

His booty call By Ivy brown Chapter 36

We are back again to Cara's POV.

The sky is more clear and the stars shine brighter in the country side than in the city. I look up to Quinn who is gazing at me with a blank face. Convincing him we go for a walk was hard.

"Why did you choose to have the engagement here?" I ask what has been on my head and pluck at a wheat gra**.

"This used to be my grandmother's ranch. My grandfather gave it to her after they divorced." He pauses and gives a small smile, "She loved it." I remain silent unsure where the conversation is heading to. His eyes are focused on the narrow path before us. The barn is disappearing out of sight. My legs burn with cold.

He continues, "She reared the largest herd of livestock and employed many workers. This town loved her generous heart." We stop and i look at what is before us. A stream of water, it is clear enough to see the pebbles beneath it. It flows silently. My eyes focus on what is beyond it. Many houses clustered together, the lights illuminating from them look like t****ling stars.

"I didn't see any livestock." I say though i did note that the barn had been remodified into a small office.

"Oh! There was conflict between the farmers and the herders due to environmental changes. The famers won. My grandmother is the inventor of the 4by4 dirt racing. It was aimed at saving the water catchment by tree planting."

I look around and that's when i notice the crowd of trees around the area.

"Such a hero." I comment.

He nods instead and silence stretches between us before he speaks.

"This is where i met Misha, it was the first time i saw a naked woman. I was only ten." He shuts his eyes momentarily. "She sung as she sponged her body. I was mad at my father after he shot my horse so i wanted to run away."

My voice comes out hoarse, "Why?" I ask.

“He said it was a distraction from being moulded into his footsteps.” He moves to a nearby tree and sits. I follow him. He pats at the space between his legs and do as instructed. Once settled his arm snake round my waist. My head hanging few inches from his chin, my back against him and my legs on the wet gra**es.

“And?” I want him to continue talking, this is the most open he has been about his life and i want to hold on to every word and letter.

“When she saw me, she screamed and threw water to my face.” His lips tug up in a reminiscing smile. “I loved her since then.”

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Him saying the L word leaves my chest in pain.

“What happened to her?” I choke the words unsure if Quinn is ready to answer that. I have so many questions, i just don’t know which to ask first.

“She realised who i was and stopped loving me.” His tone raises up.

“Who are you?” I ask.

He sighs and withdraws his arm from me, am tempted to s***** it back to its original place. “You never stop! Snooping, questioning. The only thing you will find is nothing but pain. So stop trying to figure me out. Am not fixable.”

He stands, i remain seated and watch the water. I pick a branch frustrated and throw it into the water.

“Let me take you back to the main house.” He offers.

I stand and silently follow him.

“To answer your intial question. I chose this place cause it where i have been happiest and with the women i have loved.” I look down at my feet even though he cannot see me in the dark.

“Misha and Courtney.” I mentally conclude.

“Misha and my grandmother.” He corrects me. Did i speak that out loud?

I don’t know why but his confession brings me relief.

I wake up few hours later. The sun is up. I find everyone seated round the dining table. Quinn's parent and Theo included.

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I take the empty seat beside Theo. Mr. Nickel's gives me a double look. I wait for him to talk, instead he goes back to his meal uninterested.

"Good morning?" I say to Theo.

His eyes light up with the warmest smile. When his eyes find Mr. Nickel's, his smile immediately fades. I check around the table. Roxanna is seated with Jermaine. They are intimately too close, Lee is focused on his food, Courtney is drinking a smoothie. She sneers when our eyes lock. Ryan is staring back at me, i am still mad at him. Mrs. Nickel is playing with the food on her plate. She looks disrauted. Gosh! What is wrong with this family. To add more on the tension Quinn joins us.

He pulls the seat beside me but Courtney speaks, "Come seat beside me." She suggests.

"Am fine here." He speaks.

"Go seat with your fiancée." His father roars.

Quinn gives him a dangerous glare, his eyes in slits and rebellious.

"Do as your father says, please." His mother begs.

He huffs and walks to Courtney's. He sits, he looks impatient and angered.

"I don't like when they fight." Theo whispers to me.

"Where were you last night?" Courtney asks attracting everyone's attention.

"In my room." Quinn answers bored.

"I came to your room. You weren't there." Courtney insists. She sends a quick glance to my direction and i smirk at her. I know she suspects he was with me and i

don't care. After what she did to my face, if i had my phone with me last night. I would have recorded Quinn and i and sent it to her as payback.

"Am here now, what did you need." He states but can tell he is getting angry.

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"That is no way to talk to your future wife." His father drop the fork on the saucer.

"I will have a wife but not a future. You made sure to ruin that." Quinn bangs the table. Theo's little fingers wrap my wrist in fear.

Quinn stands and storms away.

"I will go talk to him." Ryan says before he goes after him.

"He will come around." Mrs. Nickel assures Courtney.

Courtney's face crises unconvicted, I can see the internal battle in her eyes. She pushes the seat and with a quick glance at me. She storms away. Lee follows calling out her name.

Mrs.Nickel asks her husband to talk to Quinn which he begrudgingly agree. She leaves with Theo to prepare for the party. Am left on the table with Roxanna and Jermaine. They are too absorbed to each other to note the rest have left. Am having my tea when Roxanna stumble to the seat next to me. She places a gla** of mango juice on the table that has an alcoholic smell. I pick it and sip. It has Vodka.

"Don't give me that look." She says when I give her a judgemental look and picks her gla** and takes a big gulp of it. "Am sorry about yesterday. I shouldn't have been part of her evil plan." She slurs and I realise she is drunk in the morning.

I wave her off, "It's okay, my face has healed."

She giggles and turns to Jermaine who waves at me, uncomfortable. "We hooked up last night." She whispers to my ear.

I almost spit my tea. Am ready to give her my speech and remind her of Chad but she already on her feet. "See you at the party." She leaves with Jermaine.

I remain seated, everyone around me seems to be either in love like my brother, stupid like my friend Roxanna and getting engaged like Quinn. What do I have? Am just losing everything and everyone.

Don't forget to vote and keep our environment clean. Plant a tree if you can. Together we fight global warming.

His booty call By Ivy brown Chapter 37

I have never hated being anywhere like now.

I lift my flask and take a gulp of my drink. Am still sober and I hate it.

“Can I have some?” A pretty girl with a blond pixie that is seated beside me, requests.

“Be my guest.” I hand it over, she takes several gulps of my lite beer.

“A friend of Courtney or Quinn?” She enquires and passes the flask back.

“None.” Am quick to answer. She lifts her perfectly trimmed eyebrows. She has the most mesmerising hazel eyes. “Actually am a friend of Quinns friend, Ryan.” I answer her curiosity.

She turns to the guy seated next to her. He is in a suit with dishevelled hair. It is like he put too much effort to look effortless. “She is with the loser, Ryan.” She whispers to him.

He peeps to my direction and they both burst into laughter.

“No offence. But Ryan?” She turns to me.

Am offended by this strangers that are laughing at me. I turn back as Quinn goes to his knee and the crowd goes, wow!

“Courtney I have known you my entire life. As the little panda that could kick my a** and also as the panda that could give one the warmest bear hugs when needed...” The crowd laughs. Am too sober for this s***. I lift my flask but it is empty. I need more alcohol.

“...Courtney will you Marry me?” Quinn asks. Everyone is silent with anticipation. I push my chair and stand and everyone turns to look at me. Theo continues to play the piano. What am I doing? Andre gives me a look of concern. He showed up today with a date and I somehow felt angry. I take a step back, stumble and realise am far from sober. Quinn’s eyes and mine lock. He’s dressed as a cowboy but I what I hate the most it is the smile he is wearing. He shouldn’t be happy to be engaged. He should be bored or angry like he’s always when around me. Am small part of me always a**umed he was being forced to marry Courtney but the smile says he wants to do this, willingly.

When Courtney sees am stealing her show with all the attention. She speaks up. “Yes, I will marry you.”

With those words my world collapse and it is filled with people clapping, shouting and the flashing lights from the paparazzi. When the people stand to start to congratulate the couple. I slowly stagger away back to the house. Each step is heavier that the previous. Once at a safe distance I lean against the wall and take a deep breath. I shut my eyes and rub my temple repeatedly. When I open my eyes again I have to blink twice to make sure it isn’t my imagination.

“Quinn!” The name slips out my lips.

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He doesn’t say anything, he tips my chin and lowers his lips to meet mine in a slow and gentle kiss. His tongue never go deeper just sweet and feathery kiss on my lips. It never lasts long, he breaks it and walks away. I pinch myself to be sure that Quinn just kissed me.

Why would he do that?

I stagger the opposite side to find the kitchen. Am surprised to find Roxanna there. Her head is lowered, I walk past her until I hear her snuffle.

“What is wrong?” I ask her.

“I am a mess.” She wipes her nose with the back of her hand. She shows me her phone. It a photo of Chad and Marya.

“No, you aren’t.” I say and point at her phone. “They are.”

“I loved him, Cara.” A tear drops.

“I know.” I rub her hand.

“Do you know how it feels like to see the one you love with someone else?” She asks.

‘Do I?’ I ask myself.

“I know.” I answer anyway.

After hours of talking and convincing irrational Roxanna to block Chad. We finally go back to the party. Am a little sober now.

We are just in time for the slow dancing. Immediately Jermaine spots Roxanna he drags her to the floor. Ryan is slow dancing with his mother. Such a mama’s boy.

Courtney is dancing with her father. Quinn is nowhere to be seen. Just as am about to find a seat, Theo runs into me.

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“Slow down, champ.” I hold him still.

“I was told to give you this.” He gives me a serviette. I unfold it. It has the most raggedy handwriting, ‘care for a dance? smile for yes, sneer for yes’ I read. I smile and sneer at the same time.

“Who gave you this?” I gaze down at Theo.

He shrugs his shoulders and disappears into the crowd. I lift my head and start to look around. Who could have send the note, no one who has their attention on me.

“Was that a double yes?” A male voice speaks behind me.

I slowly turn until I see the owner, “You!” I point at him.

He runs a hand through his hair, “My cousin and I, didn’t mean to offend you earlier.” It is the guy that was laughing at me earlier with the pixie girl.

“Ever heard of the phrase first impression?” I give him a hard stare, “I don’t like you from it.”

“I do like you, I was wondering why a pretty girl like you would be here with Ryan? he’s just plainly boring.”

“And you are interesting?”

“So have been told.”

“You have been lied to. I find you redundant.”

“Big words for a small mouth. And where is Ryan? He shouldn’t leave you alone for there are wolves everywhere.”

“Who are you again?”

“Am Leo Nickel, Quinn’s cousin.”

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“Leo!” Quinn walks straight at us with the pixie girl. “What are you doing here?” He asks once he’s at our position.

He brushes Quinn’s leather jacket in a mock manner. “Calm down, am Meg’s plus one.”

Quinn turns to the girl, “Did you forget what he did? Father kicked him out.”

“You think we would miss you do father’s binding like a puppet? Think again little brother. ”

She’s Quinn’s elder sister!

The girl winks at me before looping her arm with her cousin.

“See you around Quinny.” Both of them mix with the crowd dancing.

Am left standing with Quinn in an awkward tension.

“Congrats... “He cuts me mid sentence.

“Care for a dance?” He stammers and extends his hand.

Am about to place mine on his when Courtney appears and s*****es his hand away like am infected with leprosy.

“You had your fun. He’s mine now. Find your own.” She seethes at me.

When Quinn talks I expect he defends me, instead he just whispers, “Goodbye, Cara.”

I whisper back, “Good bye Quinn.” Although no one heard since they are both long gone.

His booty call By Ivy brown Chapter 39

Am almost done packing my clothes when I hear commotion. I decide to ignore it, last night people were too drunk, maybe it is the aftermath. Or the crowd that is slowly arriving for the 4by4 dirt race. Countless cars are parked outside and different media houses are also part of them. I zip my duffle bag.

“Am going to kill you.” A yell is heard followed by a loud bang. I drop everything and rush out of my room. Am in my nightie and a robe.

“You are dead, Nickel.” That voice, it is Ryan.

I speed up. I get in time as Ryan throws a punch to Quinn. It collides with his cheek and he staggers backwards. Lee, Jermaine and Roxanna are watching the fight with unfamiliar faces that are cramped in the kitchen without attempting to do anything but record the scene.

“Am tired of you taking everything from me.” Ryan throws a second punch, Quinn doesn’t even try to defend himself. He welcomes it, like he deserves it. This time his lip gets broken.

I tag at Lee, “Do something, stop them.” I plea when I realise Ryan is going to hurt him. I have seen Quinn fight, he’s a pro. However, it is like he wants Ryan to win.

“They have had it coming. Let them prove who has a bigger d***” He shrugs and enjoys the show.

“They are best friends.”

“Until you came along.” He snarls at me.

“What is that suppose to mean?” I ask confused.

“How could you do this to me?” Ryan’s face burns.

“Face it you are a loser, you will always be the other option, even to your father.” Quinn spits.

An animal snarl claws its way up from Ryan’s throat. “I’m going to kill you.” He lunges, swinging and missing when Quinn dodges.

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“Stop!” I yell. The two men don’t even acknowledge my presence. Ryan slams Quinn on the wall.

“This is war, Nickel.” Ryan a**ures Quinn. I have never seen him so angry, he usually so calm. Such behaviour and att**ude is expected from Quinn. He heaves pushes Quinn away.

“Ryan...” I call his name, I don’t know why, but I somehow feel responsible and should take his side.

He gives me a dangerous glare, “Not now.” He manages to utter. “Am leaving.” he storms away.

I swallow a lump embarra**ed he brushed me off and confused why.

“You have no idea what is really going on, do you?” Lee asks.

I shake my head. Roxanna turns to me. Her demeanour is unpleasant, “You know you are a liar!” She says.

What is going on?

Lee unlocks his phone for me and the photo in it, freezes me. I go numb. My mouth ajar. It a photo of Quinn and I. When he kissed me yesterday. It fills the cover of celebrity Magazine. It has the t**le, Billionaire p***** on it again, slammed on it. I scrolled down on his subscription of magazines. The next is a gossip magazine, it has unclear photo of me. Who the mystery girl. The magazines are endless as some even call me mistress.

“I’m...” I open my mouth and shut it. “I can explain.” I slowly say to Roxanna.

She shakes her head angry, “You are worse than Chad and Marya combined. You are flatly a fake and a liar.” She points at me. I can see in her eyes the hurt and pain.

“Roxy...” I call her by her nickname.

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“Don’t call me that, you know I hate that name, just like I hate you now.” She shakes her head again and her Bob bounces round her face. Without another word, she turns to Jermaine. “Please take me home.” She says.

“Just when one thinks they have uncovered you, they realise there are more wraps around you. You are an endless mystery Cara.” Lee whispers to me. I ignore and head to where Quinn is. He is facing the wall, his fist against it.

I clear my throat nervously, “I...” I have no idea what to say, yet I feel I should say something.

Quinn is quick to rescue me from my distress when he turns to face me, “I hope you are happy.” I am wrong, those words distress me more.

“I didn’t do anything.”

“You will pay for this.” He seethes at me and walks away.

I am left in the kitchen with strangers who are just staring at me. Am about to walk out of the kitchen when I almost bump into Mr. Nickel. He looks down at me, I can see the wrinkles on his eyes, he’s breathing fire.

“You have no idea, the consequences of your actions. You are a nobody with no name to yourself and yet you somehow snaked your worthless self into my family. I want out of my ranch and my son’s life. If I ever see you again...” He goes silent. “That is what will happen to you. Now beat it.” He bends to my height.

I don’t wait to be told twice, I dash out of that room fast. I know what he means and I know what he’s capable of. My father comes to mind.

Once am in my room, I quickly wear jeans and pull a cashmere sweater over my tank top. I don’t bother to wear my converse. I decide to remain in my flip flops. I dial my phone again, Andre is unreachable, everytime I need him he’s always unavailable. I leave him a voicemail, that’s it is time to strike the Nickels. Now that my face is plastered everywhere both the papers and online. It won’t be long before the truth comes out and that will make it hard to attack them.

I dr*** my bag on my shoulder and walk out. I have no idea how to get back to the city. I don’t know if there are buses around the area. However, my priority now is to be far away from here as possible.

I take two steps at a time trying to hold my tears back. “Crying is for those who have given up and that is all they can do.” My mother’s words scream in my head.

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A blue rusty truck is parked on the dusty driveway. As I get close I realise it is Quinn in the driver’s seat. He has a cowboy hat on. He doesn’t spare me a second glance as he brings the engine to life.

“I need to go home.” I say.

“It is irrelevant to my ears. I haven’t held you back.” He tips the hat to look at me.

“I need a ride.” I say.

“You can’t let go of me. You had to go ahead and trap me, get me to kiss you so you could ruin my engagement.” I remember I haven’t seen Courtney this morning.

“You kissed me.” I shout at him.

“Just get in the damn car!” He orders.

I look around and realise we are attracting attention. I open the door and get in. The inside smells of hay.

“Buckle up, it is going to be bumpy ride.” He warns.

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His booty call By Ivy brown Chapter 40

“It is your fault she left.” Quinn’s says as he speeds up on the highway. He’s driving like a suicidal maniac.

I grasp the truck’s door. I am not ready to die even though I have nothing to live for.

“Will you slow down.” I shout at him.

“Was it the attention you wanted?”

“Am last person who would want publicity. I have more to lose than you may think.”

“But still went ahead to be here.”

Why is everyone blaming me. He is the one that came and kissed me, on the hallway. Where anyone could see us. Then a thought pops into my head, “You sub-consciously wanted us to be caught.” I say.

That makes him slow down, “Why would I want that?”

“Because you wanted to sabotage your engagement.” I answer.

He scoffs, “Why, because of you?”

I wish, “No, Because you didn’t want it.”

He brushes me off, "You think you know me, but you don't." He halts in front of a Bar. It looks filthy from the outside.

"I thought you were taking me home."

"You thought, I didn't say so." With that he hops off the truck. I watch him walk inside the bar. Am not going in there, it is just ten in the morning and very early to be drinking. I take out my phone and find missed calls and messages from Andre and my brother. I open Oliver's first.

You okay? just heard about what happened.

I reply briefly that am okay and it is something I can handle.

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I open Andre's.

Sorry I couldn't be there for you, I had to take Isabella(my date, if you remember) home. I Will come later at your place to check on you.

I put my phone away. I watch the Bar hoping Quinn will emerge from it. Having had enough I decide to go in and drag him out. It smells disgusting as filthy as it looks.

The beads on the door clink as I walk in. Several people glance my way. My eyes circle the room for a cowboy hat.

"Cara," I turn to the source, it is Meg, Quinn's elder sister. She's sitting on a man's lap. Her blonde pixie shadows the man. They are seated at the corner. I walk towards them, as I get closer I realise she's seated on Leo. They look disturbing close for cousins.

"What are you doing here?" She asks.

"Am looking for Quinn."

"Oh, so that thing on the papers isn't photoshop. You two are a thing?" She swings her hand round Leo's neck and leans closer.

"There's nothing between Quinn and I"

“I thought I told you to wait in the car.” Quinn joins us.

“No you didn’t.”

“Now I am telling. Wait in the car. We shouldn’t be seen together”

“Why, am I that ugly?”

“I don’t want the speculation to seem true.”

“Join us Cara ignore Quinny.” Meg winks at me.

“Meg...”

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“She should stay, she called me redundant yesterday and I want to prove her wrong.” Leo says.

I slide in the booth. I can feel Quinn’s eyes drilling into my skull as I sit.

“Get us some more drinks Quinny.” Meg teases him.

“Get them yourself.” He sits beside me. “stubbornness is unattractive feminine character.” He hisses at me.

“Don’t mind Quinn, Cara. He has that misogynist Nickel character that believes a woman needs to be saved.”

“Don’t they?” Leo says and Meg punches his arm as she stands. She is in a super short pencil skirt and a silk blouse. She sashays to the counter.

“So you and my cousin have been secret lovers for how long?” Leo turns to me after his long stare at Meg.

I want to counter his question, and ask him and Meg. But am afraid maybe Quinn has no idea.

“We were never lovers.” Quinn answers.

Meg returns with two gla** full of beer.

“Want to do some karaoke?” Meg asks me.

I nod in excitement, I know it pisses Quinn and that is the beauty of it.

“Let’s go.” Meg pulls me up and I stand with my beer. By the time we are at podium I am done with my drink. “What song are we going to sing?”

We sing the first song together Chasing Cars by Snow Patrol the next she sings Demi Lovato, Give your heart a break. I can see the secret glances she shares with Leo. After she’s done. I am the next for my solo. Of course I choose Fix you by Coldplay. Quinn may hate it, but it is my favourite.

When you try your best but you don’t succeed

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When you get what you want but not what you need

When you feel so tired but you can’t sleep

Stuck in reverse

When the tears come streaming down your face

‘Cause you lose something you can’t replace

When you love someone but it goes to waste

Am deep into my singing when I feel my body being lifted from the floor.
The drunkards in the bar applaud thinking it is some romantic gesture.

“I hate that song. I can’t stand it.” He says as we walk out of the bar.

“So?” I ask.

He stares at me briefly and rubs his temple, “You wanted to go home, am taking you.”

“Fine.” I huff.

Quinn pulls at my apartment. It feels like ages since I was here yet it is just a day ago. Roxanna asked what could go wrong in two days? Everything. Friendships have been ruined in those days and a secret I have protected for years is out to the world.

I find my apartment clean than I left it. Pretty sure Oliver brought that gold digger in my house. I find a note on the fridge. That there's food in the microwave. He is a life saver that Nimo wants to steal from me.

I decide to bath first and prepare my notes and books for tomorrow. Am curious to know what happened to Mr. Marcelo and if Quinn dealt with him like he promised. In the meantime time I wait for Andre.