

Touch Me While I Taste You by Demiah13 Chapter 20

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Chapter 20

Thaled as all but raced towards the literature class. I was very aware of the ticking clock in my head. I nearly seen i n frustration when Mr. Haydary lace puslies into my mind.

I brought my bag forward, unzipping it quickly to tumnage through my bindert o pull out my written poetry. I needed to make sure cverything was perfect. Mistakes were not an option, not if I want to sit an hour of bantering with mother and father

As my eyes scan over the words, I had not cared to look up at where I was going. I ran smack into a hard muscular back that drew out an oomph out of my lungs. Losing my footing for a quick second, the paper slips through my fingertips.

I gasp, my eyes quickly following the flying paper as it flew over many heads until finally tumbling slowly down to the floor. My heart drops along with it as I push the guy I ran into not so gently

which I don't bother ha

nd to

"Move" rumble, phishing through In de la gestion paper. My eyes scan over the dirty flooring glaring at the feet of sne barys who stepped on the

I will haunt them in their sleep. I promised myself as I bent down to pick u p the discarded paper.

An angry scream nearly tore through my throat as I witness the dirty shoe prints on the once white perfect paper. As my stiff fingers touched the thin sheet, vexation seemed to cloud my mind.

This isn't happening to me right now,

I turned the paper around, swallowing all the profanities that wanted to come out a s I spotted dirty patches on the words. By now the alarm in my head was going off, the ringing so unbearable that my head felt weighted on my shoulders.

I wouldn't have time to write over the words, no matter how few words were jotted down on it. All I could do was swallow down my anger, many times to

When I got there, unfortunately. Mr. Lyd's presence was already rooted by his desk. Arms folded, an unpleasant scowl on his face and his infamous tapping of his feet as he zeroed in on everyone who rushed in.

They handed him their heat uncrumpled paper and hurried away from the always scowling man. When it was my turn, I couldn't help but let my eyes flicker to the small clock situated on the desk behind him. I chew my lips, seeing that a minute had passed after eight.

Hopefully, the upright man hadn't noticed.

I pass the paper to Mr. Boyd, refusing to meet his scowling face and whipped around to walk out of the class. It was very fortunate that I didn't have literature today. That saved me from having to hear out his critics and disapproval.

The mehndi Hij hrani." MISD-

01

"Mehndi" greets her lack with a little enthusiasm than her.

I survey the classroom, sporting the bliss-eyed blonde in a few batting cons. Her eyes were already on me, glaring in disapproval shifted my weight getting uncomfortable by her sour stare. I found it ridiculous seeing that I was the one who should be mad, not her.

I pressed my lips together, seeking another vacant chair and desk other than the one beside hers, but come up short. I exhale an irked breath and without having much of a chance, strolled over to Gwen.

As soon as my bum hit the wooden chair, she snaps her head to face me. The blue color of the cheer uniform only magnified the blue of her eyes. But as she continued to glare, the blue turned a darker shade, now contrasting against the uniform uglily.

"I told you to stay away." She hissed

talkative in class.

As Miss Lovel tears her eyes away from Gwen to resume the class, Gwen turns her attention back to me. Her expression said it all. She wasn't happy.

"Don't even try to come up with a lie. Everyone saw you get out of his truck." Her eyes narrowed.

I gritted my teeth, clenching my hands into fists in frustration and anger. Her mentioning the asshole's name again only triggered the scene of what happened earlier which only added fuel to the already burning fire.

"Wow, that news traveled faster to you than the last one huh?" I mocked.

She was supposed to be my leech, the annoying best friend that would be there for me. Not a scowling bitch that was mad because I didn't heed her warning

E

that he was trying Inomhutte ETHER, SHELL, Angry and quite et with myself for even bring a tad bit happyini Hallen's paremmide carier.

"Oh hey Arabella, how are you? How did you get to school since I didn't inform will earlier that I wouldn't be able to come to pick you up? Or a fuking greeting would be nice. No, instead You're arguing about my own dann choices." I spat

She flinches back, cyes misting over and I Instantly regret my harsh tone.
"Arabella

I shook my head. "Haiden only have me a ride bxcause I was stranded. If I didn't get. to school before eight, Mr. Boyd would Surely deduct more than necessary marks from the assignment. It was, accept his ride or walt hours for a bus." I explained,

I turn away from her, my voice growing soft as I faced front. "It was just a ride that will never happen again and nothing more. Besides, Haiden and I aren't friends of ever will be, so no need to

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Chapter 21

"Are you still mad e nti voice Mets through the burial plan until it Charks little by little

"Sorry." A brute apologizes as she pushes her way through Ginand L I grit my teeth, alkwing a few sharp breaths in toreign in my anger.

I was like a damn hissile and at any time Tleared I'd blow up.

"I apologized twenty times already Arabella. At this rate, I'd run out of lung capacity before you forgive ne. Срте on my ample bottomn=" She reaches over and I'mn startled to feel her palms touch my ass before she gives it a fimm squeeze.

I quickly slapped her hand away, turning t O send her an intense glare. "Gwen." I grumble annoyed.

"Yeah get it on!" A male gruff volce yells beside the lockers.

'Yeah please touch her boobs!' His

With a furious burning that the paliny H ihn being buried alive.

Pe n d fuckt" i his lowly and ELFT my beton is the mapung blonde

Her bottom Hp juts out in a cute cut Lys gleuning with wdre Please forgive me?
I'm sorry okay! I shouldn't lave spoken to you like you were a kid

Ishra scowl that she and with a cring and a small shrug of her shoulder. "A very
adorable kid She added in a breathy tone,

My face dropped in annoyance. Gwen halis in the busy hallways and stumps her
foot in a childish manner." Come on Arabella, I hate the cold shoulder and the
glares. I can't live without you." Her last words were very dramatic and nearly has.
an amused smile breaking out on my face.

But I managed to rile it back in and faced her. I was very aware that many eyes
were glued to us or maybe on Gwen,

kumwingid she we to budom,

everything Gwn only liked wearing Lace thongs, so one could only limagine how
much skin showed.

"Oh the hypocrisy I grunt "You treated He coldly yesterday and I know that you
carne to school early to avoid me! I'm not the only one who's been a bitch wen."

She sighs Eyes leveling to mine." I know and I hated how I treated you. It's just
that

Her form goes stiff." It's just that he got me so annoyed that I didn't feel like my
usual self. I needed space."

I took note that she hadn't said his name. In fact, she hadn't said his full name

She didn't have to, I knew who she was referring to

Her shoulder lowers and her eyes dart

Nily like they can himna May

"I'm just looking out for you Arabella 1

on"i want la see you get lurt. You know that don't you

Ihre Gwen was hiding the truth from mu e I know the truth was being buried in
the dirt, away from me. I knew because y parents have done it to me my entire

And I also knew that whatever Haiden said to her yesterday would be a secret she'd never tell me. Maybe it was better if I didn't know

So I nodded, giving her my full trust knowing that whatever she was keeping away from me was to my benefit" I know." I murmur.

A radiant smile lits up her face as she quickly throws her arm over my shoulder and pulls me closer. "Great! Now let's go watch some porn at the back of the class before the class starts."

I told my eyes, smiling I turned to

ble to the front door of my house, Hlore my fingers Latch around the handle of the doar, my eyes betrayed me and slid strwly to the neighbor's driveway.

His truck wasn't there.

Quickly scowling at myself for being stupid I opened the door swiftly, not wanting to think aloud, him.

Igrojn, palming my lower stomach as a dull pain cramped up my belly. I need chocolate." I utter lowly as I closed the door behind me with a light thud. "I'm home!" I shout hoping Gertrude was somewhere of hearing range

The usual serenity of my home encages e in coldness that I had gotten used to." I'mn in the laundry room!" Gertrude responded from downstairs.

I ran up the steps, taking two at a time as I made a beeline for my room. My stomach had been cramping for a few

i launched my banyo madep

mot trim that hadn't bothered ackor the bathroom duar. When I was only in my panties, I slowly peeled them ott, cursing when I spotted a discharge of blood on the thin cotton material

Thuffed, throwing my clothes inside the hamper and made my way to the shower. 1 En ini, sighing when I got under the shower Spray and let the hot water curtain over my tense body. I close my Eyes, relaxing all the knots and tension I felt from earlier.

I clutched the top of the towel tightly as I searched for a tampon in my toiletry drawer. "Crap, there is only one." I moaned, glowering at the supposedly last tampon

I picked up the tampon, clutched it between my fingers and brought it to my

st

"How was school today?" Gertrude

tens the room with basket of clean laundry hauled on her hip.

"Boring as usual" I said while throwing the slightly damp towel over the glass of the shower

I walked out of the bathroom, hair dripping on the huge shirt I threw over my form. I cringe while strutting towards my made bed.

"What's wrong?" Gertrude's worried eyes follow my every move as I toss myself on the bed and sank in my clean sheets. I loved the smell of the floral detergent Gertrude used.

"My tummy is hurting. Mother nature decided to run me over with her red truck. "I grumble on the sheets, voice muffled as I close my eyes.

"What?" I hear her asked somewhere beside my closet area.

understanding "Ahh, I see. Want me to make some cocoa for you? Your parents won't know, it'll be our little secret. Her smile was contagious which lured me in until I found my own lips lift into a smile of my own.

I nodded. "Yes please. I also ran out of tampons and need as soon as possible. I'd

do myself but mother nature is being a bitch right now

Gertrude gasp, eyes widening into disapproval. "Language!"

I wince "Sorry. I'm PMSing."

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that lam lam baween wanting to savoti to inhale the calming scent. Gertrude puts the cream-colored ceramic

on my bedside table and sighs. "I know you like some marshmallows and fudge sauce so added so."

= Thanks. "I murmur, squeezing the pillow between my thighs firmly to stop myself from just scrambling to drink the rich tea knowing it was hot and would likely burn the tip of my tongue like it usually does.

"Do you want anything else?" She asked in a calming tone

I shook my head, not thinking of anything that could appease me other than hot cocoa at the moment. I was very picky on my period, also moodier than usual too.

"Has she called yet?" I asked Gertrude.

prilikuwalip him

my this inched

disapproval for how it Thw irl. I sighed and

side when it just want it AYTHOR: Tarine.

Cerrule laughs and sobers up after a fleeting second." No. But I'm sure she's on her way

I gave a nod, Hps thinning into a frown." Of course she hasn't Why would she care about her daughter needing tampons?

Gertrude had called mother a short moment after I had told her I needed tampons. Seeing that her shift was ending in a matter of a few minutes she had trusted that mother would be quick on that essential need.

Gertrude sighed and came to settle at the foot of the bed. Her weight sinks down the mattress a bit and I giggle She marrows her eyes. "I'm not fat."

I smiled. "Never said you were."

She rolls her eyes with a tiny smile on her lips. Her fingers wrap around my ankle

interrupting the Mexican WOTLAN With har spilling out of the bun.

Giving me the stinkie tre she continued # Tatty! She was still work when called hier. Tilales mon than lift een minutes to get here and don't forget the Supermarket in this town is always buy. She's likely to be stuck in the checking

After a few contemplating minutes Sighed in defeat. She had a point. "You're nghe." I breathed out.

Gertrude slaps my leg and gets up. "O course I am, When have I ever not been

* Uhmm when you said the Golden State Warriors would win against the Lakers in the playoffs. "I voiced out.

Gertrude puffs. "Well, I was off on that one..." She drawls out with a quick laugh.

The smile leaves her face and she peers down at me in worry." Will you be okay

WELVE

, Marge will

b

e

Gertrude didn't look comine and irawned. When I never worried? She lireathadeuil.

* I can stay until she gets back Suures

She

I peered at Gertrude noting how under Geshad darkened until they were visible. Her dark eyes had lost the light and were replaced by the gleam of exhaustion,

Even her shoulders were slumped in Latigue Gertrude needed the rest and she wouldn't get it here. Especially if mother were to catch her still around after her shift

"No, I promise I will be safe and okay. Besides, Giveon must have missed his woman seeing that he's pulling up a couple of seconds before your shift ends.

Gertrude's brows furrow in confusion !!

She grins and for the first time , it finally reaches the." W if you my: a. Then here burned through mine i n warning: "Keep your phone next to you at all times and if you ever need me, call

TEILEN, inodding " Yes Ma'amu."

After a few warning and laughs, Gertrude leaves. My heart sank when I finally hear the sound of Giveun driving

way. I know I reassured her that I would be fine. But truth is, I wasn't.

I was alone

I sighed, getting into a sitting position and let my fingers wrap around the handle of the mug. I brought it to my lips, inhaling the pleasing aroma of cocoa and then sipped.

"Shit." I wince, pulling away and brought a finger to touch my tender lip. I grumble another profanity under my breath as I

Tition. The coco was still burninghe hind the sent was only mocking meas of haw. lmded a distraction

My fingers skin aver my bedding aimlessly, searching for the remote that would get me off myslump. When 1 finally clutched the device I switched on thu TV. The last show I had been watching resumes.

I smile at the faces of Dean and Sain Winchester pops on the screen. Maybe it wasn't such a good idea to watch a supernatural show while staying home alone. Still, they were the only ones keeping me company as of now, so I swallowed the tiny fear and continued to

watch.

Soon after, the exhaustion I had been running away from hits me like a huge lug. I found my sleepy eyes closing shut until I was only surrounded by relief and dreams

My shift to my h ide table and relief washed over me when I spotted the box of tampons beside the mug Korwing it was probably mother who wishome, I stretched with a yan.

I tore my eyes away and looked outside m y window. It was dark out already, still presumably early in the night. I sit up Letting out another yawn. My eyes anm. y room until they widen noticing that the television was ofl.

Knowing I wasn't the one who put it off made me let out a groan. If it was mother, who I assume it was, she'd surely have a lot to say to me. She would have definitely noticed the cocoa too. I slumped reaching for my mug of cocoa and brought it to my lips.

Irritation crawled its way through my body as the cold liquid washed over my tongue and traveled down my throat. I hated cold tea. I cringed but still drank it. I placed it down when I heard the sound o

Tout of the with the mission of Hay P N scramble to my window, Til tripping on my own but righted myself quickly.

I pulled the curtains aside, careful to hile in the shadows alpered at a blonde girl climbing the tree to Halden's TITL

He was there. Nelping her as she sealed lowly and cursed. Haiden looked amused, directing her as he held in his laughter.

"Come on baby, help me. She reached out her hand to him. She was still a branch lower and meded to climb higher i fshe wanted to reach him

Peering at Halden I couldn't help but grit my teeth as the scene of what happened thrust into my head. He should've continued to ignore me. Now those

alien feelings were almost too much to bear. One of those feelings was anger, the other I couldn't detect.

"He has herpes so you're probably better off!" The yell almost made me laugh until

"The yell almost made me laugh until I realized it was I who wild it. 1

My eyes widen when I noticed that I had somehow come out of the shadows and was now in view of Haiden and the blonde girl whose mouth was agape in shock.

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Chapter 23

pair slightly Ros haywire. I let it a shaky laugh and forced out a smile that clearly didn't reach my eyes. "Sorry Uh, bet on with, uh, what you were doing " My voice was a stuttering mess that didn't go unnoticed by the two.

I refused to take a peek at Haideri, choosing to swallow my mortification and bury my eyes on the trunk of the tree.

Have a nice night." With another awkward smile, I whirled around with sweaty palms that tugged at the ends of my large shirt

I scuttle to the bathroom, slamming the door shut with a powerful bang and quickly reached over to flick on the light switch. I let out a whimper of mortification as I pressed my back on the door, clenching my eyes shut.

"Shit he's going to murder me." I moan in anguish as I prance to the sink.

I stared at my reflection in the mirror,

for lag. My many braced hair

winyward strands framing over my face.

I pulled out a breath, blowing set of the

ends away from my face. I opened the faucet, grumbling under my breath while glaring into the eyes of my reflection,

"Why would you say that Haiden Cross has herpes? Why couldn't you keep your damn mouth shut? How will this help you avoid him now?" I hissed pointing an accusing finger at my reflection.

I slouched, bending my head towards the sink to throw some water over my face." I should apologize to him personally." I murmur to myself, pressed my palm full of water to my face and made the mistake of breathing in the water.

I coughed, blowing my nose to remove the excess water and rubbed it to ease the slight burn. After the burn eased, I took my wet hand and began to brush it over my hair in hopes of taming the wayward strands.

"! You know what? Halden Cross does That deserve an apology. He's an asshole that thinks he can get away with every damn thing, including dirtying my clothes. On purpose I might add!" I huffed in vexation.

So he can go fuck himself!" Ignint and closed the faucet and reached for the small lavender colored towel.

As I dried my hands, a dull thud sounded from my room. I stilled, my heart thudding in my chest. I could feel the blood rushing through my veins as panic stirs my very being

This is why one shouldn't watch a supernatural show when they're all alone

"Wait but I'm not alone." I whispered, clenching my brows in contemplation.

I waited for mother to call out to me like she usually does when I'm busy in the bathroom but everything grows quiet.

We left for school in the morning

and held it to my chest as a form of protection. I closed my eyes for a second, said a silent prayer inwardly then decided that if I were to ever go down I wouldn't without a light.

I peeled my eyes opened, nodded to my reflection in the mirror and held my breath as I strutted to the door. With a three-second count, I pulled the door open and entered the room. I froze when my eyes fell into brown ones.

Halden stood across my room, leaning against the wall beside the opened window, His eyes fall to the brush that I have been holding with a steel grip and the corner of his lips quirk up slightly. He looked rather huge in my room and very odd.

I eyed his black shirt and how low his grey sweatpants hang low on his hips. My eyes narrowed on his bare feet. He had better not come here with dirt on the

My breath hitched when he decides to take a step, then we until the struts over t

one of the shelves mounted on the wall. His fingers skim over the picture frame that had the ugliest of all pictures.

It was a picture of Gwen and I when we were the age of eleven. I had braces and the smile I had plastered on my face was not all that pretty. I was now regretting placing it on my shelf for the world to see. By world, I mean Haiden.

He picked up another picture frame and I swore I saw a ghost of a smile before he dumps it back on the bland shelf. His long fingers pinch my fairy lights and something like a light chuckle slips out of his mouth.

His mischievous eyes continued to scan my dull room and he smirks. "Nice room." He turns to me, eyes peering at me from across the room.

His voice seemed to have pulled me out of the trance I seem to always get myself into, in his presence. I launch the brush on my bed seeing that Haiden was not so

Wait. What if he was?

I narrowed my eyes on his face, folding my chest to look intimidating but by now I should've learned that intimidating Haiden was not something that was possible for me. Not even a little

"What are you doing in my room?" I hissed lowly, inching towards my bed in case I would actually need that brush.

"This is illegal and I could have you arrested for trespassing and....and

"Do you seriously think a hairbrush could cause any damage to me?" He nudged his head towards the hairbrush and gives out a soft sort of amusement.

I froze, eyeing him and the hairbrush before scowling at him. "If it comes to that, then I'd make sure it does."

He hums, pushing his hands in the pockets of his sweats and starts to strut over to, me. I held my breath, not knowing if I should dodge towards the hairbrush or call for help. But my body

the frozen solid and wanting to listen to my brain signals to

It was too late anyway. The broody boy Nad before me in all his towering height. This close his scent was addicting which messed with my head more than I let on.

So I have herpes huh?" His brown eyes drugged me more than the sleeping pills. I took a few days ago,

My tongue suddenly felt heavy with embarrassment washing over me. With that embarrassment came with a tinge of fear as I thought of ways he'd make me pay for my words.

There was one thing Haiden Cross was known for, which was to make anyone who crossed him pay. Getting on Haiden's bad side was to be avoided at all cost. Unluckily my mouth didn't have a zip or a lock

"Uh-I- "I stuttered looking for a way out of this mess my mouth had thrust me into.

What I didn't expect next was for Häiden i omave a step impossibly closer until our fronts were nearly touching. And what I definitely didn't expect was for his fingers to lace at the back of my head to have my head arch backward.

My confused eyes melted into his own." Haiden-"

I am cut off of my curiosity by him swiftly bending his head to lock his soft lips on mine.

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The When have my mind er Second without racing with the rights? The only thing racing was my pulse and the feeling of needing more

But as the slowly nibbles and comes my lips to follow his, my mind seemed to choose this moment to race with images

Haideh in nothing but his bare skin. That's when I skidded to a stop.

What the hell am I doing!

I pulled away, hating that my lips now felt cold. I took a step back, glaring into his unamused eyes. "What the hell was that!?" I roared lowly as to not have mother hear.

Haiden only stares down at me in what resembles shock until he reigns in his emotions and quickly sketches on an unemotional face. He lowers his head and I'm not even able to pull away as he brings his lips near my ear. "Guess we'll both have herpes now."

That's when this

this finally and in

wanted to, he ked me to punishment ilar my wod. A way to dege melikel had done to him

My are SETH tarate from my pares and surrounded the entire room with an uneasy cold feeling. I roughly wiped my lips with the back of my hand while my cyes glowered up into his emotionless eyes,

"You're a fucking dick." My chest burned with anger, my throal threatening to close up with the many emotions I felt.

His eyebrow raised in amusement, eyes mocking down at me. "Well I have one. If you want, we can use that method instead?"

It took a few pondering seconds to realize what he was implying at. My face turned into one that showed my disgust and frustration. "You're disgusting. Who jokes about sex after being called a dick!?"

"I do." He huffs and throws himself on my bed. His nose scrunches as he fixes one of his eyes on my forehead. "Why do NCHIs love that floral shit?"

Tearing my teeth, a tightening to the pillow under his head harshly. He grunts glaring at me. "You can't just come in here and kiss me like I'm one of your little fuck buddies and with the intention of transmitting herpes. This isn't something to joke about or is it right." I snapped.

I fling my pillow away from him and wiped my mouth again more harshly than the first time. Haiden's eyes follow my movements and he chuckles lowly. "Don't worry I don't have herpes so you can stop with your excessive wiping."

"Then why did you say it right after you kissed me?!" I sneered, picturing myself murdering him. That's right picturing, because we all know I can't even come close to hurting Haiden.

He sits up and looks at me deadpanned. "Well, you said it first." He shrugs. "You know, that girl will probably spread that around the entire school because of you, so I could only assume that we're even."

"How can you call that being even?! | Taste it, ΠΙ ΕΡΠ ΓΙΑΓΙΠΗ That I miss."

Haiden's eyes narrow. "You're right. I should've done more, it was not enough."

My lips numbed as I realized I had dug myself deeper into the hole. I sighed forcing my anger and frustration down.

"I don't get what the big deal is anyway...." He drawls out. "Unless this was your first kiss?" Curiosity had reared its ugly head in Haiden's voice, bringing back the anger I tried to swallow down.

I clenched my fist at my sides in fury, seething. "Don't kid yourself Haiden, this wasn't my first kiss. But why I am so pissed?" I said slowly as if talking to a child. I took a step closer to him and thrust my finger on his muscular chest.

"You might be used to kissing anyone you please but I don't go around swapping saliva with anyone. There were many ways you could've gotten even with me, not by forcing your lips on mine."

YOU WERE Playing yourself more than you're kidding "

His fingers wrap around my wrist firmly but not hard enough to harm. So don't kid yourself princess, it was just a kiss and nothing more!

Wow, harsh. Not that I was expecting it to be more

"I could have easily spoiled the perfect persona you flaunt around in school. Instead, I chose only to go about it this way. So stop making a big deal out of a mere kiss that I just did to catch you off guard

"Kissing someone and joking about herpes is like a walk in the park for you? You thought that I'd be relieved that you kissed me instead of spoiling my reputation to get back at me? You're fucking sick." I tug my hand out of his hold and glared at him.

"Get the fuck out of my room!" I stered this time a little louder than I expected

I froze and felt the blood draining out of my face when I heard the sound of clacking heels.

They were heading this way. My heart skips a beat as I widen my eyes at Haiden "Hide." My voice held a pitch of alarm as I grab ahold of his arm and tugged him u

I'm grateful that I didn't have to force him to comply as I pushed him towards my closet quickly. Haiden does not say a word, neither did he peer at me. In fact he was so silent that I was beginning to think that he had another motive to get back at me

I didn't dwell on it long seeing that the

door, I chased the closet door quickly, not caring that Haiden's huge form looked uncomfortable in the tiny space.

I whirled around when the door opens and mother's pinched face peeks behind,

"Is everything alright?" Her voice held a mild tone of accusation and worry as her eyes scan the entire space of my room. "Thought I heard voices."

"No everything's fine. I was just uh... talking to Gwen on the phone. She was on speaker."

She hums and by the look on her face, she didn't quite believe me. Still, she didn't question me further which I was more than grateful for. Because it would have been very difficult to explain to mother that the teenage boy she warned me to stay clear of, was in fact in my room, hiding in the closet. Now that I think about it how did we end up here?

She fully opens the door and walks in. My eyes fall to the bowl of salad she held in her hand.

She notices my line of vision and gives

a soft smile while lifting the bowl. Thought I'd make you some salad for dinner. It has cherry tomatoes, your favorite.

I'm shocked that she even remembered. I opened my mouth to say something snarky about her finally remembering something about me, but the stress lines on her face prevented me.

She didn't look like her proper self.

And somehow my heart squeezed in pain at seeing her this way.

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Thanks." I spoke softly as I made my way over to her. I pry the bowl away from her hand gently while her eyes continued to scrutinize my mom like she was an undercover cop

Growing uncomfortable by her sudden interest which was leaking with suspicion, I place the bowl down on the bedside table and turn to her. "Is that all?" I asked with an impatient edge in my voice while tugging the ends of the oversized shirt covering me until mid thigh.

Her green eyes drag towards me slowly as if afraid to move her eyes away for just a second. They stared at me questioningly as I pinched the ends of the cotton fabric.

A quick flash of understanding flares in her eyes before she moves them away from my face and gives me a silent nod.

"Yes, that's all."

My stomach chooses this moment to let out a growl. Mother smiles, which was

Erma Mother smiles, which was

" Might want to hurry eat that to feed the monster." She nudges her head to the bowl I had settled on the table.

I stood quiet for a while, utterly stunned by her rare smile. It wasn't huge but it was still very noticeable. It wasn't the ones she forced to just put up a front. This one finally reached her eyes after years, something that was a miracle, well at least for me.

A light banging sound brought me out of my shocked stance and made me think quickly as mother's eyes snapped to my closet.

"Well I have a lot of assignments to get done by tomorrow so I guess I'll get to them now." I spoke a little louder than normal seeing that another light thud came from the closet.

"Is there something in the closet?" The dreaded question I didn't want her to ask slips past her rubbed-off lipstick lips. She looked skeptical and by her tense form, I knew she was without a doubt making the worst scenarios in her head.

ASHT dont have her walk to the cent

Astepilomward and my heart dropping has my machith uttering words didn't

Her head snaps to mine and her eyes narrowed slightly." What?

I let out a breath and forced myself to calm down to not raise any more suspicion." Gwen and I saw a stray kitten by the side of the road on our way here. I couldn't leave the poor guy all alone..... o I took him?" I finished off with a nervous question knowing fully well that mother despises those creatures.

One of her eyes twitches which is one of her habits when she is extremely irritated. "Toss him out before your father gets here. He wouldn't be too happy to hear that you let in a stray cat which might have fleas." Her face scrunched up in disgust as she sends a

Get rid of it. She grumbles and stets over to my opened door.

Her fingers latch on the door, slowly tugging it on her way out before she stops. After a couple of heartbeats and heavy uncomfortable silence later, she turns around much to my displeasure.

"Do you need anything to stop the menstrual pain? I have some painkillers

and ---

"No! No it doesn't hurt anymore. I'm good." I rushed out feeling the heat of embarrassment crawl up my neck to settle on my cheeks knowing that Haiden might have heard

She nods and softly closes the door and leaves. I swiftly run to lock it, not wanting a repeat of what just happened. I was definitely running out of excuses and my lies were embarrassing enough to be buried in dirt and never to be talked about again. I was a terrible liar and most people knew that.

A Perks of having her not knowing me

Instead of ferling ved bry the revelation lily felt the heavy weight of

ily. Inned arm , mi that all shocked to ste Hai len cut of the closel. His bod cyes prodided me from where he stood, haunting me with a knowing look.

I felt naked, bare in front of him and that alone was enough to push back my earlier anger to the front

Icrossed my hands over my chest not trusting myself to be near him. Not after the intoxicating kiss that nearly ruined m y sanity. Everyone was right. Haiden Cross ruins everything he touches.

And he touched me.

“What are you still doing here? Get out.” I spoke faintly while nudging my head to the opened window I assumed he entered from. Scratch that, trespassed through.

He cocks his head to a side and looks at m e intently. After a few silent seconds, he spoke up. “Are you that mad I kissed you?”

I sucked in a sharp breath, not exactly

House I wasn't sure I'd answer it

The way his eyes pick up every inch al my emotions was alaming. He was reading me like an open book and I hated it. I mended to throw myself back into the dark claset that lacked away the realme, the one that didn't have to hide.

My answer was curt and straight to the point. I didn't care if I lied to myself or him. Truth was, that I needed to stay clear of Haiden but I feared it was already too late

Something flashes in his eyes before he quickly conceals it. He was good at that, almost as good as me. “ It was just a joke Bella.”

I narrowed my eyes at his face. Haiden was very handsome, like panty-dropping handsome. I guess that was one thing

“Friends or We're mer friends remember?”

My words must have struck him more than I realized because his facade cracked a little where his emotions played out. quickly

He looked upset, almost lost. But instead of acting upon those emotions he sealed them back in with worn-out tape and gave a single vague nod.

He did not say much after that, just went on his way. Which was technically out through my window

He only left the lingering scent of minto n my bedsheets and pillow that night. The scent that lured me into the most calming sleep I ever had in days.

