

CHAPTER ONE

Brynn smiled and twisted a long, blonde strand of hair around her index finger as she waited for her video call to be answered. After six rings, she was hanging up when her mother's face flashed on the screen.

"There's my baby girl!"

"Hi, Mom! Is this a good time?"

"It's always a perfect time when my daughter calls. How is California? Did Karen and Richard arrive?"

"Just this morning. The moving van pulled in right behind them. They did some sightseeing on the drive from Nashville, so the truck had been in town for a day or two, just waiting for them to call for delivery. They'll be over later for dinner and to stay the night. That way they can rest up from their trip before they unpack."

"Now I have two California girls!"

"Who would have thought, huh? I admit I'm a bit nostalgic. With you in Australia, Karen moving here, and Twyla taking the job in San Francisco—can you believe she'll be co-hosting a national morning show?"

"She'll be a hit, I'm sure. The best part is that she's close enough that you two can visit."

"Yeah, I love that. But Nashville isn't home base anymore, is it?"

"I guess not, but it was time. It's a move forward for all of us."

"That's true. And I have more good news."

"Canaan's show is back on the air?"

"No, but he's only tied to Hank for another month, so he's happy about that. We've put

the production company idea on hold for now since Taylor is still too young for Karen to take on the responsibility and with another baby on the way—”

“Karen’s pregnant? Isn’t that the way it always is! You adopt a child, or in her case three, and then you prove doctors wrong and have one of your own.”

“Mom, it’s not Karen.”

“It’s not Karen?”

Brynn laughed as her mom looked puzzled.

“No. You’re going to be a grandmother!”

“You’re pregnant?! You’re pregnant! I told you it would happen! I’m thrilled! Just thrilled. Wait until I tell Rodney he’s going to be a grandpa!”

“Tell him that’s what he gets for dating an older woman,” Brynn teased.

“I will. Actually ... I have news as well.”

“He’s going to make an honest woman out of you?”

“That is such a cliché, but yes. He’s asked me to marry him.”

“Mom, that’s great! When? Where?”

“Whenever you and Canaan can come. With a baby coming, we’ll move the date up to be sure you can travel.”

“Will that be an issue? Moving the date?”

“Not at all. The sooner the better works for me. We’re not having a big hoopla. Just saying our vows in a private ceremony. We’ll have a reception for Rodney’s friends and all, but his staff is taking care of that.”

“I’ll talk to Canaan tonight. Karen and I are meeting with Geoffrey on Friday, so I can find out then when I can be away from work.”

“I suggest staying at least two weeks. You’ll want to see some sights while you’re here. Especially since it’ll probably be your last vacation as a couple. Once the baby comes, everything changes.”