

## Coming to a head

It all came to a head the day of her father's celebration for becoming DA and winning a big murder case. Her father didn't want the party, but the mayor insisted. The case was a huge deal in Boston. It had been all over the news for years. Uncle James had in fact been offered to be the prosecutor, but when he found out he'd be going against my father he turned it down and told them they were f\*\*\*\*d and to take a plea deal. The defendant didn't listen and was crucied on the stand when my father questioned him. The jury came back unanimous to convict.

Willow didn't want to go as she didn't want to go with Knox, but the party had been planned before his affair had been revealed. It would also be the first time that she saw Regina face to face since high school. Regina's family were the mayor's biggest benefactors and often were on the front page of the Boston Herald next to the mayor. Her uncle didn't get involved with politics that she was aware of. He donated a lot to places like VA hospitals, veterans organizations, and nonprofits.

When her mom and aunt Diana, took her shopping for a dress she had been excited. Willow was able to find a gorgeous dress that was both perfect for the occasion and flattered her figure. The girls planned a spa day leading up to the party, now Willow just dreaded the whole day. She wasn't looking forward to lying to her whole family about the state of her marriage. Pretending everything was perfect. While she just wanted to die inside. It was always hard to be around her aunt and mom. They always acted like teenagers.

The day itself was going extremely well. Knox was being oddly clingy and affectionate. It was odd considering the longest conversation they had was about the money the other night. Willow put it out of her mind as she enjoyed her facial, then her manicure, and pedicure. When it came time for the group massage Willow knew she had to let the massage therapist know she was pregnant. She had read something about blood flow changes. Willow had tried to be quiet, but her mother heard and became very excited.

"Shh! I haven't told Knox yet." Her mother asked confused.

"What's going on?" Diane asked sweetly.

"Oh nothing, just wanting to know what is after massages," her mother always was perceptive to Willow's moods despite how she acted sometimes.

"Oh! Makeup and blowouts," Diane replied as she laid down on the chair. Her mother kindly let the situation drop.

When the hair and makeup was done mom dropped aunt Diane off at her home while the two of them returned to the house to get dressed for the evening. Aunt Diane timed the day perfectly and Willow was thankful as that meant she didn't have to talk to her husband.

Knox was downstairs waiting for her and chatting with her father. God she was so angry at him.

"When are you going to tell him your pregnant?" Her mom asked and Willow sighed,

"Tomorrow." Which wasn't a lie, she was going to give him the papers tomorrow. Her mom clearly wasn't happy with waiting, but didn't bring up the topic as the party was more important. They finished getting ready separately, but came together at the top of the stairs. Her parents home was modest in comparison to her the Cunningham's home. It was a simple four room bungalow. Willow loved her childhood home, and was never ashamed of it or where she came from.

Her mom walked down the stairs and Willow followed. Knox smiled but Willow could see the love wasn't in his eyes like it used to be. That broke her heart most of all.

"You look amazing." Knox's compliment seemed sincere but Willow didn't want to hear it.

"Thank you, let's head out." Willow was quite in the limo the mayor had sent and on her phone looking over the divorce papers.

"Hey are you okay?" Knox asked looking at her. Willow was surprised Knox wasn't on his phone, but she'd bet Regina wasn't responding. Regina was most likely in a limo of her own right now next to Rowan. Willow smiled internally, it was time to have some fun. Despite her heart rate spiking,

"I'm just nervous as I'm pretty sure my bully from high school will be there."

"Don't worry, I'll protect you." Knox said like he was a knight in shining armor. Willow internally rolled her eyes. Lies, all lies. Knox knew when he met that she had issues with trust and he had a hard time breaking through her walls. Willow made him work so hard for that first date, Knox swore she was worth it. It turns out that he wasn't.

The ride was around twenty minutes and Willow was not ready for it to end. When they got out of the limo they walked to the door and it was quickly opened by the maid. Everyone walked inside the large mansion and there waiting next to the grand stair case was the mayor. Willow was controlling her breathing as this was her first high society event in at least ten years.

"There he is! The man of the hour!" The mayor with his wife as well as Rowan's parents were there. They quickly hugged each other and Knox went pale.

"Do you know the Cunningham's?" Knox whispered.

"You mean my parents best friends?" Willow asked in a voice and his head snapped to her.

"Where's my niece? Where's my Willow tree?" Her uncle hollered.

"I'm right here uncle James," she walked up and he pulled her into a big bear hug. It was another reason Regina hated her, James's loved her and wanted them to end up together. Willow's relationship with James was strained for several years and James hated it, but eventually it worked itself out. They had superficial conversations every time they talked and saw one another.

"All right, let's meet this husband of yours," uncle James said when he pulled away. He walked over and sized him up then gave him a brief handshake. Uncle James looked at Willow then stated,

"Come to me when you want a divorce I'll do it pro bono." Then uncle James walked away. It seems uncle James was really good at reading people as he was a world renowned attorney, Willow had just let the affairs taint her opinions of him for a long time.

"What was that about? How come you never told me you knew the Cunningham's?" Knox asked clearly embarrassed by the billionaires opinion of him. She wanted to say "he most likely knows you are cheating." But she didn't do that.

"Oh it's nothing, they have always just wanted me to get married to their son, and they don't like who he's with now."

"Oh yeah?" Knox always did love gossip.

"Yeah, Rowan in his last year at Harvard law and he's been dating my bully since high school." Knox gave her a startled look,

"They think you two can get together? That's messed up." Willow almost scoffed,

"I know people are messed up."

"So how do you know them again?" Her husband asked. Before she could answer, Suddenly the mood shifted and without a doubt Willow knew that Regina, Rowan, and Regina's parents were here.

"Oh babe excuse me I have to go greet my boss," Knox said trying to get away, but she held onto his arm.

"What are you talking about, Mike isn't here." Knox let out a sigh,

"The company was bought out six months ago, it's my bosses, bosses boss." Knox took off and Willow let him go. For now, Willow at least had a start date of the affair.

Willow saw Knox talking to Regina's parents. She waited a few minutes and then walked right over. Willow slipped her arms into his and felt it tense up.

"Hello Mr. Silverton, Mrs. Silverton it's nice to see you again." Willow said sweetly.

"Hello Willow it's nice to see you again after all of these years," Mrs. Silverton said in a sweet voice. Regina's mean and vindictive streak must come from her father as her mother is a sweet lady. Willow could feel the confusion come from her husband.

"How do you know Mr. Hayes here?" Mr. Silverton asked not bothering with pleasantries.

"You mean my husband?" Willow asked confused. Mr. Silverton's eyes went to her husband then his finger where his wedding ring lay.

"You never wore that around the ocean, and quite specifically said you were single." That was like a punch to the gut, before anything else could be said in walked Rowan and Regina clearly holding hands looking like a couple and Regina had a smirk on her face.

"Willow! You look amazing!" Rowan told her and gave her a very tight almost inappropriate hug. Rowan also gave her a kiss on the forehead before pulling away. Willow looked around and could almost see steam coming out of Regina's eyes. She smirked at her reaction. Willow looked to Knox who was quickly assessing the situation and finally coming to a proper conclusion. Willow felt a little sad that her husband wasn't jealous. Rowan still had a hold of her hands so she decided to remove them.

"It's good to see you again Rowan," Willow stated with a smile.

"I know, seeing you last week wasn't enough to catch up we will have to do it again." Willow stated and she saw Regina's eyes literally catch on her.

"You are seeing Rowan?! How dare you?" Regina almost screeched.

"What are you saying Ms. Silverton? I'm a married woman who's in love with her husband. I was simply catching up with an old friend."

"Regina, you couldn't possibly think that of our old friend?" Rowan said and Regina stayed silent but was clearly fuming.

"So Rowan when are you going to marry my daughter?" Mr. Silverton asked Rowan and Regina piped up,

"I have been waiting so long Honey." Willow could feel Knox tense up and once again she rolled her eyes did her husband actually get feelings for that snake Regina? Oh well that was his problem.

"Well sir as I have always said I would wait until I graduated I wasn't in an place to propose to anyone." Mr. Silverton nodded,

"You will be graduating next year correct?" Mr. Silverton asked and Rowan nodded. That was a lie, he will be graduating in December. Willow kept her mouth shut, she had her own problems.

"Well I will be expecting a proposal soon after." Rowan didn't agree or disagree,

"Excuse me, I need to speak to my father, Willow will you come with me I see our parents together."

"Of course, from what I understand Dad wants uncle James and aunt Diane on stage when accepting the award." Mrs. Silverton laughed,

"Some things never change, and it's good to see those four haven't." Willow laughed,

"Yes ma'am they haven't. It was so good to see you Mr. and Mrs. Silverton." Willow took Rowan's arm and they walked without talking to the head of the ballroom. It went without saying that while they did have more to talk about, it would be done whenever they met up later.

Willow stood on stage and watched her father's speech without really listening. She was too busy staring at her husband, who was staring at Regina. Willow wished she was stronger than she was, but she wasn't and her eyes couldn't look away. Willow also cursed her husband for the millionth time, she knew Regina went after her husband on purpose, but why did he have to sleep with her?

When her father's speech was over Willow needed a break and went to the bathroom. She had to get out of there otherwise she would get sick, end up crying, or both. When she exited the bathroom Regina was waiting for her with a smirk on her face. Willow wanted to so badly slap it off her face, but she wouldn't disrespect her father like that.

"So how does it feel to know that I took your only friend and f\*\*\*\*d your husband?" Regina said with hate in her eyes. Willow couldn't help but laugh.

"I don't know. Tell me how does it feel to know that you've chased after Rowan for over ten years and he hasn't put a ring on your finger yet? And he most likely never will because his parents can't stand you and want to marry me?" Willow asked trying to be smug but knew in reality that Regina won. Regina always wins.