad she didn't have to into work that day. It was several hours later that she was feeling better and after checking her emails she saw from her lawyers oce that she needed her marriage certicate for the divorce.

The certicate wasn't in the house as she kept it and several other important documents in a safety deposit box. The email stated that they would need it before processing the divorce papers so Willow went ahead and drove down to the bank twenty minutes away.

When she looked inside for the certicate about half of the money that was also in the box was gone. Willow was livid. That money was put aside for a rainy day in case of an accident. Willow put everything back, snapped a quick picture and quickly decided to take the rest of it for herself. She wasn't going to allow Knox to come back and take the rest of her money.

Willow was so furious as that money was saved by both of them. Willow could guess why her husband needed the money, but it was time she confronted him. Willow needed to get ahold of her lawyer, and sent him an email about what she discovered with the picture.

Willow went home and put away the money in a small safe she had in her closet along with their marriage certicate.

Willow spent the rest of the evening fuming. The only thing they argued about was money. Knox had terrible spending habits, he didn't gamble or anything of that nature he simple went through money like it grew on trees. Knox liked to eat out at fancy restaurants all the time, buy nice things, and go places. Willow did as well, however, Willow also knew how to live within her means and Knox either didn't or he didn't want to. She confronted her husband on it that night eating dinner.

"You want to tell me why half of the money was missing from our safety deposit box?" Willow asked casually and Knox froze.

"Why were you in there?" Knox immediately deected.

"Doesn't matter you need to tell me what you did with that ve thousand dollars."

"I bought..." Knox trailed off with no good excuse.

"You have a month to put it back in there," Willow demanded before he could nish is lie.

"How am I supposed to do that?" Knox asked in an outrage.

"I don't know, maybe not eat take out two times a day. Pack your lunch like I do. You know that half of that was my money. If you don't return it I will call the police." Willow was furious for him taking her money.

"You can't do that!" Knox told her outraged and Willow simply laughed,

"You trying to tell the law to a lawyers daughter? You make eight grand a month, you can replace it." That pissed him off, his stomped off to our room and came out a few minutes later.

"I'm going out."

"Better not spend any money, you owe me ve thousand dollars." Willow taunted and Knox slammed the door on his way out.

Willow wasn't a fool. Her husband spent their hard earned money on Regina. As a married couple they kept mostly separate nances. Willow came up with a budget; rent, utilities, and groceries it was totaled up and split right down the middle that was expected to be put into their joint account every month. Willow didn't understand why Knox was taking money from their rainy day savings, he was an engineer. Knox made almost three times what she did at his job. Her father conrmed that a long time ago, unless Regina coerced him into it, which wouldn't be surprising. There's a reason he took the cash. Willow had access to all of his bank statements. She would have seen any unusual charges.

"f\*\*k this keeps getting better and better."

Wills truly was a fool, while she went to a divorce lawyer in the back of her mind she had hoped her husband would come back to her. That or this was a terrible nightmare she would wake up from. Willow denitely woke up, and it wasn't good. The fallout wouldn't be good for her baby.