

Prologue

Harper

“I LOVE YOU; you know I do. But this... I don’t know if I can do it anymore,” I said, trembling. “I am so tired, Miles. I am so goddamn tired. Lately, it has been one thing after another. I’ve been trying to hold it together because I trust you, but there’s only so much someone can take before their cup runs over. And this, this is mine.”

My voice cracked. “She went to our kids’ school, Miles. For goodness’ sake. I don’t want to even think about what would have

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happened if I hadn’t gotten there in time. I can’t even let myself think about it.” I closed my eyes trying to block out the images from the incident, but they were vivid and unrelenting.

“Believe me, I’m just as upset,” Miles said, his tone filled with frustration. “I’m doing everything I can to resolve this.”

“I know,” I said. “And I’ve been waiting patiently. But I can’t anymore.”

“Beautiful, please don’t leave me,” he pleaded, the anguish in his voice cutting straight through me.

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My heart broke hearing his pain, but I knew I needed space. “I am not leaving you, Miles. I am not walking away from our marriage. I just... I need a break. Maybe a few days, maybe a couple of weeks. Me and the kids will come back once I’ve cleared my head.”

Hands shaking he tried to stop me from leaving, “Let’s go together. You, me, and the kids. We will get away for a while, just the four of us,” he quickly suggested. “I’m nothing without you all.”

I shook my head, fighting back tears. “I am not leaving you, but I need some space. Just a little time.”

Despite his protests, I knew I had to go. I kissed him goodbye, and with a heavy heart, I gathered the kids and left.