

The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 94

Sophie's pov

'I agree, perhaps I should have talked to you about it before surprising you the way I did this morning. But he came over to the office unexpectedly,' Aiden murmurs when I didn't respond.

I shook my head slightly. "I still don't get it Aiden. Why me?"

He drags out a sigh, tore his stormy gaze away from and then shift them back to me. This time, they're deep with emotion. Vulnerability.

"Because you're the only one I trust Sophie. I can't ask anyone else, there's no other woman I'd want to parade on my arm other than you," He says with such shocking honesty, I gulped.

My tongue feels heavy and I'm not sure how I am supposed to answer him.

He shakes his head, laughs dryly and clears his throat. "I can't go back to jail Sophie, not when I just got to know my son,"

My heart squeezes.

"I can't leave him like that. I need to be there for him." He croaked out with heavy emotion.

"You're powerful too Aiden, can't you fight him on this?" I whispered. He was the CEO of one of the biggest companies in New York. There was really nothing he can't do.

I froze.

Pregnant fiance?

"Aiden," I whispered in disbelief. "Did you tell your grandfather I was pregnant?"

Was that the reason Sergio kept looking at me from head to toe?

I had originally thought Aiden had thrown us in hot water but he threw us in the burning pit instead.

He looks at me guiltily and sheepishly. "I did. But this was the only way for him to accept this. Like I said, he'd look like the bad guy in the situation, not me. But if I were to threaten him with telling the media about his plan to find a way to send me back into jail, I'd also raise questions as to why I was in jail in the first place."

Aiden breathed out and tore his eyes away from me. “As you can see Sophie, I was backed into a corner and this was the only way out. I did it for my son and you.”

He brought his eyes back to me, his face flushing. “I cannot leave you and Ash alone. I have missed out on way too much

as it is.”

I let out a shaky breath. I understood him and why he said what he said. But pregnancy?

How could we pull this off when I was a hundred percent sure I was not pregnant?

I looked at Aiden across the table and suddenly all I could feel was pity. How can his own grandfather threaten him so badly

that he had to sort for ways to stay in his son’s life?

He was doing this for Ashton and he needed my help.

And how can I not?

My son just got his father in his life and even though we clearly still have problems seeing eye to eye, I wasn’t about to make the same mistake twice and ruin his chance with his son,

again.

I’m about to speak but the waiter returns and asked us if we have chosen our meal.

Aiden grumbles something that starts with a T and not

knowing what it was and also guilty because I had not once looked at the menu I told the waiter I wanted whatever Aiden just ordered.

When he leaves and promises to bring us a glass of water while we wait, Aiden spoke up. “I don’t think you’re going to like what you just ordered there Sophie,” His lips tug into a

smile.

I snorted lightly. “Don’t be ridiculous, there’s nothing I don’t eat.”

He smiles and nods.

I got serious, gnawing on my lips and then sighed. “Fine. I’ll pretend to be your pregnant fiancée. I have no idea how we’re going to pull this off especially seeing as I’m not pregnant but I won’t have you go back to jail Aiden.”

I shook my head and whispered. “You didn’t deserve to take jail in the first place. You also didn’t deserve not knowing your

son for a few years and I’ll be d**ned if I make the same mistake again. So yes Aiden Xavier, I’ll be your fiancée.”

Aiden’s eyes widen slightly in shock. He must not have expected me to agree or he perhaps thought I’d put up more of a fight.

But then when he realized I was speaking the truth, his lips parted into a beaming smile. “There’s a way you can actually get pregnant-

“Don’t even start.” I huffed in annoyance.

He chuckled.

Aiden was right about the meal. I couldn’t eat it and nearly barf at the sight of the snails.

I can’t believe people actually eat those...

I shivered in disgust just thinking about it.

Aiden’s hand is on the small of my back as we head for the exit. But suddenly his phone buzzes.

He quickly s**ches it out of his pocket and answered swiftly.

“What is it Mitch? We’re on our way-”

He stops and suddenly stiffens. His hand on the small of my back snake around my waist to hold me firmly to his side.

His jaw ticked and he grumbles through the phone. “We’ll be out in a few. Don’t panic.”

When he places his phone back into his pocket, I asked with a bit of hesitancy. “Is everything okay?”

“There are p**az*i surrounding the entire restaurant. They’re blocking Mitch’s path.”

The blood drains from my face. “P****a*zi?” I murmured in

shock.

He nods stiffly and grits out. “Yes. They’re here to take photos of the newly engaged couple.”

Sophie’s pov

P***zi.

I wasn’t ready for that yet. Especially when Aiden and I had yet to lay down the rules of this fake engagement. We had yet to even discuss anything other than me having to pretend to be his pregnant fiancée.

How did the p***zi even know we were there? How did they know we were ‘engaged’?

Unless...

Was it that interviewer woman?

Was it Aiden’s grandfather?

Aiden’s warmth seeped through me as he tugged me closer and gave me a reassuring squeeze. “I’m right here Sophie. All you have to do is keep your head down, and ignore their words until we’re actually ready to talk.”

I pull in a lungful of air, trying my best to relax my nerves. I’ve never done this before, never even seen a p***zi in my life before so I had no idea what to expect.

“Ready?” Aiden asked and I nodded slowly.

I was obviously not ready. My stomach was cramping with knots and I thought I was on the verge of having a heart attack. This did not scream ready, this screamed the opposite.

Aiden sensed my hesitation and leans down to whisper in my ears reassuringly. “I’m not going to make anything happen to you Sophie. I’ll be by your side always.”

My heart s**ped about or two.

His words warmed me and made me feel better, especially with the honest tone he used when he said he would always be by my side.

“Okay, I’m ready,” I breathed out, and after a few more

lungfuls of air to calm my nerves, Aiden and I walked out of the restaurant.

I squint, cringing slightly as flashes and the sound of clicking, runs through the air. Aiden's hand around my waist grows hard with firmness and with a slight tug he began to pull me through the throng of p**zzi who was thankfully giving us room to pass through.

“Miss how did you and Mr. Xavier meet?” One asked loudly, trying to get her question through the numerous others.

“Miss, why have we never seen you with Mr. Xavier before?”

“What's your name miss?”

“How did you manage to get the p**oy bachelor to commit to you?”

“How did Mr. Xavier propose?”

“What do you do as your career?”

“Miss can you say a few words, Miss!”

I winced. So many questions slapped me left and right as we made our way to the SUV. Thankfully they were so occupied with us, they were slowly dispersing around the SUV.

I keep my head down slightly as Aiden guided me towards the Suv quickly. My heart was beating in my chest like a drum and I was surprised it didn't surpass the sound of the clicks from the cameras.

When we reached the Suv and Aiden opened the door quickly a question had him freezing.

“Mr. Xavier is this the woman who has your heart?”

I could've gone inside and ignored the question. I could've ignored the beating of my heart as I waited with battered breath for his answer. But I stopped and waited for what he would do or say.

Aiden turns around and answered whoever asked the question. “Yes,”

And with that he nudged me to get into the SUV and with my body going numb from his words, I stumbled in ungracefully.

When I'm seated, I stare forward, completely mute and confused. Stunned.

Did he just-

I shook my head. I was reading way too much into this. We were supposedly engaged so he had to say yes. He didn't mean them, this was an act.

When Aiden got in I licked my suddenly dry lips and shifted slightly, feeling awkward.

“How the f*ck did they know we were here?” He growled after slamming the door close and drowning out the voices and the clicks of the cameras outside.

“They showed up suddenly sir,” Mitch said.

“Get us out of here Mitch,” Aiden demanded while glaring at the p**zzi as they made a fuss outside.

Mitch nodded and quickly drove out of the parking space.

Aiden sighs, leaning back in the seat as he brushed a hand down his face.

“I'm sorry about this Sophie. I know how they can take

someone off guard. Especially when that someone was not expecting them to show up. I don't know how they even knew I was here...” He huffed.

My brows furrowed and I looked at him.” They knew about the engagement so it's either your grandfather or that interviewer,” I said as I thought about it.

These were the only two people who even knew about our 'engagement. It really doesn't take much to know that it was either of the two.

But what confused me though, was that the p***zi knew where Aiden and I were. Who gave them the heads up?

“My money is on that interviewer. She probably followed us. Who knows. Or maybe it was one of the celebrities in the restaurant. These insta models always have a d*mn phone in their hands. Could be one of them too.” He grumbles in annoyance. “I don't know. But I'm sure it was not Sergio.”

My brow raised. “What makes you think it was not him?”

Aiden turns to face me. “Because darling, my grandfather is a businessman. Every step, he takes with caution. He would not randomly let the media know I'm engaged so abruptly. Besides, that woman probably did this for money. They sell anything nowadays. Our engagement is a hot topic, she would not miss this opportunity.”

I searched his face and then nod. “What are we going to do now that it’s out there that we are engaged?”

By now social media must be swimming with things about us.

Aiden sighs and looks at me fixedly. “We act engaged.”

I gnaw on my lips, my stomach knotting when he answered my silent questions.

“That means we act like a couple when the cameras are on us, when Sergio is in the same room or anyone else. We have to sell it, Sophie.” He whispered.

I bit into my bottom lip harshly. Acting like an engaged couple meant that we would have to hold hands in public, and do all those things a loving couple does....

Could my s*upid heart remain calm and not fall for him during that time? Especially when I still didn’t even know how long we had to act like we were a couple to be wed.

“How long must we pretend for Aiden?” I whispered, now getting extremely nervous when I realized what I signed up for.

“As long as it takes.”

Sophie’s pov

I’m panicking inwardly while Aiden makes calls beside me.

He’s talking so aggressively while rubbing his forehead. It was clear that what happened to us threw some stress onto his shoulders.

I let out some air through my nose and took out my phone from the bag. I quickly searched up Aiden’s name, only to not be surprised that our images were everywhere.

My heart slammed in my chest.

There are even articles written about us already....

Gnawing on my lips I clicked on one, cringing slightly when it was a horrible picture of Aiden and me walking out of the

restaurant.

I scrolled down, my eyes darting around every word.

‘With a well poised handsome man like Mr. Xavier, you’d expect a properly dressed woman beside him. But do not mind her appearance for Aiden Xavier did not seem to care. Our bachelor p***oy is now a one-woman’s man. This mysterious lady has managed to capture what many women strived for. The heart of Aiden Xavier. Let the wedding bells ring!

My stomach twisted with unease and I felt sick to my stomach.

I shakily lift my hand to my face to pull some of my strands behind my ear.

Don’t mind her appearance...

I know I was nowhere close to Aiden’s standards but you’d think they would at least wait to throw their judgments.

I quickly put off my phone, sliding it into my bag. My throat burned with stifling emotion.

I know I shouldn’t let the media get to me but I couldn’t help it. My face was splattered everywhere and I was sure there was nothing good said about me.

“What’s wrong?” Aiden asked which surprised me.

I thought he was on the phone?

I turn to face him. “Nothing is wrong.” I lied hoping he could not see in my eyes that I did.

He doesn’t look convinced and moves the phone away from his ear, his attention staying on me. “What’s wrong Sophie? You’re not going to change your mind are you?” He asked with a bit of concern.

I shook my head. “Of course not. I’m just a bit shaken about what happened. This is the first time I have had this many cameras on my face. “I admitted.

His eyes shift in understanding and his hand comes to rest on my hand on my thigh. I held my breath when the heat of his palm burn me with tingles. “Everything will be fine. We’ll get them under control.”

I nod.

I don’t believe we could get them under control. The media was something not even Aiden can control.

They were vicious when they were after something they wanted. And I was a hundred percent sure they wanted every detail about Aiden and my engagement.

“Where are we going now?” I asked softly.

He breathed out a sigh while pushing his phone into his pocket. “We need to get you an engagement ring as soon as possible.”

I nod, my hands wringing with nerves on my lap.

I’m scared of what I had just pushed myself into, and even more, scared of what this will do to Ashton.

Mitch pulled up beside a fancy jewelry store and I turn to look at Aiden. “You don’t have to buy me an expensive ring, Aiden,” I told him.

This was a fake engagement and having an expensive ring would be practically useless.

But instead of agreeing Aiden lifted his brow and shook his head slightly. “Only the best for my woman.”

I froze, my heart slamming in my chest.

If it was anything else, I’d say that he meant it. But then I remembered we were to act like we were engaged so perhaps

it would be best if he got the best for his ‘woman’

I smiled shakily, a bit unsure of how to respond to him. He opens the door and gets out while outstretching his hand out for me to take.

His hand is warm when they clasp around mine as he gently helps me out.

We walked to the entrance of the store, my eyes nervously darting around to see if any of the p***zzi had followed us.

“You’re on edge,” Aiden noted as he pushed the door open and gestured for me to enter.

The cool air from the A.C in the store calms my rather heated skin.

“Can you blame me? It hasn’t been a whole twenty-four hours yet and everyone knows about our engagement.” I whispered.

“Well it’s not like they wouldn’t have known. They just got to know sooner than we expected.” He grumbles, capturing my hand with his again.

My own gets clammy.

It felt so strange to hold him so intimately like this.

“And I wonder whose fault this is?” I asked sarcastically.

The man behind the glass display desk showcasing the many expensive rings, looked like he was about to faint when he saw Aiden approaching.

His beady eyes sweep over to me and his eyes widen slightly

in surprise. “Mr. Xavier, I have not seen you here in a while.”

“Well, I came here for something important,” Aiden responded when we neared the man.

“Then, by all means, tell me how I can be of assistance Mr. Xavier.”

I looked at his name tag.

Frank Gordon.

Aiden’s fingers around my hand tighten. “I’m looking for the best wedding ring for my fiancée.” He turns to me when says fiancée and I squirm slightly under his weighted gaze.

“Find us something that will match her beautiful eyes.” Aiden continued not knowing that his words were messing with my

head.

Calm down Sophie. It’s just pretending. He has to play the part and so do you. My conscience reminded me.

The man’s eyes widen slightly in surprise as he looks at me and quickly nods.

“Will do Mr. Xavier,” Frank said and then lifted a finger. “I think I have the best one for her. Ring size?”

“Five,” Aiden answered before I could. Frank nods and leaves our side. When he’s far from hearing range I turn to Aiden, my brows furrowing. “How do you know my ring size?”

He lifts my hand, the same one tangled with his fingers, and whispered. “There are a lot of things I know about you, Sophie.”

I dart my eyes between his, trying to see if I can read him. There’s an emotion hidden behind that veil in his stormy gaze. A strong emotion that had my heart fluttering quickly.

“Aiden-

I got cut off when Frank came back.

I bit my tongue, ripping my eyes away from Aiden, and shook my head slightly.

Don’t be ridiculous Sophie, you didn’t see that emotion in his eyes.

This was all your imagination doing. Because why would

Aiden Xavier look at you with such fondness that you almost forgot how to breathe?

Sophie’s pov

Aiden asked me if I wanted to put the ring in the jewelry store or somewhere more private.

I wasn’t sure which to choose seeing as I was so stunned by the sight of the sapphire diamond ring that was worth 1.2 million dollars.

That’s enough to buy at least two mansions. Enough to feed a good bit of poor people too. I didn’t want him to spend this much money on me. Not when I clearly did not deserve it.

“Aiden you can’t spend so much on me,” I whispered so only he could hear me as he observed the ring for flaws. His eyes were set on the ring so fixedly that I thought he was way too into it to even have heard me.

His mouth tugs into a grin a second later. He heard me.

“Don’t worry about it, darling. Like I’ve mentioned,” He turns. to me with the ring pinched between his fingers. “Only the best for my woman,” He whispered, leaning forward.

For his woman....

Focus Sophie!

Play it cool. You're supposed to pretend too, don't forget that. Don't forget that this is all for show. Everyone's watching, be calm.

Aiden leans forward even more, his eyes falling to my lips.

I held my breath because he was getting so close that I can feel the warm air from his nose on my face.

But then the tension c**cks when he lifted his hand between us and asked. "Do you like it?"

My eyes crossed as I looked at the ring between us. It was sterling silver, and those pretty sapphire diamonds shone brightly.

They were not meant for someone like me.

A beautiful ring that should not be wrapped around my finger.

I felt like a fraud. Aiden was supposed to give a woman he loves this beautiful, expensive ring. Not someone who was supposed to act like his fiance just to get him out of trouble.

"It's beautiful," I answered, smiling lightly. Frank had his eyes on us like a hawk. One disagreement and I was sure he'd run to the media and say how I'm a selfish and unsatisfied b*tch.

Aiden grins and asked me again in a low voice that I alone could hear. "Where do you want to put it on?" He asked and then his eyes shifted to somewhere in the room and his jaw clenched.

He looks back over at me and leans forward and then draws his mouth over to my ear to murmur tightly. "Don't look but there are two employees mumbling together. One has a phone and the other is watching us fixedly. We have to act accordingly."

I'm confused until I got what he meant when he suddenly got

on his knee before me.

My heart jumps in my throat and then resumes its beating, only that it was beating so quickly that it was alarming.

I know this was all part of the game we were playing at but that still did not help my poor heart.

Seeing Aiden on one knee, holding up the ring with shaky fingers, a s**ppy nervous grin, and an even more edgy look flashing in his eyes made this all too real.

I'm trembling, especially my fingers that I try to fist to help not make it obvious how jittery I was at the moment with the father of my child down on his knees for me.

“Sophie Bell-

He started and gulped, and my heart skyrocketed.

Aiden was definitely an actor in his past life because he currently was making this look too real.

But that's what the two of you are striving for Sophie, to make this look all the more real. My conscience reminded me.

But even though it warned me to not read into this too much, my heart was not heeding the warning. Especially with the way he was currently watching me, it had the foolish o*gan beating rapidly.

“I've never fallen in love with someone so much to the point I cannot breathe if I think of losing them. You've managed to capture my heart Sophie, you've captured it a long time ago-

I sucked in a sharp breath at his words. What did he mean?

Was he just saying that to make it more believable?

Aiden continues, looking as nervous as ever as if I had a choice to say no. Maybe I did, but I was not going to. Because maybe some part of me secretly wants this to be real.

Farfetched I know. But one can't blame me. I have loved this man for years even through the bullying. Don't judge me, sometimes the heart doesn't choose who to fall in love with. It just happens.

“I've realized that my life was incomplete when you were not in it and when you showed up again, you have no idea how much you filled that void. I love you with every breath I take, every single breath. And I want to love you until the day that I can no longer breathe. I want to love you forever. I want you to be my wife.” He flashes me a shaky smile, his eyes misting.

The emotions in his eyes were pure and I could not focus on anyone else inside this store but Aiden. He had trapped me in his gaze. A gaze that seemed all too real. I realized, with every breath I took, that I was still madly in love with Aiden.

I was still so madly in love with him that my heart didn't know the difference between his facade and the real side.

My eyes fogged with tears, ready to flow. Every worker had their eyes set on us. But they didn't matter. Their phones in their hands didn't matter. Their murmurs didn't matter.

It was the man with the stormy gaze I had known for years that mattered. Always did.

“Let me love you Sophie Bell. Let me take care of you for the rest of our lives. Give me the honor to be by your side. Let me

love you until death do us part. Will you marry me?” He whispered, looking jittery as he waited for my response.

My heart was beating wildly, my fingers were shaky. F***ng them did not help.

The longer I take to respond the more nervous he got. One would think that this act was true....

It was what we were striving for so I suppose that was a good thing. But was it good for my foolish heart? Probably not.

I nod, my shaky hand pushing over to him. “Yes.

”

Sophie's pov

There's cheering around, but my eyes can't move away from Aiden to see those who were cheering.

I knew that it was the people in the store who saw and heard everything. I didn't need to know more.

He smiles brightly in relief and slips the ring on my trembling fingers. His fingers were warm, and gentle.

“The color matches your eyes,” He whispered and looked up at me with a grin.

I nod agreeing with him even though I didn't even hear a word he just said. My mind was a bit too hazy with what just happened. I could not focus a hundred percent yet.

He comes closer, his bigger body almost pressing against mine. My heart is beating in my chest when one of his arms slip around my waist and hold me firmly.

He leans down and kissed my cheek and whispered. "Nice acting."

His words had cold water splashing across my body, freezing me and pushing reality in my face. Acting.

We were just acting.

S**pid Sophie. Of course the two of you were acting.

He didn't mean a single word that came out of his mouth.

"We need to show them that you're extremely happy. We both are." He whispered, kissing my cheeks again. His lips on my skin burned through me and heated my veins.

I ignored the feeling, setting cold ice in my heart instead. "How are we supposed to do that?" I whispered, my heart aching knowing those beautiful words he said had no true meaning behind them.

What a waste of beautiful words.

"Easy," He murmurs, his head coming forward.

His hand at the back of my head, his fingers tangled in my hair, his head leaning down, my eyes on his lips, and then a gasp....

Our lips mold, perfectly even though we both were imperfect.

He moved them against mine softly, tenderly as one would do to his lover. Someone he loves.

My foolish heart flutters in my chest again like a bird flapping its wings.

He moans, drawing me closer to him. The way he gripped the back of my head and the way his lips sucked my lower lip in his mouth, Aiden definitely had forgotten where we were until I pulled away.

We were in a store with many eyes on us, we didn't need to kiss like we were about to f*ck in front of everyone.

Aiden pecks my lips and brushes some of my hair behind my ear. His actions were playing with my heart but I was allowing him to.

Great he saw me looking at myself like a weirdo.

Looking away from the rearview mirror, I decided to scoot a little further to the door and fetch my buzzing phone.

My brows furrowed when I noticed that it was Mila's picture on the screen.

Why was she calling me now? Did something happen?

I quickly slide my thumb over the answer button and brought the phone to my ear.

"Hey-

I didn't even get a good greeting in before she cuts in like a whip.

"Sophie f**king Bell!" She growled sounding angry as hell.

Oh c*ap. What did I do?

"Yeah?" I winced. Did I leave the bathroom pipe open?

What's going on?

"Why in the f**ing a*s am I hearing that you're engaged to f**king Aiden Xavier through some dumb popular online celebrity gossip site?!" She barked and I can hear Ria's mother in the background asking her to get off the phone and get back to work.

I cringe. So many f**ks in one sentence. Oh she's p**sed alright.

"Mila," I whispered hoping to calm her down.

"Don't Mila me! How can you not tell your best friend about this before the whole entire world knew?" She snapped.

I pinched my eyes closed for a few seconds. "Mila there are things I cannot explain to you over the phone. I know you're angry and want an explanation but right now I can't give that to you," I opened my eyes and breathed out.

"I'll explain everything when we're home. I promise that I'll clear everything up." I whispered looking over at Aiden who I felt his eyes on me the entire time I was on the phone.

His phone was still buzzing but he had yet to pick it up.

"Fine. But you have to tell me everything. Every single thing you hear me!?"

I nod even though she could not exactly see me. “Yes. I promise.” I mumbled, tearing my eyes away from Aiden’s.

We said our goodbyes and I end the call. Looking over at Aiden with furrowed brows I opened my mouth to speak.

“Why aren’t you picking up the calls?” I asked in puzzlement.

“Because I know who’s calling and I am not ready to speak with him.” He admitted tightly, his jaw clenching.

“Sergio?” I asked, already having an inkling it was him.

Aiden’s stiff nod and grunt answered me without him having to say words.

“What if it’s important Aiden?” I asked, gnawing on my lips.

Aiden sighed heavily and answered the phone. “What?” He sneered coldly and then stiffened.

“They’re quicker than I gave them credit for.” He gritted, his hands f**ing on his lap.

My brows knot. Whatever Sergio said to Aiden managed to upset him so this definitely was not good.

Suddenly my phone blares, startling me. I looked at the caller ID and my heart pummels to the pit of my stomach.

Why was Ashton’s daycare calling me at this time?

I answered it quickly, nerves bubbling in my stomach when I brought it to my ear.

“Hello?”

“Miss. Bell, it’s about your son, he’s-”

Sophie’s pov

“What is it? What’s wrong with him!?” I rushed out, my heart aching while beating furiously in my chest.

Not a good combination.

My hands get clammy as I looked at Aiden in alarm. He must've noticed the tone of my voice and my panic stare because he turned to me with furrowed brows and a worried

gaze.

"I'll call you back Sergio." He said and cut the line. He's sending me worried looks that asked for answers that I couldn't give as yet. Not until I know what's wrong myself.

"Ashton seems to have caught something. His nose is runny and he keeps calling for his mommy. Can you come to pick him up please?" The woman said on the other line worriedly.

My heart sinks.

Oh my poor baby.

"I'll be there in a few. Please tell him I'm on my way," I said quickly while brushing my trembling fingers in my hair.

"Will do Miss.Bell." The woman promised and then end the call.

I didn't even have time to place my phone down when Aiden asked in a rush.

"What's wrong? Is it Ashton?" His voice had a tone of worry and fear.

"He isn't feeling well. Can you drop me off at the daycare?" I asked, gnawing on my lips. He was my boss after all and it would be wise to ask him permission.

"Of course. Mitch forget about bringing me to the office today, take us to Ashton's daycare." Aiden demanded and looked at me with a worried glare in his eyes.

"Is it bad? Anything to raise a concern?"

"She didn't say. But she did mention that his nose is runny. My baby must've caught a cold." I bit into my bottom lip worriedly.

My poor baby must be fussy. He's always fussy when he's sick.

"Our baby," Aiden corrected softly and I nod. "Right," I murmured.

I lift my hand to my mouth to bite my nails as I got more worried.

Suddenly my hand is pried from my mouth and is engulfed in Aiden's warm one. His touch eases me more than I'd like to

admit.

“He’ll be okay mama bear,” He murmured, drawing our connected hands to the space between us on the seat.

For the rest of the drive he did not let my hand go, not even once. Not even when his phone rang and he answered it.

But when we stopped beside the daycare, I realized I didn’t want to let go. His hand was comforting. Warm and eased my worries without him having to do much.

And with every five minutes that passed, Aiden would squeeze my hand. As if reassuring me that everything would be okay.

It was a really comforting feeling I never knew I’d get from him.

“I’ll call you back,” He said curtly to whoever was on the other line and ends the call.

“You don’t have to come in with me. I can go on my own-

“Don’t be ridiculous Sophie. I’m coming with you to get our son.” He grumbles as if annoyed that I even suggested that he could stay.

I nod and untangle my fingers from his. His eyes shot down as if surprised that we were still holding hands and a surprising flush crawled on his cheeks.

He clears his throat, opened the door and got out. He helps me out and I’m a bit dampened that he didn’t keep my hands

in his.

I miss his warmth but I was not going to make a fool out of myself.

So I let out a breath and started for the building with him close behind me.

When we entered and walked over to the woman I had spoken to, I can’t help but see that her eyes were not on me but on someone behind me.

That someone was Aiden.

fire shooting from my nose.

Mrs. Georgia who was only just a couple of years older than me, looks over at me irritated and nodded stiffly.

The nerve of this woman.

She has always treated me warmly, which was one of the main reasons why I trusted my most prize possession, Ashton in her care.

But one look at Aiden and the woman looks at me in spite.

She turns around, purposely swaying her hips in a way that had her blessed bottom j**gle.

I'm trembling with anger as I glared at her back and followed after her.

"Mrs. Georgia, I forgot to ask...how is your husband doing? The last time I saw him was in the diner." I throw at her, making sure I remind her that she was a married woman and to also warn Aiden that she was.

I mean I was saving him from doing a mistake...

I didn't care if he f**ked her...

Mrs. Georgia who was once walking with such poise, shoulders dropped and her footsteps quickened once she heard my words.

"Nathan is doing okay," She whispered in defeat and shame, making my shoulders straighten in triumph.

I'm still glaring at her as I followed after her, when suddenly

an arm circled around my waist and pull me closer. Aiden's lips feather against my ear as he whispered. "You look so hot when you're jealous mama bear."

Sophie's pov

"Oh my baby bug," I rushed over to Ashton who was playing with building blocks on the mat.

As Mrs. Georgia had mentioned, Miss. Greene was right beside Ashton, helping him build what I suppose was a castle....

When he heard my voice his beautiful blue eyes shot up and he beamed. His eyes were glossy and his nose was red. His cheeks were also flushed.

My heart throbbed. He was sick.

"Moma," He said and struggled to get to his feet.

“Mommy is here baby,” I whispered as I scooted down and picked him up in my arms.

I hug his smaller body to mine, kissing his cheek and whispering soothing words to reassure him that he was going to be fine.

I noted how his body temperature was a bit off.

Aiden comes to stand beside us and rubs Ashton’s back while looking down at him in clear concern. “Do you know what could have made him sick?” He asked one of the women

whose eyes were on the three of us.

They shook their heads while one answered. “He seemed okay earlier but suddenly started sneezing and his nose got runny.

Might be a small bug or a cold.”

Ashton’s head dropped on my shoulder and I lift the back of my hand to his forehead. He’s burning up.

“He has a fever Aiden,” I said rapidly, scared that this was serious.

Aiden’s eyes watch his son with deep worry and said. “We’ll take him to the doctor baby, don’t worry okay?” He said, lifting his eyes to mine in reassurance.

I nodded, my brain too fumbled to realize what he called me at the moment.

Miss. Greene brought over Aiden’s little bag and Aiden and I walked out of the building with Ashton in my arms in a few.

When we got inside the Suv, I had Ashton tucked in my arms, holding him close as I run my fingers through his hair gently.

My eyes misted. “I don’t understand how this could’ve happened,” I said shakily, my voice filled with emotion.

I hated when Ashton got sick. Which was rarely.

“He seemed fine this morning,” My voice cracked.

I’m startled slightly when Aiden’s hand lands on mine that was wrapped around Ashton’s middle. He squeezes my hand.

“He’ll be okay Sophie. It’s nothing to fret about.” He said calmly though when I looked over at him he was just as worried as me. Perhaps even more.

I nod and kissed the top of Ashton’s head. He was burning up even more now.

“He’s burning up,” I whispered with a pitch of fear in my tone.

Aiden’s hand left mine to rest on his son’s head and his face twisted with more concern.

“Mitch can you step on the gas?” He said to Mitch urgently.

When we got to the hospital, Aiden insisted that he’d hold Ashton since his legs were longer than mine and would get inside the building before I could.

But I was certain he only wanted to hold his son in his arms to help ease his worries.

We both rushed to the ER. Aiden being the Ceo that he was used his superiority and demanded that they check Ash right away.

The woman behind the front desk looked faint when she took note of Aiden’s unflickering impatient voice.

“Aiden..” I whispered not sure if being rude and demanding would make them give Ashton the best care.

Even though there were not many patients in the waiting area waiting for their names to be called, it was still rude to cut through them.

“Sir please have a seat and I’ll see if the doctor has clocked in yet-

“What the f*ck are you talking about? Get me a f**ing

doctor for my son.” He hissed, holding Ashton’s much smaller body than his to him protectively.

I wince at his curse words but don’t scold him.

The woman gulps, looking like she was at any moment about to faint by how the blood drained from her face.

I reached out and grabbed Aiden's arm. "Aiden it's fine we can wait for a few," I said and nodded at the woman who

looked relieved that I intervened.

Aiden did not look pleased with my words but after a few nods and grits out. "Fine."

We both walked to the waiting area and Aiden takes a seat while making sure that Ashton was curled comfortably in his

arm.

I sat beside him and reach over to brush the back of my hand on Ashton's forehead.

"He's less hot than he was a few minutes ago. The fever must be calming down." I whispered with a bit of relief.

"You should've let me get the doctor to check up on him as soon as possible," Aiden grumbles while hugging Ash to him.

I sighed heavily knowing he was upset that I intervened. "Aiden. You can't go around demanding that the woman get the doctor right away. Especially if that said doctor has yet to clock in. And don't forget that there are still others waiting on the doctor. It wouldn't be right-

"I don't care. My son is my number one priority and seeing him get better soon was all I could think about. I don't care

about anyone else." He grumbles, kissing Ashton's head.

I smiled faintly knowing what he meant. He wanted to see his son get better as soon as possible and one couldn't get mad at him for that. Looking down at Ash I noticed that his eyes were slowly closing.

He must be tired.

Suddenly hush voices grew and I had nearly forgotten that we were in the waiting room and that there were others beside

I looked around, noticing how all eyes were on us.

One bold and brave woman who seemed to be a few years younger than me, fishes for Aiden's attention. "Are you Aiden Xavier? The CEO of Harrington.co?"

Aiden looked over at her a bit irritated but nodded

nonetheless.

The girl picks up her phone off her lap and looked between us when she put her phone on. She clicks on something and suddenly the words Aiden recited earlier to me at the jewelry store blasted through her phone.

“I knew you two looked familiar! That was such a beautiful proposal,” She smiled and turned the phone screen to face us. And sure enough, it was a video of Aiden and me in the store. Aiden’s on his knees, holding out the ring to me.

From the angle the video is taken, it was definitely from one of the workers working there.

“Can I take a picture with you two? You two are going viral on social media.” She chirped.

“Don’t be ridiculous Queeny, can’t you see this is a bad time?!” An older woman beside her scold her.

“But-

She started only to get cut off by a sweet feminine voice calling out Ashton’s name.

The doctor.

Aiden and I stood up. Aiden turns around with Ash in his arms and was about to walk but suddenly he froze.

I looked at the doctor whose heels clacked on the tiles, her head down as she jots something down.

When her head lifted, her eyes widen slightly in surprise. “Aiden Xavier?” She asked, her red lips splitting into a bright smile.

Sophie’s pov

I looked at the pretty blonde doctor. Her hair was shiny, her eyes were blue, winged with eyeliner. She was a beautiful woman and looked to be my age or a tad bit older.

I looked over at Aiden and he seemed to have lost some color in his cheeks.

Did he know this woman?

Of course he did. Just look at the recognition in his gaze and the way he reacted Sophie. Even a dumb person would know

that.

“Aiden?” I whispered and seem to have broken him out of whatever thoughts had trapped him inwardly.

He cleared his throat a little and approached the doctor. “Lillian I didn’t know you worked in this hospital,” He grumbled.

First name basis.

They definitely knew each other.

I looked at the doctor again, and eyed her sharply. She was definitely his type.

Great.

They must’ve been lovers.

But judging by the way Aiden usually did things, the two must have just had a one-night stand.

Or maybe....

She was lucky to have two or more nights.

She smiled brightly, her eyes dancing. She was happy to see Aiden, that much was obvious.

“I got transferred here a couple of days ago. It’s a good thing, I’m now closer to my father and brother.” She answered and then her eyes drew down and she finally noticed Ashton tucked in Aiden’s arms proactively.

“Ashton Bell?” She asked, nudging her head to Ash.

Aiden nods. “Yes my son. He’s sick.”

I’m actually surprised he said Ashton was his son. I didn’t know why I expected him to deny it and say that Ashton was his friend’s kid or something. Perhaps even his brother.

I mean he didn't tell his grandfather for whatever reasons unknown to me. But judging by how his grandfather operated, I'd rather he not know about Ashton as yet too.

God only knew what he'd say when he finds out.

The woman's eyes widen slightly in shock and she looks at Ashton and then at Aiden. "Your son?!" She gasped in surprise.

Aiden nods and then shifted slightly to reveal me. "And this is his mother and my fiance." He murmured.

The woman's eyes widen even more and I'm stunned to see

the color drain from her face. She actually looked quite sick after hearing his words.

Her eyes dart to me and she stares at me in stunned silence before faking a smile and outstretching her hand. "Nice to meet you, miss...."

"Sophie Bell," I took her hand in mine, and with a firm shake, she lets go of my hand quickly as if I had just burnt her.

Her eyes dart back down to Ashton and she smiles shakily. "Well let's see what's up with this little bugger,"

I grit my teeth. Hating her calling my kid bugger as if she has known him for years.

Calm down Sophie, she's a doctor...she may have called endless kids the same name.

It is after all a very popular nickname.

"Follow me," She told us and turned around, walking away without bothering to see if we followed after her.

She led us to an empty room and told Aiden to place Ashton on the bed.

"The nurse actually came in here. She was so scared, ranting about a tall intimidating man who was demanding that she fetch me for his sick son. I just had to see who was such a brave man. When I saw that it was you Aiden, I wasn't surprised." She teased and looked at Aiden over her shoulder while she checked Ashton's pulse.

I know she was checking on my son, but I couldn't help but hate the aura she gave off.

Ashton's eyes fluttered open when she touched his forehead. "Oh hey there buddy. I'm doctor Muralo and I'll be the one to take care of you and see what's wrong." She smiled at Ashton.

"He has your eyes Aiden. He has everything of you," She murmured in awe and turned around to look at a stiff Aiden

standing a few inches away from me.

He was on edge and I wasn't sure if it was because of Ashton's condition or if it was because of the blonde doctor

checking our son.

The second one didn't sit right with me.

They talk as if they've known each other for years. And with the way Aiden reacted when seeing her and her when seeing him, the two had history.

And that didn't sit right with me at all.

Turns out Ashton had a mild cold that should go away in a few days. She advised us to give him plenty of fluids and citrus fruits to help fight it. She also advised that we keep him home for those few days until he was better.

"I want the day off Aiden," I said as soon as we entered the SUV. "There's no one I can leave Ashton with. Ria's at a shoot

and Mila is at work."

Aiden nods and orders Mitch to bring us to my apartment.

When we got there, I held a sleepy Ashton, turned around to look to see if a car was approaching and opened the door.

I got out, quickly walking around the huge SUV. Aiden is out, holding my bag.

"Do you want me to hold him?" He asked, looking down at Ashton who had fallen asleep right after Dr. Muralo gave him some pink liquid to drink. She mentioned that it would help with the fever.

Ashton weighed a ton, especially when he was dead asleep. And seeing as we had to walk all those stairs to get to the apartment, I didn't think my back could take it.

So I nod and passed Ashton over to him and took my bag from his hand.

When we're inside the building, walking up the stairs I finally crack the tense silence we had been drowning in since leaving the hospital room.

"You knew that doctor. Lillian is it?" I asked and looked at his back. The muscles in his back tighten.

After a few silent moments passed between us, he finally responded vaguely. "I know many people."

I pressed my lips together in disappointment, not liking the fact that he avoided answering the question.

I stay muted the rest of the way until I opened the apartment and showed him to my room, even though he was familiar with it from the last time he was there.

I can recall that it was the same day he found out about Ashton.

Watching him place Ash gently on the bed and kiss his

xSophie's pov

"I really am sorry Aiden." I winced while holding the frozen pack of peas on his c**ch.

"I swear I didn't see that you were there and-

I stopped and pressed the frozen peas harder on his c**ch.

He looks down at me in pain, hissing.

Now you might be wondering how we ended up in this position. Well to tell you, I'd have to rewind.....

a couple of hours prior

I've been staring at Aiden for the longest as he barked over the phone. When he was done, he loosened his tie and without looking over at me he mumbled.

"Your past is being erased."

My brows furrowed and I place the cup down on the counter. "What?"

He looks over at me, slinging his tie on the couch. "I've hired someone to erase your past. Everything is squeaky clean. The media won't know anything about you."

I nod. "Except being a teen mom."

He shrugged. "That's something you can't erase. They'll do the math when they see him. Which they will at some point. I don't plan to hide my son."

I gnaw on my lips, looking away from him and let out a huge sigh. "We don't have to introduce him to this kind of world yet right?" I asked nervously.

Ashton was still a little kid. He wasn't even three years old yet. He was not ready for this kind of world yet.

Aiden looked at me intensely. "We'll go on your own terms mama bear." He said honestly and the relief I felt when I heard those words was out of this world.

I nod, smiling thankfully.

"All they'll know is that you're my fiance." He said with a shrug and starts to unbutton his shirt.

"And that I'm apparently pregnant," I added and took the cup and brought the rim to my lips.

Aiden's lips curved with a grin. "I've told you many times, there's a way that you can actually get pregnant."

I nearly choked on the water I was sipping and glared at him over the rim.

Pulling the cup away from my lips, I voiced. "You're annoying."

He chuckles. "Women never call me annoying before. Only you mama bear."

My eyes narrowed, feeling the bitter sting of jealousy. "Well then I'm glad I'm the first to tell you how much of an annoying p**ck you are."

He smiled, chuckling like I had just said the funniest thing, and then got serious. "We need to talk about the engagement and

the living situation."

My heart s*ips. Living situation?

I nervously chew on my lower lip and then asked with a slight wince in my features. "What living situation are you talking about?"

His eyes held mine when he responds. "We are supposedly engaged. Engaged couples live together."

My mind rattled, my heart roared and the blood in my veins dance in my ears.

His words startled me even though they perhaps shouldn't.

I try to calm my racing heart and swallowed twice so I can regain my speech.

“What?”

“Engaged couples live together-

“I heard you the first time,” I cut him off and walked around the kitchen counter to find myself almost beside the sofa he

sat on.

“Aiden...” I started. “I can't live with you,”

His eyes turn like steel when he heard my words. “I'm not a monster you know Sophie. Besides, it will look bad if we live separately.”

“I never said you were a monster Aiden. Things are just going a little too fast okay? I still have yet to swallow all that happened today. I need a break to at least think. Our son is

sick and my face is everywhere. I just need a break. “I sighed, raking my fingers through my hair. I met tangles and tugged.

His eyes shifted in understanding and he looked at me with guilt. “I'm sorry for thrusting this kind of responsibility on you Sophie. If I had another way to get out of this without involving you, I would.”

I looked at him silently, staring into his eyes. He felt sorry.

Sighing, I breathed out. “My head is pounding, I'm going to have a rest. You can help yourself to anything in the fridge. ”

I wasn't lying. My temples ached and that migraine that lurked behind my lids was not letting up. Everything that happened from the moment Aiden walked back into my life, or should I say I walked into his, all that stress just weighed on me today.

The p***zzi. The pressure of having to act like his fiance. The fear of knowing that his grandfather was powerful enough to make things work in his favor and send Aiden back to jail. And Ash...my poor baby was sick.

All this was stressful and I really did need to sleep it off.

Aiden nods, looking at me with a look of guilt.

I left him in the living room silently letting out a string of curses knowing that when I wake up I'd have to go through another stressful situation with Mila and Ria.

Especially with Mila.

How in the hell was I supposed to tell them everything?

I shook my head and entered the room. Ashton was still asleep, curled into a ball on the bed.

I smiled and strutted over to the bed. I settled beside him, curving my arm around his small body and tucking him closer

to me.

I sighed and kissed his head. Hmm the fever has lessened.

“Your dad is so much trouble Ash. I really hope you won't be the same way when you grow up.” I whispered, kissing his head again and resting my head on the pillow.

Soon after, sleep finally took over my body and I found myself in the dark space of my mind.

I woke up to the sudden urge to pee. In my drowsy state, I got off the bed slowly to not wake up Ash and rub my eyes to move the sleep.

But then instead of my foot meeting wood, it met something soft.

A loud painful groan soon followed after a string of curses.

I stopped rubbing my eyes and looked down.

My eyes widen when I saw Aiden on the floor with a throw pillow under his head. His face is wrinkled with pain.

I look down at my foot, gasping sharply when I noticed it was on his c**tch. I removed my foot off his c**tch rapidly.

Oh f*ck.

“Aiden?” I said half awake and half panicked.

What the hell was he doing here? Especially so close to the bed.

Aiden doesn't answer me yet, only cups his c**tch and curls into a ball while letting any imaginable cuss word out there.

The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 95

Sophie's pov

P***zi.

I wasn't ready for that yet. Especially when Aiden and I had yet to lay down the rules of this fake engagement. We had yet to even discuss anything other than me having to pretend to be his pregnant fiancée.

How did the p***zi even know we were there? How did they know we were 'engaged'?

Unless...

Was it that interviewer woman?

Was it Aiden's grandfather?

Aiden's warmth seeped through me as he tugged me closer and gave me a reassuring squeeze. "I'm right here Sophie. All you have to do is keep your head down, and ignore their words until we're actually ready to talk."

I pull in a lungful of air, trying my best to relax my nerves. I've never done this before, never even seen a p***zi in my life before so I had no idea what to expect.

"Ready?" Aiden asked and I nodded slowly.

I was obviously not ready. My stomach was cramping with knots and I thought I was on the verge of having a heart attack. This did not scream ready, this screamed the opposite.

Aiden sensed my hesitation and leans down to whisper in my ears reassuringly. "I'm not going to make anything happen to you Sophie. I'll be by your side always."

My heart s***ped about or two.

His words warmed me and made me feel better, especially with the honest tone he used when he said he would always be by my side.

"Okay, I'm ready," I breathed out, and after a few more

lungfuls of air to calm my nerves, Aiden and I walked out of the restaurant.

I squint, cringing slightly as flashes and the sound of clicking, runs through the air. Aiden's hand around my waist grows hard with firmness and with a slight tug he began to pull me through the throng of p**zzi who was thankfully giving us room to pass through.

"Miss how did you and Mr. Xavier meet?" One asked loudly, trying to get her question through the numerous others.

"Miss, why have we never seen you with Mr. Xavier before?"

"What's your name miss?"

"How did you manage to get the p**oy bachelor to commit to you?"

"How did Mr. Xavier propose?"

"What do you do as your career?"

"Miss can you say a few words, Miss!"

I winced. So many questions slapped me left and right as we made our way to the SUV. Thankfully they were so occupied with us, they were slowly dispersing around the SUV.

I keep my head down slightly as Aiden guided me towards the Suv quickly. My heart was beating in my chest like a drum and I was surprised it didn't surpass the sound of the clicks from the cameras.

When we reached the Suv and Aiden opened the door quickly a question had him freezing.

"Mr. Xavier is this the woman who has your heart?"

I could've gone inside and ignored the question. I could've ignored the beating of my heart as I waited with battered breath for his answer. But I stopped and waited for what he would do or say.

Aiden turns around and answered whoever asked the question. "Yes,"

And with that he nudged me to get into the SUV and with my body going numb from his words, I stumbled in ungracefully.

When I'm seated, I stare forward, completely mute and confused. Stunned.

Did he just-

I shook my head. I was reading way too much into this. We were supposedly engaged so he had to say yes. He didn't mean them, this was an act.

When Aiden got in I licked my suddenly dry lips and shifted slightly, feeling awkward.

“How the f*ck did they know we were here?” He growled after slamming the door close and drowning out the voices and the clicks of the cameras outside.

“They showed up suddenly sir,” Mitch said.

“Get us out of here Mitch,” Aiden demanded while glaring at the p**zzi as they made a fuss outside.

Mitch nodded and quickly drove out of the parking space.

Aiden sighs, leaning back in the seat as he brushed a hand down his face.

“I'm sorry about this Sophie. I know how they can take

someone off guard. Especially when that someone was not expecting them to show up. I don't know how they even knew I was here...” He huffed.

My brows furrowed and I looked at him.” They knew about the engagement so it's either your grandfather or that interviewer,” I said as I thought about it.

These were the only two people who even knew about our 'engagement. It really doesn't take much to know that it was either of the two.

But what confused me though, was that the p***zi knew where Aiden and I were. Who gave them the heads up?

“My money is on that interviewer. She probably followed us. Who knows. Or maybe it was one of the celebrities in the restaurant. These insta models always have a d*mn phone in their hands. Could be one of them too.” He grumbles in annoyance. “I don't know. But I'm sure it was not Sergio.”

My brow raised. “What makes you think it was not him?”

Aiden turns to face me. “Because darling, my grandfather is a businessman. Every step, he takes with caution. He would not randomly let the media know I'm engaged so abruptly. Besides, that woman probably did this for money. They sell anything nowadays. Our engagement is a hot topic, she would not miss this opportunity.”

I searched his face and then nod. “What are we going to do now that it’s out there that we are engaged?”

By now social media must be swimming with things about us.

Aiden sighs and looks at me fixedly. “We act engaged.”

I gnaw on my lips, my stomach knotting when he answered my silent questions.

“That means we act like a couple when the cameras are on us, when Sergio is in the same room or anyone else. We have to sell it, Sophie.” He whispered.

I bit into my bottom lip harshly. Acting like an engaged couple meant that we would have to hold hands in public, and do all those things a loving couple does....

Could my s*upid heart remain calm and not fall for him during that time? Especially when I still didn’t even know how long we had to act like we were a couple to be wed.

“How long must we pretend for Aiden?” I whispered, now getting extremely nervous when I realized what I signed up for.

“As long as it takes.”



The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 96

Sophie’s pov

I’m panicking inwardly while Aiden makes calls beside me.

He’s talking so aggressively while rubbing his forehead. It was clear that what happened to us threw some stress onto his shoulders.

I let out some air through my nose and took out my phone from the bag. I quickly searched up Aiden’s name, only to not be surprised that our images were everywhere.

My heart slammed in my chest.

There are even articles written about us already....

Gnawing on my lips I clicked on one, cringing slightly when it was a horrible picture of Aiden and me walking out of the

restaurant.

I scrolled down, my eyes darting around every word.

‘With a well poised handsome man like Mr. Xavier, you’d expect a properly dressed woman beside him. But do not mind her appearance for Aiden Xavier did not seem to care. Our bachelor p***oy is now a one-woman’s man. This mysterious lady has managed to capture what many women strived for. The heart of Aiden Xavier. Let the wedding bells ring!

My stomach twisted with unease and I felt sick to my stomach.

I shakily lift my hand to my face to pull some of my strands behind my ear.

Don’t mind her appearance...

I know I was nowhere close to Aiden’s standards but you’d think they would at least wait to throw their judgments.

I quickly put off my phone, sliding it into my bag. My throat burned with stifling emotion.

I know I shouldn’t let the media get to me but I couldn’t help it. My face was splattered everywhere and I was sure there was nothing good said about me.

“What’s wrong?” Aiden asked which surprised me.

I thought he was on the phone?

I turn to face him. “Nothing is wrong.” I lied hoping he could not see in my eyes that I did.

He doesn’t look convinced and moves the phone away from his ear, his attention staying on me. “What’s wrong Sophie? You’re not going to change your mind are you?” He asked with a bit of concern.

I shook my head. “Of course not. I’m just a bit shaken about what happened. This is the first time I have had this many cameras on my face. “I admitted.

His eyes shift in understanding and his hand comes to rest on my hand on my thigh. I held my breath when the heat of his palm burn me with tingles. “Everything will be fine. We’ll get them under control.”

I nod.

I don't believe we could get them under control. The media was something not even Aiden can control.

They were vicious when they were after something they wanted. And I was a hundred percent sure they wanted every detail about Aiden and my engagement.

“Where are we going now?” I asked softly.

He breathed out a sigh while pushing his phone into his pocket. “We need to get you an engagement ring as soon as possible.”

I nod, my hands wringing with nerves on my lap.

I'm scared of what I had just pushed myself into, and even more, scared of what this will do to Ashton.

Mitch pulled up beside a fancy jewelry store and I turn to look at Aiden. “You don't have to buy me an expensive ring, Aiden,” I told him.

This was a fake engagement and having an expensive ring would be practically useless.

But instead of agreeing Aiden lifted his brow and shook his head slightly. “Only the best for my woman.”

I froze, my heart slamming in my chest.

If it was anything else, I'd say that he meant it. But then I remembered we were to act like we were engaged so perhaps

it would be best if he got the best for his ‘woman’

I smiled shakily, a bit unsure of how to respond to him. He opens the door and gets out while outstretching his hand out for me to take.

His hand is warm when they clasp around mine as he gently helps me out.

We walked to the entrance of the store, my eyes nervously darting around to see if any of the p***zzi had followed us.

“You're on edge,” Aiden noted as he pushed the door open and gestured for me to enter.

The cool air from the A.C in the store calms my rather heated skin.

“Can you blame me? It hasn’t been a whole twenty-four hours yet and everyone knows about our engagement.” I whispered.

“Well it’s not like they wouldn’t have known. They just got to know sooner than we expected.” He grumbles, capturing my hand with his again.

My own gets clammy.

It felt so strange to hold him so intimately like this.

“And I wonder whose fault this is?” I asked sarcastically.

The man behind the glass display desk showcasing the many expensive rings, looked like he was about to faint when he saw Aiden approaching.

His beady eyes sweep over to me and his eyes widen slightly

in surprise. “Mr. Xavier, I have not seen you here in a while.”

“Well, I came here for something important,” Aiden responded when we neared the man.

“Then, by all means, tell me how I can be of assistance Mr. Xavier.”

I looked at his name tag.

Frank Gordon.

Aiden’s fingers around my hand tighten. “I’m looking for the best wedding ring for my fiancée.” He turns to me when says fiancée and I squirm slightly under his weighted gaze.

“Find us something that will match her beautiful eyes.” Aiden continued not knowing that his words were messing with my

head.

Calm down Sophie. It’s just pretending. He has to play the part and so do you. My conscience reminded me.

The man’s eyes widen slightly in surprise as he looks at me and quickly nods.

“Will do Mr. Xavier,” Frank said and then lifted a finger. “I think I have the best one for her. Ring size?”

“Five,” Aiden answered before I could. Frank nods and leaves our side. When he’s far from hearing range I turn to Aiden, my brows furrowing. “How do you know my ring size?”

He lifts my hand, the same one tangled with his fingers, and whispered. “There are a lot of things I know about you, Sophie.”

I dart my eyes between his, trying to see if I can read him. There’s an emotion hidden behind that veil in his stormy gaze. A strong emotion that had my heart fluttering quickly.

“Aiden-

I got cut off when Frank came back.

I bit my tongue, ripping my eyes away from Aiden, and shook my head slightly.

Don’t be ridiculous Sophie, you didn’t see that emotion in his eyes.

This was all your imagination doing. Because why would

Aiden Xavier look at you with such fondness that you almost forgot how to breathe?

The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 97

Sophie’s pov

Aiden asked me if I wanted to put the ring in the jewelry store or somewhere more private.

I wasn’t sure which to choose seeing as I was so stunned by the sight of the sapphire diamond ring that was worth 1.2 million dollars.

That’s enough to buy at least two mansions. Enough to feed a good bit of poor people too. I didn’t want him to spend this much money on me. Not when I clearly did not deserve it.

“Aiden you can’t spend so much on me,” I whispered so only he could hear me as he observed the ring for flaws. His eyes were set on the ring so fixedly that I thought he was way too into it to even have heard me.

His mouth tugs into a grin a second later. He heard me.

“Don’t worry about it, darling. Like I’ve mentioned,” He turns. to me with the ring pinched between his fingers. “Only the best for my woman,” He whispered, leaning forward.

For his woman....

Focus Sophie!

Play it cool. You’re supposed to pretend too, don’t forget that. Don’t forget that this is all for show. Everyone’s watching, be calm.

Aiden leans forward even more, his eyes falling to my lips.

I held my breath because he was getting so close that I can feel the warm air from his nose on my face.

But then the tension c**cks when he lifted his hand between us and asked. “Do you like it?”

My eyes crossed as I looked at the ring between us. It was sterling silver, and those pretty sapphire diamonds shone brightly.

They were not meant for someone like me.

A beautiful ring that should not be wrapped around my finger.

I felt like a fraud. Aiden was supposed to give a woman he loves this beautiful, expensive ring. Not someone who was supposed to act like his fiance just to get him out of trouble.

“It’s beautiful,” I answered, smiling lightly. Frank had his eyes on us like a hawk. One disagreement and I was sure he’d run to the media and say how I’m a selfish and unsatisfied b*tch.

Aiden grins and asked me again in a low voice that I alone could hear. “Where do you want to put it on?” He asked and then his eyes shifted to somewhere in the room and his jaw clenched.

He looks back over at me and leans forward and then draws his mouth over to my ear to murmur tightly. “Don’t look but there are two employees mumbling together. One has a phone and the other is watching us fixedly. We have to act accordingly.”

I’m confused until I got what he meant when he suddenly got

on his knee before me.

My heart jumps in my throat and then resumes its beating, only that it was beating so quickly that it was alarming.

I know this was all part of the game we were playing at but that still did not help my poor heart.

Seeing Aiden on one knee, holding up the ring with shaky fingers, a s**ppy nervous grin, and an even more edgy look flashing in his eyes made this all too real.

I'm trembling, especially my fingers that I try to fist to help not make it obvious how jittery I was at the moment with the father of my child down on his knees for me.

“Sophie Bell-

He started and gulped, and my heart skyrocketed.

Aiden was definitely an actor in his past life because he currently was making this look too real.

But that's what the two of you are striving for Sophie, to make this look all the more real. My conscience reminded me.

But even though it warned me to not read into this too much, my heart was not heeding the warning. Especially with the way he was currently watching me, it had the foolish o*gan beating rapidly.

“I've never fallen in love with someone so much to the point I cannot breathe if I think of losing them. You've managed to capture my heart Sophie, you've captured it a long time ago-

I sucked in a sharp breath at his words. What did he mean?

Was he just saying that to make it more believable?

Aiden continues, looking as nervous as ever as if I had a choice to say no. Maybe I did, but I was not going to. Because maybe some part of me secretly wants this to be real.

Farfetched I know. But one can't blame me. I have loved this man for years even through the bullying. Don't judge me, sometimes the heart doesn't choose who to fall in love with. It just happens.

“I've realized that my life was incomplete when you were not in it and when you showed up again, you have no idea how much you filled that void. I love you with every breath I take, every single breath. And I want to love you until the day that I

can no longer breathe. I want to love you forever. I want you to be my wife.” He flashes me a shaky smile, his eyes misting.

The emotions in his eyes were pure and I could not focus on anyone else inside this store but Aiden. He had trapped me in his gaze. A gaze that seemed all too real. I realized, with every breath I took, that I was still madly in love with Aiden.

I was still so madly in love with him that my heart didn’t know the difference between his facade and the real side.

My eyes fogged with tears, ready to flow. Every worker had their eyes set on us. But they didn’t matter. Their phones in their hands didn’t matter. Their murmurs didn’t matter.

It was the man with the stormy gaze I had known for years that mattered. Always did.

“Let me love you Sophie Bell. Let me take care of you for the rest of our lives. Give me the honor to be by your side. Let me

love you until death do us part. Will you marry me? ” He whispered, looking jittery as he waited for my response.

My heart was beating wildly, my fingers were shaky. F***ng them did not help.

The longer I take to respond the more nervous he got. One would think that this act was true....

It was what we were striving for so I suppose that was a goo thing. But was it good for my foolish heart? Probably not.

I nod, my shaky hand pushing over to him. “Yes.

”

The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 98

Sophie’s pov

There’s cheering around, but my eyes can’t move away from Aiden to see those who were cheering.

I knew that it was the people in the store who saw and heard everything. I didn’t need to know more.

He smiles brightly in relief and slips the ring on my trembling fingers. His fingers were warm, and gentle.

“The color matches your eyes,” He whispered and looked up at me with a grin.

I nod agreeing with him even though I didn’t even hear a word he just said. My mind was a bit too hazy with what just happened. I could not focus a hundred percent yet.

He comes closer, his bigger body almost pressing against mine. My heart is beating in my chest when one of his arms slip around my waist and hold me firmly.

He leans down and kissed my cheek and whispered. “Nice acting.”

His words had cold water splashing across my body, freezing me and pushing reality in my face. Acting.

We were just acting.

S**pid Sophie. Of course the two of you were acting.

He didn’t mean a single word that came out of his mouth.

“We need to show them that you’re extremely happy. We both are.” He whispered, kissing my cheeks again. His lips on my skin burned through me and heated my veins.

I ignored the feeling, setting cold ice in my heart instead. “How are we supposed to do that?” I whispered, my heart aching knowing those beautiful words he said had no true meaning behind them.

What a waste of beautiful words.

“Easy,” He murmurs, his head coming forward.

His hand at the back of my head, his fingers tangled in my hair, his head leaning down, my eyes on his lips, and then a gasp....

Our lips mold, perfectly even though we both were imperfect.

He moved them against mine softly, tenderly as one would do to his lover. Someone he loves.

My foolish heart flutters in my chest again like a bird flapping its wings.

He moans, drawing me closer to him. The way he gripped the back of my head and the way his lips sucked my lower lip in his mouth, Aiden definitely had forgotten where we were until I pulled away.

We were in a store with many eyes on us, we didn't need to kiss like we were about to f*ck in front of everyone.

Aiden pecks my lips and brushes some of my hair behind my ear. His actions were playing with my heart but I was allowing him to.

Great he saw me looking at myself like a weirdo.

Looking away from the rearview mirror, I decided to scoot a little further to the door and fetch my buzzing phone.

My brows furrowed when I noticed that it was Mila's picture on the screen.

Why was she calling me now? Did something happen?

I quickly slide my thumb over the answer button and brought the phone to my ear.

“Hey-

I didn't even get a good greeting in before she cuts in like a whip.

“Sophie f**king Bell!” She growled sounding angry as hell.

Oh c*ap. What did I do?

“Yeah?” I winced. Did I leave the bathroom pipe open?

What's going on?

“Why in the f**ing a*s am I hearing that you're engaged to f**king Aiden Xavier through some dumb popular online celebrity gossip site?!” She barked and I can hear Ria's mother in the background asking her to get off the phone and get back to work.

I cringe. So many f**ks in one sentence. Oh she's p**sed alright.

“Mila,” I whispered hoping to calm her down.

“Don't Mila me! How can you not tell your best friend about this before the whole entire world knew?” She snapped.

I pinched my eyes closed for a few seconds. “Mila there are things I cannot explain to you over the phone. I know you’re angry and want an explanation but right now I can’t give that to you,” I opened my eyes and breathed out.

“I’ll explain everything when we’re home. I promise that I’ll clear everything up.” I whispered looking over at Aiden who I felt his eyes on me the entire time I was on the phone.

His phone was still buzzing but he had yet to pick it up.

“Fine. But you have to tell me everything. Every single thing you hear me!?”

I nod even though she could not exactly see me. “Yes. I promise.” I mumbled, tearing my eyes away from Aiden’s.

We said our goodbyes and I end the call. Looking over at Aiden with furrowed brows I opened my mouth to speak.

“Why aren’t you picking up the calls?” I asked in puzzlement.

“Because I know who’s calling and I am not ready to speak with him.” He admitted tightly, his jaw clenching.

“Sergio?” I asked, already having an inkling it was him.

Aiden’s stiff nod and grunt answered me without him having to say words.

“What if it’s important Aiden?” I asked, gnawing on my lips.

Aiden sighed heavily and answered the phone. “What?” He sneered coldly and then stiffened.

“They’re quicker than I gave them credit for.” He gritted, his hands f**ing on his lap.

My brows knot. Whatever Sergio said to Aiden managed to upset him so this definitely was not good.

Suddenly my phone blares, startling me. I looked at the caller ID and my heart pummels to the pit of my stomach.

Why was Ashton’s daycare calling me at this time?

I answered it quickly, nerves bubbling in my stomach when I brought it to my ear.

“Hello?”

“Miss. Bell, it’s about your son, he’s-”

The Girl He Craves by Demiah13 Chapter 99

Sophie’s pov

“What is it? What’s wrong with him!?” I rushed out, my heart aching while beating furiously in my chest.

Not a good combination.

My hands get clammy as I looked at Aiden in alarm. He must’ve noticed the tone of my voice and my panic stare because he turned to me with furrowed brows and a worried

gaze.

“I’ll call you back Sergio.” He said and cut the line. He’s sending me worried looks that asked for answers that I couldn’t give as yet. Not until I know what’s wrong myself.

“Ashton seems to have caught something. His nose is runny and he keeps calling for his mommy. Can you come to pick him up please?” The woman said on the other line worriedly.

My heart sinks.

Oh my poor baby.

“I’ll be there in a few. Please tell him I’m on my way,” I said quickly while brushing my trembling fingers in my hair.

“Will do Miss.Bell.” The woman promised and then end the call.

I didn’t even have time to place my phone down when Aiden asked in a rush.

“What’s wrong? Is it Ashton?” His voice had a tone of worry and fear.

“He isn’t feeling well. Can you drop me off at the daycare?” I asked, gnawing on my lips. He was my boss after all and it would be wise to ask him permission.

“Of course. Mitch forget about bringing me to the office today, take us to Ashton’s daycare.” Aiden demanded and looked at me with a worried glare in his eyes.

“Is it bad? Anything to raise a concern?”

“She didn’t say. But she did mention that his nose is runny. My baby must’ve caught a cold.” I bit into my bottom lip worriedly.

My poor baby must be fussy. He’s always fussy when he’s sick.

“Our baby,” Aiden corrected softly and I nod. “Right,” I murmured.

I lift my hand to my mouth to bite my nails as I got more worried.

Suddenly my hand is pried from my mouth and is engulfed in Aiden’s warm one. His touch eases me more than I’d like to

admit.

“He’ll be okay mama bear,” He murmured, drawing our connected hands to the space between us on the seat.

For the rest of the drive he did not let my hand go, not even once. Not even when his phone rang and he answered it.

But when we stopped beside the daycare, I realized I didn’t want to let go. His hand was comforting. Warm and eased my worries without him having to do much.

And with every five minutes that passed, Aiden would squeeze my hand. As if reassuring me that everything would be okay.

It was a really comforting feeling I never knew I’d get from him.

“I’ll call you back,” He said curtly to whoever was on the other line and ends the call.

“You don’t have to come in with me. I can go on my own-

“Don’t be ridiculous Sophie. I’m coming with you to get our son.” He grumbles as if annoyed that I even suggested that he could stay.

I nod and untangle my fingers from his. His eyes shot down as if surprised that we were still holding hands and a surprising flush crawled on his cheeks.

He clears his throat, opened the door and got out. He helps me out and I’m a bit dampened that he didn’t keep my hands

in his.

I miss his warmth but I was not going to make a fool out of myself.

So I let out a breath and started for the building with him close behind me.

When we entered and walked over to the woman I had spoken to, I can't help but see that her eyes were not on me but on someone behind me.

That someone was Aiden.

fire shooting from my nose.

Mrs. Georgia who was only just a couple of years older than me, looks over at me irritated and nodded stiffly.

The nerve of this woman.

She has always treated me warmly, which was one of the main reasons why I trusted my most prize possession, Ashton in her

care.

But one look at Aiden and the woman looks at me in spite.

She turns around, purposely swaying her hips in a way that had her blessed bottom j**gle.

I'm trembling with anger as I glared at her back and followed after her.

"Mrs. Georgia, I forgot to ask...how is your husband doing? The last time I saw him was in the diner." I throw at her, making sure I remind her that she was a married woman and to also warn Aiden that she was.

I mean I was saving him from doing a mistake...

I didn't care if he f**ked her...

Mrs. Georgia who was once walking with such poise, shoulders dropped and her footsteps quickened once she heard my words.

"Nathan is doing okay," She whispered in defeat and shame, making my shoulders straighten in triumph.

I'm still glaring at her as I followed after her, when suddenly

an arm circled around my waist and pull me closer. Aiden's lips feather against my ear as he whispered. "You look so hot when you're jealous mama bear."

Sophie's pov

"Oh my baby bug," I rushed over to Ashton who was playing with building blocks on the mat.

As Mrs. Georgia had mentioned, Miss. Greene was right beside Ashton, helping him build what I suppose was a castle....

When he heard my voice his beautiful blue eyes shot up and he beamed. His eyes were glossy and his nose was red. His cheeks were also flushed.

My heart throbbed. He was sick.

"Moma," He said and struggled to get to his feet.

"Mommy is here baby," I whispered as I scooted down and picked him up in my arms.

I hug his smaller body to mine, kissing his cheek and whispering soothing words to reassure him that he was going to be fine.

I noted how his body temperature was a bit off.

Aiden comes to stand beside us and rubs Ashton's back while looking down at him in clear concern. "Do you know what could have made him sick?" He asked one of the women

whose eyes were on the three of us.

They shook their heads while one answered. "He seemed okay earlier but suddenly started sneezing and his nose got runny.

Might be a small bug or a cold."

Ashton's head dropped on my shoulder and I lift the back of my hand to his forehead. He's burning up.

"He has a fever Aiden," I said rapidly, scared that this was serious.

Aiden's eyes watch his son with deep worry and said. "We'll take him to the doctor baby, don't worry okay?" He said, lifting his eyes to mine in reassurance.

I nodded, my brain too fumbled to realize what he called me at the moment.

Miss. Greene brought over Aiden's little bag and Aiden and I walked out of the building with Ashton in my arms in a few.

When we got inside the Suv, I had Ashton tucked in my arms, holding him close as I run my fingers through his hair gently.

My eyes misted. "I don't understand how this could've happened," I said shakily, my voice filled with emotion.

I hated when Ashton got sick. Which was rarely.

"He seemed fine this morning," My voice cracked.

I'm startled slightly when Aiden's hand lands on mine that was wrapped around Ashton's middle. He squeezes my hand.

"He'll be okay Sophie. It's nothing to fret about." He said calmly though when I looked over at him he was just as worried as me. Perhaps even more.

I nod and kissed the top of Ashton's head. He was burning up even more now.

"He's burning up," I whispered with a pitch of fear in my tone.

Aiden's hand left mine to rest on his son's head and his face twisted with more concern.

"Mitch can you step on the gas?" He said to Mitch urgently.

When we got to the hospital, Aiden insisted that he'd hold Ashton since his legs were longer than mine and would get inside the building before I could.

But I was certain he only wanted to hold his son in his arms to help ease his worries.

We both rushed to the ER. Aiden being the Ceo that he was used his superiority and demanded that they check Ash right away.

The woman behind the front desk looked faint when she took note of Aiden's unflickering impatient voice.

"Aiden.." I whispered not sure if being rude and demanding would make them give Ashton the best care.

Even though there were not many patients in the waiting area waiting for their names to be called, it was still rude to cut through them.

“Sir please have a seat and I’ll see if the doctor has clocked in yet-

“What the f*ck are you talking about? Get me a f**ing doctor for my son.” He hissed, holding Ashton’s much smaller body than his to him protectively.

I wince at his curse words but don’t scold him.

The woman gulps, looking like she was at any moment about to faint by how the blood drained from her face.

I reached out and grabbed Aiden’s arm. “Aiden it’s fine we can wait for a few,” I said and nodded at the woman who looked relieved that I intervened.

Aiden did not look pleased with my words but after a few nods and grits out. “Fine.”

We both walked to the waiting area and Aiden takes a seat while making sure that Ashton was curled comfortably in his arm.

I sat beside him and reach over to brush the back of my hand on Ashton’s forehead.

“He’s less hot than he was a few minutes ago. The fever must be calming down.” I whispered with a bit of relief.

“You should’ve let me get the doctor to check up on him as soon as possible,” Aiden grumbles while hugging Ash to him.

I sighed heavily knowing he was upset that I intervened. “Aiden. You can’t go around demanding that the woman get the doctor right away. Especially if that said doctor has yet to clock in. And don’t forget that there are still others waiting on the doctor. It wouldn’t be right-

“I don’t care. My son is my number one priority and seeing him get better soon was all I could think about. I don’t care about anyone else.” He grumbles, kissing Ashton’s head.

I smiled faintly knowing what he meant. He wanted to see his son get better as soon as possible and one couldn't get mad at him for that. Looking down at Ash I noticed that his eyes were slowly closing.

He must be tired.

Suddenly hush voices grew and I had nearly forgotten that we were in the waiting room and that there were others beside

I looked around, noticing how all eyes were on us.

One bold and brave woman who seemed to be a few years younger than me, fishes for Aiden's attention. "Are you Aiden Xavier? The CEO of Harrington.co?"

Aiden looked over at her a bit irritated but nodded

nonetheless.

The girl picks up her phone off her lap and looked between us when she put her phone on. She clicks on something and suddenly the words Aiden recited earlier to me at the jewelry store blasted through her phone.

"I knew you two looked familiar! That was such a beautiful proposal," She smiled and turned the phone screen to face us. And sure enough, it was a video of Aiden and me in the store. Aiden's on his knees, holding out the ring to me.

From the angle the video is taken, it was definitely from one of the workers working there.

"Can I take a picture with you two? You two are going viral on

social media." She chirped.

"Don't be ridiculous Queeny, can't you see this is a bad time?!" An older woman beside her scold her.

"But-

She started only to get cut off by a sweet feminine voice calling out Ashton's name.

The doctor.

Aiden and I stood up. Aiden turns around with Ash in his arms and was about to walk but suddenly he froze.

I looked at the doctor whose heels clacked on the tiles, her head down as she jots something down.

When her head lifted, her eyes widen slightly in surprise. “Aiden Xavier?” She asked, her red lips splitting into a bright smile.

