

A Family of Strangers[©]

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CHAPTER SIX

Two weeks have passed since the news was given to Bobby. William is in his dining room at the table with Sean, Sarah, Richard, and Carla. Ritchie and Bobby are in Bobby's room. They just broke the news to Carla and Richard. There is a silence at the table. William breaks it,

“Well, I know this is difficult for you to hear, but I figured you were going to find out any ways and I thought it would be better if you heard it from me instead of the neighborhood gossip, so that's why I thought now would be the time to break the news. Now that Sean is here and I'm sure people might be talking.”

Sarah continues,

“And being that you are almost like an uncle and aunt to Bobby, you should know the truth.”

There is still a silence. Bobby continues,

“So. Do you have any questions?”

Carla proceeds,

“Well, you know...it’s just that...wow, it’s just a shocker, you know...you don’t expect something like this to...you know what I mean...it’s just, you know...yeah.”

William responds,

“Yes, I understand. You’re speechless. You don’t have to say anything, but we wanted you to know, because Sarah and Sean are going to be in Bobby’s life now and we didn’t want you wondering why. And we know you may disagree with it, but we talked about it and discussed it with Bobby and he seems to be okay with it.”

Richard asks,

“It seems like you’re asking us for approval.”

William responds,

“Not exactly. We just wanted you to know since you are like family. And there are no secrets in family.”

Richard replies,

“Well, give us some time to marinate on this. It’s going to take some time I am sure you can imagine. And even more time to trust Sean. However, if you all think this is a good idea as your family we will do everything we can to be understanding. But please give us some time.”

William responds,

“Of course. Not a problem.”

Richard stands and then speaks,

“Well, I guess we can go now.”

William responds,

“Oh sure, of course. I’ll see you to the door.”

William walks Carla and Richard to the door. Richard calls for Ritchie. Ritchie and Bobby come downstairs. Richard, Carla, and Ritchie leave the house. As they leave Bobby goes back to his room. Williams responds to the moment,

“Well, that wasn’t as bad as I thought it was going to be.”

Sarah responds,

“Yeah, they took it pretty well. I just hope they don’t change their minds and stop visiting. I would hate for Bobby to lose a friend over this situation.”

Sean asks,

“Do you think they needed to know?”

William answers,

“Yes. Besides, if you want to be in Bobby’s life there is no reason to keep it a secret. People are going to start asking questions. And yes it is none of their business, but the more lies you tell the more lies you have to remember. It is better to tell the truth and shame the devil. You are forgiven, Sean. That was your past. There is no reason to be ashamed or guilty.”

Sean responds,

“Thank you, William.”

“You’re welcome.”

Sarah and Sean leave. Once they are gone William calls for Bobby. Bobby opens his door and pops his head out.

“Yes, dad.”

William smiles at Bobby and with assurance says,

“I know it seems impossible, but things are going to get better.”

Bobby gives him a smirk of assurance and then responds,

“Thank you, dad.”

“Don’t forget it.”

“I won’t.”

Eight months have passed and Sean and Sarah have been seeing Bobby more often. With William they have been taking Bobby to museums, parks, movies, and many other entertaining places. Bobby is now getting used to the idea of his parents being in his life. Sean and Sarah have also been spending time with Richard and Carla. Richard and Carla have been more reluctant to accept them, but as time goes on they begin to accept Sean and Sarah. All of the relationships are slowly, but surely getting stronger and forgiveness is being sent to one another.

WILLIAM'S OFFICE

Sarah frantically knocks on the door. William answers,

“Come in.”

Sarah enters. William responds,

“Is everything okay? What brings you here?”

Sarah is pacing the floor. She looks up at William with tears in her eyes. Williams responds,

“What the hell is wrong with you? Did he hurt you? Did Sean hurt you? I told you; you couldn't trust him. Where is he? Did you call the police?”

“Stop it. He didn't hurt me.”

“Then why are you crying?”

“I am very confused.”

“Confused about what?”

There is a silence in the room. Sarah, crying, trying to speak the words finally speaks,

“I'm pregnant.”

Another silence hits the room. William breaks the silence

“What do you mean?”

“I’m pregnant.”

“By who?”

“Who do you think?”

William thinks for a moment the reacts,

“Did he rape you again?”

“No! I told you he is not like that. It was consensual.”

William stares into space for a moment before coming to,

“You mean to tell me you and Sean...”

“I know. I don’t understand it either. I told you I was confused...I think I love him.”

William laughs,

“If this is some kind of joke it surely is a cruel joke.”

“I wish it was a joke. I don’t know what it is, but there is something about him.”

“How can you be in love with him? How could you be in love with your rapist?”

“I DON’T KNOW. I have been trying to HATE him for what he did to me, but the more I try to hate him the deeper I love him. It’s just the things he does, the little things that make me so attracted to him. I mean he wakes up and makes me breakfast, when he comes home from work he cooks dinner and washes the dishes afterwards. He pays the cable bill, he leaves the toilet seat down, and he has a dream business that he works on instead of sitting around watching football like most men. He actually is a changed man. And I tried to hate him so I wouldn’t notice how attracted I am to him, but it’s not working. And one night one thing led to another and it was just so good. Not the sex, but being with him. I just couldn’t stop.”

“Well, how many times did you do it before you got pregnant?”

“I don’t know I wasn’t counting.”

“Oh my gosh. When did it start?”

“About a month or two after we told Bobby the truth. Seeing him cry and talk to his son, that was the first thing that drew me to him. I kept thinking I cannot be in love with him. This is not how love is supposed to work. But through it all I have never loved; so I wouldn’t even know if this is how it’s supposed to work. My first husband I married out of low self-esteem. It wasn’t love. So maybe, maybe this is how it’s supposed to be for me, but it’s got me so confused. I don’t know what I should do.”

“Well, I sure as hell don’t know. Why are you telling me?”

“Because I need to tell someone and you are the only one I trust to talk to.”

“Well, I’m flattered, but I haven’t a clue of what to tell you. I mean I could never think anyone could be in love with someone who abused them, but...I don’t know...Are you keeping the baby?”

“Of course! I could never give up a child.”

“Well, how do you plan to tell Bobby about his little brother or sister?”

“I don’t know. I haven’t figured out how to tell his father yet.”

“He doesn’t know?”

“You’re the first to know. Well, the third. The doctor was the first; I’m the second to know and now you.”

“Well, actually I’m the fourth to know. God was the first.”

Sarah laughs,

“Yeah, I guess you’re right.”

There is a silence between the two of them before William breaks it.

“This has been the wildest journey I have ever been on.”

They both laugh.

SARAH'S APARTMENT

Sarah is in the elevator talking to herself pretending she is talking to Sean trying her best to figure out how to tell Sean the news. There are two other individuals in the elevator staring at her like she is crazy. The elevator stops and Sarah walks off. She approaches her door and sighs heavily.

“You can do this Sarah. Just go in there and tell him. It’s no big deal.”

Sarah unlocks the door and then opens it. As she enters she hears jazz music playing. With much shock she hesitates to walk in. As she does she calls for Sean. Sean answers,

“I’m in the dining room.”

Sarah walks towards the dining room and sees the table set for two with candles. There is a gift box at one of the settings. Sarah begins to cry.

“What are you doing, Sean?”

Sean answers,

“Take a seat. I wanted to have dinner with you.”

“This is amazing. You did this all for me?”

“Of course. And you deserve more. I wanted to thank you.”

“Thank me for what?”

“Forgiving me. You didn’t have to and yet you did. You’ll be amazed at what forgiving someone can do for them. I appreciate it and do not take it for granted.”

“Well, you’re welcome.”

“Please be seated.”

As she seats Sean removes the chair from the table so she can sit once she is seated he helps her move the chair closer to the table, he then sits opposite of her. As she sits she notices the little gift box on the table next to her place setting. She replies to the box,

“What is this?”

“Open it.”

“Sean, what is this?”

“Open it.”

She takes a sigh and then takes the box and opens it. She notices the 14 Karat White Gold Pave Double Halo Engagement Ring with Pave Split Shank Design and begins to cry. She looks at him and asks again,

“What is this?”

Sean replies,

“I cannot see my life without you. And I do not want to keep being with you without you being my wife. I really did try to believe I could go on by myself, but I just cannot see it. It may sound crazy considering what I have done to you in the past, but I really like you, I admire you, I appreciate you, and I love you. I do not know if you feel the same way, but I thought I let you know how I feel about you. Lastly, I really enjoy the time we spend together with Bobby and was hoping maybe we could have another child together. Now I know it sounds crazy and abnormal, but I don’t care about being normal. I really believe we belong together. Now if you are uncomfortable with that let me know and I will move out as soon as I can and never mention it again.”

There is a silence that hits the room hard. Sarah does her best to speak, but cannot find the words to express herself at the moment. Sean breaks the silence,

“If you need time to think about it let me know. All I need is a yes or a no.”

Sarah finally breaks through her tears and speaks,

“I’m pregnant.”

“WHAT?”

“I’m pregnant.”

“Oh my goodness! Really?”

Sarah nods her head yes. Sean continues,

“Well, that’s great! Well, is that a yes or a no?”

Sarah takes the ring and puts it on her finger and then answers,

“Yes. Yes, I will marry you.”

Sean embraces her. They then kiss passionately.

SAMUEL ELIZABETH DINER

Two weeks later. Sean and Sarah are sitting at a table waiting patiently. Soon William comes rushing in. He speaks to the host and the host leads William to the table Sean and Sarah are sitting at. William speaks,

“So sorry I am late. I had a meeting today about an art show. It ran later than I expected.”

Sean responds,

“We completely understand. Thank you for coming.”

William responds,

“No problem. So is this just a date or is there a specific reason why we are meeting here?”

Sarah responds,

“Well, we wanted to tell you something and we thought it should be outside of your home.”

Sean continues,

“Yes, we thought you should know before we tell anyone else including Bobby.”

William,

“Is everything okay?”

The waitress interrupts and the three of them order their drinks and meals once she leaves William continues,

“Okay, so where were we?”

Sean,

“Well, as weird as this may sound.”

Sarah continues,

“And we already know how weird it sounds-”

Sean continues,

“But, we have decided to get; well we wanted to know that we are getting-”

William interrupts them,

“Getting what? Just spit it out, man.”

Sean continues,

“Well, the thing is-”

Sarah holds her hand up and shows William her engagement ring. William with much shock grabs her hand and looks at the ring. He then asks,

“Is that what I think it is?”

Sean answers,

“Well, if you think it’s an engagement ring then yes.
We’re getting married.”

William responds,

“Oh. Is it because Sarah’s pregnant?”

Sarah responds,

“No. He asked me to marry him before I had the chance to tell him I was pregnant. That’s why we believe it was meant to be. I am not sure if we are making a mistake, but if it is a mistake we are willing to make this mistake together.”

“This is so...I can’t even because...like what is...sorry,
but I am so lost for words.”

Sean replies,

“Well, hold off on your words because that’s not all we have to say.”

“What more is there to say?”

Sean answers,

“Well, I was wondering if you wouldn’t mind being my best man. I really don’t have anyone in my life. You have been the best thing to me, Sarah, and our son and I want you to be at my side when I get married.”

“Wow. Yeah, I don’t know what to say other than...wow.”

Sarah continues,

“There’s one last thing. As you know I’m pregnant and being that you are Bobby’s legal father we were hoping that you would be our baby’s Godfather. We couldn’t think of anyone else other than you who we would be honored to ask.”

Sean continues,

“Now I know we put a heavy load on you so we don’t mind if you take some time to think about it.”

Sarah continues,

“We’re setting the date and making the arrangements so once it’s set we are going to need an answer. And you have less than nine months to make decision about the being the Godfather of William, Jr.”

William responds,

“You’re naming the baby after me?”

Sean responds,

“If you don’t mind.”

William asks,

“What if it’s a girl?”

Sarah responds,

“We will name her Liam.”

William responds,

“You have me speechless. I don’t even know what to say, think, or do right now.”

The waitress arrives with their meals. Once she leaves Sarah responds,

“Well, I guess you can just eat. Pray about it and when you have an answer let us know. There’s no rush. And one last thing.”

William asks,

“And what is that?”

Sarah answers,

“Thank you for everything. You have been met with the strangest situations concerning me and my life and you have done nothing but love me through it. Thank you for taking care of Bobby, thank you for allowing me into his life and thank you for trusting Sean; I know that wasn’t easy.”

Sean chimes in,

“You have really demonstrated the love of Christ. I greatly appreciate you.”

William sits there in tears not knowing what to say he just takes his fork and eat. Sean and Sarah smile at him and begin their feast as well. They finish their meals and William promises to give them an answer before the month is out. They greet each other and leave.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Time goes by so quickly when you are having fun. Three years have past and Sean and Sarah are husband and wife and their son William, Jr. is two years of age and Bobby is sixteen. Every Friday night they take their son Bobby and spend time with him. They have been doing this for the past three years. On Sunday they return Bobby to William. During the summer Bobby gets to stay with them for the month of July and parts of August. It's an arrangement Bobby, William, Sean, and Sarah agreed to after Sean and Sarah's marriage became final. Bobby as always returns home from a weekend with his parent's on a cold February day. He enters William's home and goes straight to William. William notices him.

“Hey, son. How did thing's go?”

“Everything went well.”

William looks at Bobby strangely and then asks,

“What's on your mind? I can tell when you need to talk.”

“You won't be upset with me will you?”

“Bobby, what did you do?”

“Nothing. I wanted to talk to you about something.”

“I’m listening.”

“When I was a child back in those foster homes I would always imagine my parents coming back for me and taking me home. A part of me thought that it could never happen, but then there was a part of me that had always had the faith to believe indeed it could happen. So the fact that I get to be with my parents it’s just amazing. And although the circumstances of how I got here are not good; to see my parents get along despite...it just makes me happy.”

“Well, I am happy for you. I am glad your dreams came true.”

“The thing is my dreams weren’t me spending the weekend with them. Now, I know I am pretty older now and I only have a couple of more years at home, but I was wondering if I could spend them with my parents. I thought that maybe I could spend my last years of high school living with my parents. It’s not that I don’t appreciate you, but all I ever wanted was for them to return to me and they have. And now before it’s too late I want to be able to come home from school to them. I want to see them at the dinner table and be able to live with my brother and be with him like a family is supposed to. I want to live like a normal family even though my family is not normal. I hope you can understand without being offended.”

William responds,

“What do your parents think? Are they okay with you moving in with them?”

“I haven’t asked them yet. I figured I should ask you first.”

“Well, I am a bit saddened to see you go. I raised you since you were ten. This of course won’t be easy for me, but in everything I did for you I simply wanted you to be okay. And if this is what you need; to be okay; then I am okay with it.”

Bobby grabs William and embraces him with a hug.

“Thank you, dad. I love you.”

“I love you more.”

They embrace again.

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