

Is the snow whiter?

# Is the snow whiter?

By : **Kirkyb**

What would you do to have your dream job? Give up everything and everyone or just let the dream fall away. Iâd done that let the dream fall away to make people happy and Iâd been miserable as all hell. So what do you doâ!?! You run, you run and you donât look back and hope to God the grass is way greener or the snow much whiter Michelle Deering or Chelle to her friends,Covers it well hides the truth and gets on with it until somethings can't be hidden for much longer.



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## Is the snow whiter? : Chapter 1

..... I wrapped hands around the steaming cup of Coffee and inhaled deeply, the only thing to get me through the next few hours until the caffeine kicked in and I got my second wind. Working until three am getting two hours sleep and having to be ready to be picked up at seven was a killer but I loved it.

"Chelle... Hey girl come on you need to shake your ass you've got class in thirty" I jumped and looked round at my still half asleep housemate Hadley" she stretched and looked out of the window "Oooo new powder" she rolled her eyes "Must be insane living here this time of year" she pulled the blanket off the couch I walked into the small galley kitchen and washed out my cup putting it on the drainer. I grabbed my jacket and put it on.

"Well you could have found a bar job south of the border I'm sure" I laughed "and please can you do some laundry today I'm sick of tripping over your dirty stuff and you're not wearing anything else of mine" I poked her arm making her groan.

"I don't know how you do it" She peered from under the blanket at me "two jobs and partying and you still look good"

"It's called doing what you have to do have fun" I pulled on my hat "Come to the mountain today and I'll give you a lesson"

"Like hell the closest I'll get to that is ogling some of those rich boys" she wiggled her eye brows at me as a car horn sounded outside "And there's your ride"

"No I think you'll find he was your ride the night before last" I teased "And Snowy keeps asking about you"

Oh god was I that drunk" She pulled the covers over her head

"Yes you were and you wondered why the mud room looks like a bomb went off you and he bounced off all the walls and broke one of my boards" she sat up wide eyed

"Chelle I didn't... I mean"

"It's okay he's fixing it, just watch where you bring home and do your next conquest ... See you later Hads" I ran down the steps and grabbed my Snowboard and went out to the waiting truck putting my board in the back . I opened the door to some loud Techno music making me scrunch up my nose.

"Is Hadley there?" I smiled as Snowy bent his head and tried to look up at the house as if trying to see her

"Morning Snow, I'm fine thank you for asking" I laughed, Snowy was twenty five the same as I was with long blond haired and big built body that sometimes looked odd when he was doing tricks on his board, his eyes were ice blue and always twinkled, He'd lived round here all his life and lived for winter when he worked the mountain giving lessons on snow boards and taking Snow mobile tours of the area. Snowy wasn't his real name but it fitted him better than the Reginald winter that was his real name.

"What...Oh hey Chellepop" he beamed a smiled at me and then went back to looking at the house I groaned

"Snow we need to get to work Hadley is sleeping" He sighed and took a deep breath before putting the truck into drive

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"I'm in love with her you know that right"

"Dude you met her a week ago" I looked at him

"She's the woman of my dreams"

"Really and I thought that was me... I'm hurt Snowy hurt to the bone" I tried not to laugh

"You had your chance with this fine specimen, but Oooo Noooooooooooooo, you didn't want to take a ride on the snow boat" I scrunched up my face "This is the second year you've been here Chelle and you've been hit on so many times and you never take anyone up on their offer" I chewed my lip and looked out toward the mountain the fresh powder glistening in the early sunlight "Girl you're so much fun and you've got a ton of friends and a ton of guys that want to be un-friend-zoned... you need to get those pipes serviced girl or you'll dry up and it'll turn to dust" I looked at him and had to laugh at the smirk on his lips

"You're a jack ass you know that" I swatted him and took his coffee "I'm fine with having friends" he looked at me as he pulled into a parking space and gave me a 'whatever' shrug he jumped out and shut the door. I got out and reached for my board "Snow" he stopped walking from me "I mean it... I really am fine I don't need the hassle of a relationship... I'm not good with them friends I can handle" I caught up to him and hip checked him "and I think you are getting my share of the sex" I teased him

"Hey I'm a one woman man"

"Yeah he's a one woman man that's one at a time" We both looked round toward the voice "Snow you've always been a ski slut and you know it" Niall laughed he was another of the instructors and had grown up with Snowy "Chelle it's you and me and a bunch of rich kids this morning so saddle up girl" he tossed his arm over my shoulder. I loved my job here and I loved my friends that I'd made as there were just like a family a dysfunctional family but the best I'd known in a long time.....

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links for characters below

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## Chapter 2: Princess, Cupcake and Fluffy

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. Snowy walked away and headed into the ski shop. Niall took my board and put it in the rack next to his and some of the others that I knew and we went into the office.

"One hell of a night last night" he chuckled as I signed in

"It was one hell of a night for those of us not working" I smiled "You guys certainly knocked back the Cuervo and the Absolut"

"Shot skis" He h laughed "and come on Body shots pretty much are awesome" I pulled my hat on and shook my head "Oh you know you love it"

"It's fun when it's not some of your best friends doing it" I swatted him "You and Jesse were pains in the ass"

"Hey when you have a hot friend then we have to do what we do" he threw his arm round my shoulder as we walked out "and you and Hads work that bar well"

"Snow reckons he's in love with Hadley"

"Snow is in love with getting his bed warmed by a smoking hot girl"

"Hey she's a friend be nice to her she's not a target for you all to get at you know"

"I know" he held up his hand

"You heading to the bar tonight?"

"You working?"

"The only night I don't is Monday"

"Then we'll be there and there is a party at our place after hoursâ ! Hot tubbing" he wiggled his eye brows

"I'll bring my bikini"

"OOOO the orange and black oneâ ! shows off that fine ass Ma'am" he teased feigning a southern accent as he slapped my butt

"Okay for that it's going to be a one piece with a shirt over it and same goes for Hads" I scoop snow off the rail and balled it throwing it at him "and she just brought a new barely there hot pink one" I laughed running from him

"Noooooo we need hot girls in the hot tub" he ran after me both of us laughing. It was good not to have a care not to give a damn other than working hard and partying hard "And take the compliment you have a fine ass" I grabbed my board from the rack he reached for his "you never take a compliment"

"Niall you don't compliment a girl by telling her she's got a fine ass especially not a friend those are the lines that get you one night stands" he looked at me and grinned "It's like talking to a walking raging hormone" I groaned

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"You love me really" he wrapped his arms round me

"OOOO Group hugs" Snowy yelled I felt another set of arms wrap round me and I got well and truly squished in a double bear hug "Hey Layton, its sandwich time"

"No I can't breathe" I laughed

"Hot sandwich" Layton's voice filled the air as I felt the hold on me increased with a third set of arms "Morning Gorgeous" I felt a sloppy kiss pressed to my cheek

"Errrgh that's gross" I gasped for breath there was a cough and the four of us all looked round at a group of three guy's standing there looking like they'd fell out the pages of a magazine with how new everything looked that they were wearing.

"We're here for lessons" one of the cocked his head "on the upper runs"

"I got a bunch of Girls" Snowy shook his head

"I'm in the office" Layton let go of the huddle of us

"You've got us" Niall smiled "I'm Niall and this is Chelle"

"Two of you?"

"Well if you want to go up to the top runs then yup you need to have two of us in case you get into trouble" I nodded "So names or you can get nicknames put on you by us"

"Oh I'd love to see the nicknames you'd come up with" One of them laughed he cocked his head

"Well Princess" I grinned as Niall Lent on his Board and laughed

"Dane she got you there" One of his friends elbowed him "Princess suits you"

"Well you look like a Cupcake to me" Niall pointed to the one doing the elbowing making his friends start laughing.

"Beckett the cupcake Dude fits you well" Dane smiled at him

"Well Cupcake and Princess bring Fluffy there along and let's get on the mountain" I started to walk away from them and picked up the lift passes for them handing them out.

"Okay three of us on one lift and two of us on the other" Niall was in instructor mode "Chelle" I nodded and moved forward "Fluffy, cupcake go with the hot girl"

"Hey remember what I said one piece and a t-shirt" I looked at Niall

"Already calling Hads" he waved his cell "Princess you're with me" the lift came round taking us up in the air with a slight bounce

"So you guys here for the weekend?" I asked as the lift ran up the mountain



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"No the season" the one we had called Fluffy shook his head "we're here working?"

"Cool like most of us" I looked at them

"Well Tate here is working for a law firm" Beckett pointed to Fluffy

"Well what about youâ a beauty shop" I pushed my tongue into my cheek

"Wow you're mean" he laughed "but no Construction"

"In this weather?" I got wide eyed "Damn"

"Well it's different" he shrugged as the lift reached the top of the run

"Okay girls off we get" I jumped off and waited for them to the side taking a minute to look over the city below and the mountains rising up either side of the Valley, this was my heaven long way from my hellâ !

## Chapter 3: Return to sender

"Hey Chellepop" I looked round as Niall called me breaking my train of thought "You just looking at the view or you actually going to do something"

"I'm coming" I walked toward where they were all standing "You guys better know how to board already because these runs aren't for dumbass that have done this for a couple of weeks with hangovers" I Watched for the normal cocky reactions that we got when people thought they knew more than we did.

"We've been boarding for a few years" Dane shrugged "since college"

"Okay well just to make sure we're going to ease down without hitting the bigger obstacles" Niall got on to his board "so Chelle you take the lead" I nodded dropping my board onto the snow and clipping onto it "Whatever you guys do follow where she goes she knows this run better than most of us I can see just how good you all are if I follow you"

"Hey O'Keefe you gonna keep yapping or are you gonna let the snow melt" I poked my tongue out at him.

"Get down the mountain girl or the body shot count tonight with triple" Niall wiggled his eye brows at me "You know you love being on your back" I groaned and hung my head before putting my goggles in place and flicking him the finger I set off looking back seeing Niall send Beckett next then the others following.

I got to the bottom next to where Snow was giving a lesson to a girl who could hardly zip her jacket up over the implants she'd got. I turned round to watch the three guys Niall and I had come down the mountain. Beckett came to a halt within a few feet of me with a grin spread across his face

"Damn that's a rush" he pushed up his goggles

"You almost went ass over tit about a third of the way down but you caught yourself" I unclipped from my board and walked over to him and stood next to him you leant to far back" I explained as his two friends stopped one by one watching as Niall came over "You have to tuck this in more and bring your hips more central" I held on to his hips and stood behind him and pushed his ass "Bend your knees a little" I moved round in front of him "You'll have more control as you come through the mid section of the run" I looked up at him there was a lopsided smile on his face and his eyes were a warm caramel brown.

"Hey Cupcake are you listening to her or taking her snow gear off with your eyes" Tate Laughed I looked at him and raised both my eyes brows "Sorry"

"Oh she's used to it" Niall laughed "But dude you should listen to her that's why she's the instructor and you two have the same problem as he does you have to get more control when it gets faster through the middle or you're going to be in trouble, and hitting the snow here means we're going to have to call out the rescue team because it's unforgiving"

"You guys ready to try this again?" I picked up my board

"Yep" Beckett nodded "You want me to take your board?"

"I'm fine" I smiled shaking my head and walking off. If I'd got a dollar for everytime a guy had hit on me in the bar and on the mountains I wouldn't have to work as hard.

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"CHEEEEELLLLLLE" I stopped walking and looked round as Hadley picked her way through the snow

"Jeez it must be the end of the world" Niall laughed "had's you up before noon and out in the snow?"

"Bite me Muttley" Hadley rolled her eyes as Niall grinned at her and kissed her cheek

"He's right Hads you never come here" I laughed "Please tell me you haven't burned the house down?" I stopped laughing and frowned "and have you got laundry running"

"Oh my god" she stopped walking and hung her head "Yes I have laundry running and I cleaned the kitchen and the bathroom" I grabbed hold of Danes Arm and put my hand to my forehead feigning shock "Will you knock it off I went to the post office to pick up a parcel and they had this letter for you" he held out an envelope "It was just addressed to you and the city name" I felt the color run from my face to my feet as I saw the neat handwriting on the front.

"Iâ!" Hadley looked at Niall and both of them frowned at me "It's not for me" I took the envelope "I don'tâ! the return address I don't know who it is" I fumbled with my board "I have toâ!" I pointed to the lift "See you at home" I turned and walked as quickly as I could back toward the ski lift and got on the next one that came without waiting for either Niall or the three guys we were teaching.

"Well that was awkward" Niall chewed his lip

"Go make sure she's okay will you" Hadley held on to Niall's arm

"I willâ! okay guys it looks like Chelle wants to race all of us so we'd better get up there" Niall took a deep breath "Had see you tonight" Hadley nodded and wrapped her arms round herself "I'll make sure Chelle's okay" he walked off with Dane, Beckett and Tate.

"Oh there is my angel" Snowy walked toward Hadley as the girl he'd been teaching put her snowboard in the rack "come here to see me?"

"Yeah that's right" she put the envelope in her pocket "I had to see Chelle" she pushed her hand through her hair

"You want to come grab a coffee or something Layton's in the office"

"Coffee sounds good" she linked his arm "how the hell do you guys think being out here in the cold is fun" she shiveredâ!â!

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## Chapter 4: Rally round

â lâ lâ lâ !.. I stood off to the side of the ski lift waiting for Niall and the others to get to me. I knew I was wrong to have bolted like that so I had to have my game face on when they got to me. I scrubbed my hand over my face as I saw the four of them coming. I moved away and smiled as Niall came toward me a deep set frown on his face.

"What was that?"

"Sorry I'm just tired to many late nights" I shrugged "I'm fine nowâ ! and hey I think the shock of Hadley coming here took me by surprise" I moved round him

"Hey" he caught my arm "you have to remember where we are and your head has to be in the game up here"

"Niall I'm fineâ ! My head is in the game, don't question it okay" he dropped his hand from my arm "Look I love you okay you and the others are everything to me, I promise you I'm all good"

"Okay" he nodded I looked at the three guys "Sorry about that it's been a long day alreadyâ ! so Beckett remember what I told you about keeping your ass in and moving your hips forward" I dropped my board down and clipped into it "We'll go down together I can keep you on track"

"Sounds good" Beckett nodded

"How come he gets a one on one" Dane held up his hands

"Wait here and I'll come back for you" I laughed unless you want to come down with Niall

"Well if he's getting a one on one I want one with you as well" Tate grinned

"Oh gee way to feel loved" Niall hung his head

"Well Sorry Dude but she's hot" Beckett winked at me Niall glanced up at me.

"Well that she is you should see her at work"

"Oh my godâ ! helloâ ! I'm right here feeling like a piece of meat" I tipped my head "We've done one run and we have spent more time yappingâ ! Now boys book individual privates with me if you want more lessons because it's what I get paid to do but right now I only saw Cupcake's run so I know what he has to work on" I edged to the lip of the run "So come on" Beckett grinned at his friends and hurried over dropping his board and clipping on to it "Ready"

"Yes Ma'am" he nodded we both launched and hit the run taking the first sweeps easily until the run narrowed bringing us within a few feet of each other

"Now put your ass in and level your hips" I called out over the sound of boards on the snow "Brace for the bump" He followed each instruction as I gave it "Nice" I smiled feeling a touch of self satisfaction from someone listening and learning something from me. We came to a stop at the foot of the mountain.

"OH DAMN" Beckett pulled off his goggles "the difference was amazing" I just smiled and nodded "How long have you been boarding?"

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"Since I was eight so a long time" I shrugged "you did an awesome job in listening and taking instruction" I put my board in the rack.

"Look I'm sorry if we sounded like a bunch of hormonal teens up there" I looked round at him "It's just you are pretty" I closed my eyes and took a deep breath

"Thank you for the apology but I'm used to the Frat boy kinda guy you've met my friends" I pointed to where Layton and Snowy were talking

"Yeah but still" are you and Niall well are you" He rubbed his hand on his jaw

"Friends yes" I smiled "I'm here to work and I work a lot with both my jobs, Friends are the only thing I have time for" Niall, Dane and Tate all came to a stop "Hey I need to go do something" Niall looked at me "Hey Layton you have a lesson?"

"Nope I got office duty" he shook his head

"Can you swap with me I need to do something on the computer?"

"Sure" today's a perfect day to get out here" he nodded "There is just the roster for next week to be finished" I hugged him "Okay what was that for"

"Because I wanted a hug" I shrugged before I looked round "Layton will finish the lesson with Niall but really if you all did as well as Cupcake just did then you're good to be up there alone without us" I walked away toward the office

"She okay?" Layton looked at Niall "That fake assed smile ain't fooling anyone"

"I'm not pushing her you know what she gets like" Niall Kicked at the snow

"You want me to talk to her?" Snowy folded his arms over his chest. There was a cough from behind them

"Sorry" Niall inhaled okay let's get back up there and we'll try it again without us giving you instruction to see if you can remember then we'll try a slightly harder route down"

"So is" Dane looked to where I was talking to another instructor

"Chelle's got something to do" Layton tipped his head and blocked Danes view "Then she probably needs to get her ass home and ready for work"

"But I thought she worked here?" Tate frowned

"She's got two jobs" Beckett butted in making Snowy, Niall and Layton look at him "She told me" he shrugged

"I'm going in to the office" Snowy backed up and turned away from them

"And we're going back on the mountain" Layton grabbed his board

"Oh and FYI and not trying to sound like a jack ass but if any of you are sniffing after Chelle back off" Niall started back for the ski lift "Let's go ladies"

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Snowy walked in to the office as I shed my jacket and pants, he perched on the end of the desk and tipped his head

"Don't okayâ there isn't anything wrong I've just been over working" I sat down at the computer and pulled up the roster.

"So why would someone who you don't know be writing to you here?"

"I have no idea" I shrugged keeping my face at the screen "So you guys coming to the bar tonightâ we've got hot in the snow night?" I wanted so much to forget the envelope and get on with my life "Chance for you to take body shots off Hadley"

"Okay when do we not come to the bar and what is hot in the snow?"

"Short shorts and Bikini's" Thank god Snowy had attention problems especially if half naked women were mentioned

"So you and Hadley half naked" the grin spread across his face

"Snowy we're in the hot tub at your place at least four times a week" I smiled shaking my head feeling a little more normal

"Yeah I know butâ Damn I need to go roll in the snow" I finally looked away from the computer and balled a piece of paper and bounced it off his head Making him laugh as the door opened

"Hey Snow can you come give us a hand in the shop" one of the girls from the store asked

"Sureâ !" he got up as she closed the door "And Chelle one day you'll let us in a little more" he bent and dropped a kiss on my cheek "we love you, you know that" he walked out grabbing his jacket. I put my head on the desk and closed my eyes, one day I might but right now I couldn'tâ lâ lâ lâ !

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## Chapter 5: One tries it on

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !. I finished the roster and tidy up the mess that Layton had left all over the desk my head was starting to throb.

"Hey I thought you were on the slopes today" I eased back in the chair as my boss walked in. "You and Niall had three guys and then you have a couple of beginners" He rubbed his hand over the five o'clock shadow on his face. Tore Harper for a guy touching forty had girls slack mouthed when he walked into a room and he was amazing on the slopes.

"I was out there, but I'm getting the headache from hell" I pinched the bridge of my nose "So Layton went out for me and I have the roster done for the next two weeks and I re filed the stuff you guys have just shoved in the cabinet"

"You don't look to good" he put his hand on my forehead "Hmm no fever"

"I think I'm just tired, you know I work the bar at night so it is sort of catching up with me when I'm having to be here so early" I chewed my cheek â !and it seemed like I hadn't moved far enough away from my past

"Okay well how about you don't come in before ten in the morning" he perched on the edge of the desk and looked at me "Chelle you are one of my best instructors so I need you here in the busy times"

"I know and I'm sorry to let you down you know this is what I love to do but I need the bar money to live" I looked at him

"We'll work itâ ! Look take the rest of the Dayâ ! did you bring your car?"

"No Snowy picked me up"

"I'll take you home grab your things" Normally I'd fight against going home but I just wanted to curl up in bed and have a few hours to get my emotion in check before I went to work again. Tore and I walked out of the office Layton was standing talking with Dane and Beckett.

"Chelle?" Layton called out

"He's fired my ass" I smiled "he's taking me home" Beckett and Dane looked like they'd both been slapped

"Oh Okay See you around then" Layton laughed "and Tore about time you got her lazy ass away from here"

"I know right" Tore grinned as he too k my board from me and opened the door of his Hummer and put it in

"Call if you need something Chelle" Niall walked over his hand wrapped around a steaming cup

"See you guys later okay" I climbed into the Hummer and waited while Tore talked to a girl who pushed a piece of paper into his pocket before he got in "Jail bait"

"S'cuse me" Tor reversed from the lot and pulled out onto the road

"The fifteen year old that just put her number in your jacket â ! Jail bait and you could be her Dad" I wrinkled my nose

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"I'm not interested in her" Tore Chuckled "I know when they are underageâ There are girls round here that are more for me" I looked at him and raised an eye brow "Okay I'll let it go" he held up a hand

"Thank you" I rubbed the side of my neck

"I can give you a head massage if you wantâ I guaranteed to relieve tension headaches"

"I thought you said you were going to let it go" I groaned

"Chelle come on you know... I wantâ I mean" I closed my eyes and started to shake my head as he pulled up in front of the house

"Tore I don't wantâ !" he moved a little faster than my mind had time to understand he cupped my face and brought his lips to mine, I moaned into the kiss the softness of his lips wiping my mind of everything before I snapped back to my senses and pushed him back "Seriously Tore" I pushed open the door "I've told you I'm not interested and you have to keep pushing itâ I really like you but I don't want a relationship and I do not need a man in my bed"

"What about my bed" he looked a little hurt

"Thanks for the ride Boss" I slammed the door and walked into the house closing the door after me and locking it cursing as I took off my jacket

"Chelle is that you?" I looked up the stairs as Hadley put her head over "Was that Tore bringing you home"

'Bringing me home hitting on me" I put my boots on the rack next to my other 4 pairs and took the stairs two at a time

"He hit on you?"

"He kissed me" I walked into the kitchen and put on the coffee pot and braced my hands on the counter "Looks good in here I'm sorry we jumped all over you this morning"

"It's okayâ and he kissed you Damn he's fine for an old man" I looked over my shoulder at her "Well he is"

"Are you trying to sleep your way though the resort"

"No I just like window shopping" she smiled "So why are you home this early"

"Didn't feel too good" I filled my coffee cup "I'm going to Curl up in bed for a few hours. You have the lunch shift as well as the night one?"

"I was getting ready to go" She nodded I headed for my room and saw the letter that Hadley had brought to the mountain sitting ontop of the mail pile "Oh I was going to put that back in the mail box but I had missed the mail man" she went into the bathroom and started to put on her makeup "I'll drop it in there in the morning"

"Hmmm" I ran my fingers over the writing "I'll do it, I have to the post office anyway before I come to work tonight"



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"Okay" I picked up the letter and closed my bedroom door behind me tossing it on to the bed. I paced the floor the letter seemed to scream at me to be opened "Fuck" I dropped down on the bed and tore it open, my heart beating out of my chest as my hands shook to the point I had to put the envelope down and take a deep breath before I could pull out the folded sheet inside. | | |

## Chapter 6: Return to sender

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. I opened the paper and sat with my eyes closed trying to ease the feeling of nausea that was washing over me. I slowly opened my eyes and took in the handwritten words on the page

*One of these letters is going to find you, one of these letters has to get through to you. You run for the snow you always have done trial and error will let me find you.*

*Do you not understand it doesn't matter how far you go you will be found and you will come home and do what is asked of you. We will comb through every ski resort if we have too Michelle you have responsibilities*

I read and re read the letter over and over. I got out of bed and walked out into the living room and balled it up and tossed it in the fireplace. I looked at my reflection in the window I put my hand to my face before pushing my hand through my hair. He last time I was home my hair was cropped and a sun kissed blond the same color it had been all my life, right now the girl that stared back at me had a rich deep red brown hair to the middle of her shoulders and the tattoos on my shoulder and ribs weren't there before either. I sat on the couch and pulled the blanket off the back and wrapped it over me.

That letter was obviously one of many that had been sent out and addressed to me. I got up and went and grabbed the envelope from where I'd left it on the bed. Damn I was stupid they were going to be waiting for the letters to come back, returned to sender and now this one had been opened. I chewed my lip, think girl think. I ran down the stairs and slipped my feet into my boots and opened the door, I dropped the envelope into the snow and stood on it and smushed it under foot tearing it up a little more and smudging some of the writing. I ran back upstairs and grabbed the letter from the fireplace smoothing it as I went back down stairs. I dropped it into the snow next to the envelope and smushed it under my boot before I bent to pick it up shaking off the excess snow the ink had smudged in places I nodded and took it back inside

I reached under the sink and pulled out rubber gloves and put them on. I knew how these people worked and would think nothing of running finger prints from the envelope. I started to re fold and put it back in the tattered envelope. I pulled a Ziploc bag from the kitchen draw and slipped the envelope inside it and sealed it before I wrote the words return to sender on the bag. This was all I could do I just hoped it was going to be enoughâ !..

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 7: Friends

â lâ lâ lâ !.. I couldn't settle so I grabbed the keys to my Jeep and headed in to town to the post office and dropped it in to one of the mail boxes before I headed for home Niall's truck was parked outside and he was leaning against it. I got out and shut the jeep door.

"Okay and you're here why?" I walked up to the mud room door and unlocked it

"Well Tore came back from dropping you off in one hell of a foul mood and you forgot your Board" he reached into the back of his truck and pulled out my snowboard "How you feeling?" He walked in the mud room behind me and put my board in the rack with the other three I had.

"I had to go to the post office and now I'm going to try to get a few hours sleep before work tonightâ ! You want a coffee?" I started up the stairs shrugging out of my jacket as I went.

"Sure" I heard him unzip his jacket "So what did you do to piss off the boss?"

'Rejected his ass when he kissed me" I leant on the counter top in the kitchen and looked at Niall who was standing with his mouth hanging open

"Kissed as inâ !"

"Tongue and everything" I poured coffee into two cups and handed one to Niall

"Butâ !"

"I know, hell he knows I'm not interested I told him so many times last season and every time I've seen him this year" I rubbed my hand over my face and sat on the couch Niall walked over to the fire and set about making it

"You want me to say something to him?" I smiled and shook my head

"No, I want the job, hell I love that job you know I do and I can handle Tore" I pulled the blanket over me as Niall got the fire leaping in the fireplace and he sat on the hearth

"Chelle"

"Hmmm" I watched the dancing flames

"Why?"

"Why what?"

"Don't you give someone a shot?" Niall tipped his head and looked at me "You came here almost two years ago and I'm sorry I've seen Men and women hit on you and nothing" he put his cup down and braced his elbows on his knees "Hey I mean I'd kill just toâ !"

"Oh God" I hung my head "Niall I love you and the others because you let me be meâ ! you don't or didn't seem to judge me"

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm sorryâ I guess sometimes we've all seen you look kinda lonely" He got up and walked over to the couch and sat down

"I have a past like most people and sometimes some little thing triggers a memory and it slams me like a ton of bricks" I reached for his hand and squeezed it "Niall I have never been so happy as I am when I'm on the mountain with you guys or in the bar working with Hadley, you guys are all I need" I smiled at him

"Butâ don't you want to just get down andâ !" he started to turn red and I heard the door knock and open downstairs

"Hey we brought PIZZA" Layton's' voice called up the stairs

"WE?" I laughed

"Yup" snowy took the stairs two at a time "We got off early so we decided we'd come here till you have to go to work and then we'll come there and bug the hell out of you" He dumped down on the couch in between Niall and I "Unless you two were about to" he ducked as I gabs slapped him with a pillow

"We were just talking that was all" Niall groaned Layton put the pizza boxes on the table

"So much for getting a nap in" I picked up a piece of pizza and took a bite. The rest of the afternoon was spent just laughing and relaxing I suddenly realized they were here because of my reaction to the letter but none of them were going bring it up. I looked at the watch on Snowy's wrist "Okay you guys are any of you getting changed before you go out tonight"

"Yup we have things in Layton's car" Snow didn't move his eyes from the TV where they were watching some movie

"Good" I got off the couch "I'm going to shower and get ready for work and I take by the fact you're all here I'm driving all of you?"

"Well since you offered" Niall laughed

"You need your back scrubbed?" Snowy grinned

"No the last time we all got in a shower there was Hadley as well and we ran out of hot water" I walked toward the bathroom "and this time I'm wanting a proper shower not one where I was still dressed"

"It was fun though you have to admit" Niall looked at me

"It was, and see what I mean about not needing more in my life" I blew them all a kiss and went into the bathroom and closed the door. There was no denying I'd love to let loose and get banged off every surface by one if not all of the men I was friends with, but friends going that step further was a recipe for misery" I braced my hands on the sink and looked at my reflection as the steam from the shower fogged up the glass like my past had become a fog I'd had to leave and get out of. Time to keep my friends close and let my new life take overâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !

## Chapter 8: Are you sure this is working?

I got ready for work as the guys all started early by raiding the fridge for beer I double checked myself in the mirror before I walked out of the bedroom.

"Hey you said it was hot night and you're in pants and a top?" Niall frowned "Well I had to say something this morning to shut you up" I grabbed my jacket and tossed my bag at Layton "You can throw that in the back of my Jeep it's my stuff for hot tubing tonight" Layton grinned and opened the back

"Oh and Score we have the orange Bikini" he called out waving it over his head and high fiving Snowy

"You're and Idiot" I groaned picking up my keys from the hook at the top of the stairs "You guys want a ride" I started down the stairs I had to smile at the scabbling of feet over head and then the thundering as the three of them charged down the stairs. I pulled on my winter boots taking my heels in my hand and went out to my Jeep the guys piling in with me. Snowy took control of my Phone flicking through the music until they came to 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen and they all proceeded to 'Wayne's World' like there was no tomorrow. I pulled up at the bar and got out leaving the three of them inside to finish the song.

I smiled as I walked into the bar and Hadley was already slammed with customers her smile flashing had I'm sure earned her a ton of tips already. She spotted me and waved with a free hand as she handed over a beer with the other. I walked into the back room and kicked off my winter boots and sat down before putting on my heels.

"Hey" I jumped as the door from the cellar opened and Randy walked in "Bar's busy already tonight"

"Well you do decide on extending happy hour from five till eight" I stood up and put my jacket on the hook "so when everyone comes off the mountain to get food they end up staying here and getting drunk" He grinned at me and opened the safe and pulled out a money pouch and handed it to me.

"Well that's true I had to go change the kegs so I had to leave Hadley for a while"

"She looked like she was doing good" I nodded "But they well start a riot if they have to keep waiting and she can only do so much with her smile and her ass shake" I laughed "You want us to close tonight the guys will help put up the chairs"

"That would be awesome I have to go check on the restaurant there were some problems earlier with and over that won't work" he rubbed the back of his neck and then the café at the top of the I put my hand over his mouth

"Okay I get it Hadley and I will close I have my keys for the safe so I'll make sure it's all locked up for you in the morning" he sat down behind the desk. I went out and eased through the crowd getting behind the bar and putting the change into the two registers

"So you feeling better?" Hadley Hips checked me as she rang in the order she'd just taken and dropped a twenty into her tip jar.

"Well I didn't get to have a nap because the house got crashed by the three musketeers" I smiled at the guy waiting at the bar and took his order "But we had a laugh and hung out"

"They do have a good habit of cheering us up don't they" she agreed "Where are they?"

## Is the snow whiter?

"They were in my jeep singing when I got here so I have no idea" I shrugged "but they do have my phone so god help us"

Hadley and I worked so well together we seemed to be able to manage the bar without getting in each other's way. Hadley picked up the bottle of Tequila and used the steps to stand on the bar deftly dancing over the bottles and glasses on it, this girl had presence and loved being the girl at the center of attention when she was working the bar, I whistle cut across the sound of the music as Snowy and the other walked in. her face broke out into a huge grin as she bent down taking the money from a guy who offered it and poured a shot into his mouth from the bottle.

"Looking hot Hads" I groaned at the goofy grin on Snowy's face

"Thank you" the blush rose in her cheeks and his at the same time

"Oh my god it's like a damn Disney scene in here" Layton Gibbs slapped Snowy "Will the two of you just get hot and heavy and let's move on" he lent on the bar as Niall was talking to someone still in the middle of the bar. "Chelle can we get three of the usually please?"

"Sure and they already did?" Layton stopped with his hand half way to his pocket for his money "They broke one of my boards with how hot and heavy they got" I opened the cooler and pulled out three beers and popped the top on all of them taking the money from Layton

"Dude you sly dog" he playfully punched Snowy in the shoulder

"Whatâ!" Snowy frowned

"You and Hads"

"Yeah well I'm just a Love machine"

"Oh god he's off" I shook my head "Hadley Give Snow a shot will you he's thinking that sliced bread has nothing on him"

"Body shot" she al but purred in his direction

"Hell yeah" she handed me the bottle and I put it down and I moved the glasses out of the way as she lay down and lifted her shirt. Snowy licked his lips and braced his hands on the bar

"Okay here we go" I handed her the line and she put it between her teeth I tipped salt in the hollow at the base of her throat she looked at me I knew that spot was one of the spots that had her in a messy heap, and you can blame that knowledge on drunken truth or dare one night and Niall making her scream like a banshee without getting naked or using his hands. "Snow get ready" I opened the tequila and he bent his head as I tipped the shot on to her stomach laughing at the hollering and whooping that was going on as he licked up the last of the liquor I put the bottle back on the back of the bar in time to see her back arch off the bar as he went at her throat before taking the lime and making a damn good hunt for her tonsils.

"Wow so can we try that?" I looked over my shoulder in the direction of the questionâ lâ lâ lâ !.

## Chapter 9: Okay What just happened

â lâ lâ lâ !. "You can take the shot Butâ !"

"Chelle come on you love these lips" Niall laughed wiggling his eyebrows. And here we go again another night of my friends testing how close they could get to that line without crossing it.

"Come on Chelle" Hadley eased off the bar and took a womans order and worked getting her drinks "Nialls not exactly ugly" she was standing next to me with her back to the bar

"What's the big deal with me just having friends" I looked at her "and no he's not ugly and if I was different then hell yes but I just want to have fun and keep the people I love as friends just as that mixing friends and bed buddies doesn't work for me anyway" I squeezed her hand

"Okay so can we at least find you a random hot snowman and get you unwound shall we say" she scrunched up her face "Because sometimes you look so tense it's like you need to just break a snowboard or two" I couldn't be mad at her she was just Hadley. "You know just sit on his nose" I felt my jaw go slack and we both just started to laugh

"Oh that is justâ !" I shook my head and swatted her before I loaded the glass washer and turned it on

"Chelle" I walked over to Niall wiping my hands "I didn't mean toâ !"

"It's okay you still want that shot?" He smiled and nodded "I got up on the bar Hadley came over returning the favor with the Liquor, lime and salt I rolled the bottom of my top and lay back Nail moved aside the snowflake trail of crystals hanging from my belly button ring. Snowy was giving me a hard time as I tried to keep still while the Salt was put in the same spot as it was on Hadley. She held the lime slice out and I took it between my teeth

"Ready" she grinned at me I nodded "Niall you're up" I sucked in a breath as Nialls mouth worked across my stomach before getting to my neck, his tongue licking up the salt, He looked at me right before he snagged the lime dropping just a sweet peck on my lips.

"Oh that was lame" Layton hung his head "Dude you need to do like Snowy does and find the tonsils" I reached out and pinched him "Owâ ! I mean nice job dude" I moved to get up

"Noâ ! Lay your ass down we got someone else to take a shot off you" Hadley pushed me back "And Damn if he's a snowman I'd like to see his carrot" I looked over as Niall grinned and shook hands with someone

"Well this is a pleasant surprise" Becketts face came into view

"Damn its cupcake" I smiled, okay why had my heart rate just increased and why did my voice sound a little more high pitched

"So Cupcake is it" Hadley put the lime in my mouth "You want to take a shot off my best friend?" Niall grabbed the Salt and put his hand on my shoulder holding me down a little and put a small pile of salt in between my breasts in the deep V of my shirt I shot him a look

"Chelle Shut up" he chuckled

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'd love to take a shot" Beckett beamed as Niall moved out of the way I looked at Hadley who was looking at Beckett weighing him up.

"Come on then cupcake show this girl what you're made of" Hadley held up the bottle and did her favorite little wiggle.

"Damn that's fine" Dane's voice was there as well I groaned and closed my eyes. I felt the cold liquid on my stomach and then the heat from Beckett's mouth his tongue ran a circle round my belly button and his lips tug on my belly ring, my eyes shot open in time to see Beckett fix his eyes with mine before he moved for the salt My hands started to grip the edges of the bar as I found myself wanting to arch up closer to his mouth. His shadow fell over my his eyes seemed darker before he bent his head and took the lime from between my lips His hand moved to take the lime from his mouth and he kissed me. And then pulled back

"Damn best body shot I've ever taken" he rubbed his hand over his face As Hadley pulled me up I got off the bar and adjusted my shirt

"Had you be okay I need toâ I meanâ !" I was flustered and off kilter "Change, we need" I dropped the keys to the money drawer twice as I went for a fifty to go get change from the office just to get away. I moved from behind the bar without looking toward Beckett or any of the others. I closed the office door behind me and banged my head off of it.

It must be the fact people were bugging the crap out of me to find a guy and meet up and then the Snowman and carrot thought that Hadley had oh so kindly stamped into my frontal lobe, or maybe it was the thought of the letter from earlier and wanting to get as far away from those Memories as possible. I paced the floor before going over to the safe and retrieving the change I'd made the excuse to get, but in the last two years no man had made my heart race and my mind go to utter goo, hell for that matter no one in the last five years had done that other things yes but feelings I thought I'd lost had flooded right back with one damn body shotâ lâ lâ !.



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 10: Persistant bugger

â lâ lâ lâ !. The office door knocked making me jump and come back down to earth

"Hey Chelle, Had asked if you can grab a bottle of Jack" Layton's voice called through the door

"Sure" I opened the liquor locker and pulled out a bottle and headed out of the office Layton was leaning against the door frame

"You okay you look a little flushed" He took the bottle from me as I locked the door "That was one hell of a shot, I'm damn sure Cupcakeâ !" I turned round and looked at him and pinched his lips together

"It was just a body shot like the one Niall did and the one Snow did off of Hadley and I'm pretty sure you'll do off me at some point tonight?" I let go of his lips and took the bottle from him "You're pupils dilated when Cupcake took the shot they didn't when Niall did it" He whispered in my ear "I might be just a snow jock but I know the signs of a woman wanting something" he kissed my cheek and walked back to the bar. I took a deep breath and went back to Hadley who was laughing and talking with some guys who were trying their damndest to get her number.

"Got the Jack" I hip checked her as I tossed the empty and replaced it with the full and put the change in the drawer

"Thank you" she smiled at me "you okay if I got take a break?"

"Sure" I nodded "I think Snowy I waiting for some company" she flushed and poured a soda into a glass and walked round the bar and into the middle of our friends which no seemed to include the three guys Niall and I had taken for a lesson that morning. Beckett said something to Dane and peeled away from them coming over to where I was wiping the bar over as it got a little quieter. "You need another beer?" I put the bar towel aside

"I'm good" he lent on the bar "Did I do something to offend you?" Damn he had amazing eyes I swallowed hard and looked down at the bar "I mean the shotâ !" I

'It's okayâ ! I just had a long rough day" I put the smile on my face "And you were good at taking the shot and Boy believe me It makes a really sweet change to have a cute guy doing it rather than my best friends and people that I've known for a while".

"Thank you" she took a drink and watched me as I took the order of the girl next to him and put her drinks down "Do you do everything so well?"

"S'cuse me?" I took the money and handed her the change and looked back at Beckett

"Well the way you're working the bar making it look so easy and then seeing how good you are on the mountain on a snowboard" He took the stool that the girl next to him had just vacated.

"Oh it takes years of practice and falling on your ass to do things right" I shrugged "Now I try to do it right the first time"

"How about going for dinner?" I frowned at him "I know what you said on the mountain about not wantingâ ! but come on live dangerously and let me take you for dinner"

Is the snow whiter?

"Persistent SOB aren't you?" I smiled as Hadley came back behind the bar

"Yes I am?" he nodded "Don't you think?" he looked at Hadley

"Think what" She looked from Beckett to me and then back again

"That maybe Chelle here should give this cupcake a smile and go for dinner with him"

"All I'm going to say to my best friend is that Snow mans nose sure looks good" I felt my cheeks flame red as Beckett looked totally lost "And hell yes I'd go for dinner with him if I was you" she slapped my ass and walked by to where Tate had come to the bar with Niall

"See I have your best friend giving me the thumbs up" he rubbed his thumb over the neck of the bottle

"I don't knowâ ; I don't have a whole lot of time off and when I do I like to make it mean something" I Looked at him

"Wow, that sort of stings a little" he chuckled

"Oh God I'm sorry I didn't mean it to sound like that" I clamped my hand over my mouth "I mean I have to basically get things done when I'm not here or on the mountain"

"Mouth working independently of your brain again Chelle" Snowy took the stool next to Beckett

"Yes" I sighed

"You'll get used to Chelle she doesn't tend to think much before she says things" He laughed

"Shut up" I smiled "hey will you stay and help us lock up tonight?"

"Sure" Snowy nodded "You still coming back to ours"

"Yep I don't have a lesson until two tomorrow so I have the morning off so I'm sleeping there as well"

"So breakfast if not dinner" Beckett jumped in

"Oh for god sake will you just let him take you out" Hadley put her arm round me "I mean look at those eyes, look at those pecs through his shirt, he's got some nice arms and that ass is fit to have your nails digging into it"

"Well thank you Ma'am" Beckett laughed

"You're welcome and You can meet Chelle at nine am across the street" she pointed to the restaurant across from the bar "they make incredible breakfasts"

"Had's" I looked at her

"Sounds good to me" Beckett nodded

"You want to play Pool" Niall pushed in between Beckett and Snowy "Chelle's looking a little uncomfortable" I mouthed a thank you at him and watched as the three of them moved away

## Is the snow whiter?

"Don't you dare stand him up" Hadley looked at me and poured two shots and pushed one in my direction "You're going to start living a little and hell if you have a string of one night stands who gives a damn we don't judge" she knocked back the shot "If you don't like him see it as just a free breakfast and you've lost nothing"

I couldn't argue with that logic, he didn't seem like a mass murderer and I guess breakfast across from what could only really be considered total eye candy and I'd have my own car so I could leave when I needed to. I looked at Beckett as he bent over to take a shot and I felt my head tilt to watch how his jeans pulled across his butt

"See he's hot and he wants you" Hadley laughed "Now lets start shutting down because I want to get in to the tub at the guys house and then crawl under a large hunk of Snow" Hadley looked toward Snowy who was watching her and her cheeks flushed red, there were two friends about to cross that line for not the first time.....

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 11: I've gone blind

â lâ lâ lâ !. We closed up the bar Hadley left with Snowy while I put the money in the safe Niall leant on the office door.

"Layton is checking there isn't anyone in the bathrooms" I looked round at him and kicked off my heels and put my feet into my winter boots he stepped forward and held my jacket out to me

"Thank you" I zipped up my jacket and faced him "So I guess I'm going out for breakfast in the morning"

"I heard" he smirked "he seems a nice enough kinda guy and we wouldn't let just anyone take out either you or Hadley" I looked the office door and linked his arm

"Yeah right you've let Had leave with Snowy to get things sorted at your place and you know damn well his bed is being tested right now"

"Or the couch" Niall pulled a face

"See and that is why I don't even like sitting on the couch at your place, I've witnessed to many random sex acts performed on it" I shuddered

"And that's why we like to come over to your place to sit and watch TV" Layton walked round the far side of the bar from the bathrooms

"We're all good to go no ones left"

"Good I'm aching I can't wait to get in the tub" I rubbed the back of my neck

"See you need a man to help loosen you up" Layton and Niall high fived each other "and if you're not going to let one of us be that man then for god sake let it be Cupcake"

"Will you guys knock it off" I pulled my keys from my jacket and unlocked the jeep "Get your asses in the car I've had a long day and just want to kick back" I pouted at both of them

"Oh she's doing the faceâ !" Niall dropped to his knees "NOOOOOOOO save us before she trips on the bottom lip"

"Oh I'm going to run your damn ass over get up" I swatted him before climbing into the jeep "And we're not doing Bohemian Rhapsody again It's only good when Snowy does it with you" Layton and Niall got in and I pulled out and headed for their house the three of us falling in to the comfortable silence that only good friends know.

"I'll get the beers" Layton got out

"I'm going to hog the bathroom and get changed"

"And I guess I'll just make sure dumb and Hadley opened up the hot tub" Niall walked round the side of the house as Layton and I went inside their house was laid out just like mine and Hadley's only theirs was three bed roomed and ours was two Layton took the stairs two at a time.

## Is the snow whiter?

"DUDE BEAR ASS COVER IT" I stopped half way up the stairs Layton looked at me "Not a pretty sight"

"Snowy?" he nodded as a half naked Hadley appeared at the top of the stairs grinning and looking like she'd been dragged through a forest backwards. "Girl he had a bedroom couldn't you wait"

"Nope" she giggled "We thought you'd be a while longer"

"yeah well at least my retinas are still intact I think Layton will need therapy" I pushed passed Layton "Now I need to go change and OH MY GOD SNOWY THAT'S CROCHETED THROW YOU'RE POKING THROUGH THE" Layton's hand wrapper over my eeyes

"She's innocent and you do that" he teased

"Hey I was looking" I Moved his hand "Hads, how the hell are you walking? Damn Snowy that's one hell of a Snowman's nose you've got there" Hadley started laughing and high fived me

"Thank you I think" Snowy looked at Layton who just shrugged at him and they both looked at Hadley and I who were now holding each other up laughing

"Hey you guys coming out orâ ; What are they laughing at?" Niall came in through the kitchen door "DUDE cover up" he pulled a face at Snowy

"I'm changing" I wiped my eyes and walked toward the bathroom "and I am sooooo not sleeping on the couch tonight I'm in with one of you guys"

"You want us to call Beckett and ask if there is room in his bed" Niall laughed, I gave him the finger before I closed the bathroom doorâ !â !..

## Chapter 12: Out of Practice and a fastback

â lâ lâ lâ !. I walked out of the house Niall and Layton were already in the Hot tub, the snow had started to fall lightly making it all look like a picture postcard.

"Looking hot Chelle" Layton reached out of the hot tub to the cooler and snagged me a beer popping the lid as I stepped down into the Steaming water

"Thank you and this feels amazing" I closed my eyes and lent my head back

"Have a drink" I looked at Layton and took the bottle he was swinging in front of my face "We need to get you guys girlfriends" I took a drink They looked at each other and then at me

"We get our fair share of girls when we want then" Niall grinned getting up and reaching for a fresh beer for himself

"And you know who we both would love to take out" Layton kicked me under the water "But we know" he started to stop me from jumping in "We're all friend zoned" I smiled at both of them

"I love you guys as my best friends" I put my head on his shoulder "I have extremely good looking friends" I laughed

"Talking about me?" Snowy climbed in to the water with us

"Amongst others yes" I looked over to the house "so where's Had's?"

"She fell asleep on my bed" Snowy took a beer

"Great she leaves me with the three of you" I squealed as they all splashed me. The chatter between us was easy and fun the beer and the hot water definitely making things feel better the letter was all but forgotten about I got up and got out of the tub "Sorry guys I'm going to crashâ ! considering apparently I have a breakfast date in about six hours" I pulled on my boots and wrapped the towel round me

"Use Niall's room. I sort of didn't change the sheets after I took those two sisters home the night before last" Layton grinned

"Yeah Chelle you know where my shirts are and I changed my sheets before work this morning?" Niall Looked at me

"Thank you Night guys"

"Night"

I walked into the house and got in the shower before going into Niall's room and grabbing one of his t-shirts from the drawer I crawled in to bed and snuggled down under the covers.

"Hey" I looked round as Niall walked in a towel slung round his waist "You mind if id get into bed"

"As long as you're not wet" I yawned

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm grabbing a shower first" I nodded he pulled shorts from one of his drawers and walked out of the room. He came back in and got under the covers and snuggled into me "You nervous about meeting him?"

"Yes" I sighed "It's been a while since I went out on a date"

"Well I've never known you date in the two years I've known youâ when was the last date you went on?"

"A long time ago" I squeezed my eyes closed and prayed he wouldn't push it

"You do know we'd never touch you or hurt you right?" I turned over to face him

"I know that but that hasn't got anything to do with, I wasn't abused or usedâ well not in a badâ!" I frowned "Niall I justâ!"

"It's okay I shouldn't keep pushing you" he tucked a piece of hair back behind my ear "But if ever you need to talk I'll listen" I moved forward and kissed his cheek

"One day maybe" I put my head on his chest "But right now I'm tired and I want to go to sleep"

"Alright shutting up" he chuckled the rumble vibrated through his chest, my eyes drifted closed and a dead sleepâ!..

â!â!â!â!â!.. I groaned as my alarm went off on my cell phone I rolled over Niall was up and gone I knew he had an early lesson with a group of kids. I got up and stretched and looked out of the window a fresh blanket of snow coated everything apart from the cars in the driveway Niall had cleaned them all off. I had to smile for all the drinking and partying he was a good guy.

I pulled my clean comfortable clothes from my bag and went into the bathroom and got ready.

"Nervous?" I looked round as Hadley lent on the doorframe a steaming mug of coffee in her hands "and you look cute byt the way" she smiled at me

"I guess I'm nervous" I put on a light base of makeup "But it's just breakfast"

"Breakfast with a really hot looking man that isn't a friend" she held up her hand keeping me quiet "So you have no excuse like you do with these guys"

"Okay I know" I put my hands on the vanity and hung my head "and if I want to and I get on with him who knows"

"Screw that just drag him home and make use out of the rug in front of the fireplace"

"You're sex mad" I shot her a look "It's not everything"

"It helps with frustration" she hugged me "Call me when you're done with him, I want to know how it goes"

"I will" I pulled my keys from my bag "I'll call you when I get to the mountain I have a lesson at two"

"Deal" she nodded I grabbed my jacket and put it on and headed down and out to my Jeep, I tried not to think about the butterflies having a party in my stomach and how sweaty my palms were, the trip into town seemed to take minutes rather than the ten it normally took. There was a sweet 66' Black mustang parked right out

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front of the restaurant I pulled my jeep in front of it and got out to admire as I was at least twenty minutes early.

"You like it?" I jumped and looked round and was face to face with Beckett

"Hell yeah a 66' fastback is one nice car"

"Thank you?" I felt my eyes get wide and my jaw go a little slack

"It's yours?" Beckett nodded and smiled at me "Damn"

"I wasn't sure you were going to turn up?" he pushed his hands into his pockets and rocked on his feet

"Well believe me I would have been hog tied and dragged here by my friends if I tried to back out" I shrugged

"That sounds like you really don't want to be here?" he frowned a little

"Noâ sorry that does sound wrong" I hung my head a little "I'm just out of dating practice shall we say"

"Me too" he seemed to blush a little "So shall we go grab breakfast?"ââââ.



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## Chapter 13: My Mind has fallen in the gutter and can't get up

Beckett held the door open for me letting me walk in.

"Good morning" the woman behind the counter smiled "Just the two of you?"

"Yes Ma'am" I felt Beckett's hand in the small of my back "Can we take that booth back there please" he pointed to the far end of the restaurant where the booth overlooking the mountain was just being cleaned

"Sure even for breakfast it's a romantic table and you are such a cute couple" she bustled round from behind the counter with two menus

"See she thinks we look good together" Beckett whispered in my ear his warm breath making a shiver run up and down my spine I felt a smile spread across my face as I slid into the booth and he sat across from me

"Coffee?" a young pretty girl I'd seen around town came over with a coffee pot in each hand

"Please" I turned my over and watched her pour it

"What about you?" she batted her eye lashes at Beckett

"Sure" he kept his eyes on me as she filled his cup "and can you give us a few minutes while we decide what we want"

"Of course" she put the coffee pot down and walked away

"Oh that little girl was hoping just for you to look at her and smile you know" I wrapped my hands round my cup as Beckett put creamer and sugar in his coffee before sliding them at me over the table "No I take my straight black and hot" I took a sip "So that's one hell of a nice car you've got out there" I was babbling

"I've had it for a while, my Brother and I restored it"

"And he lets you have it?" I put my cup down

"Well we restored two of them so we sort of have one each"

"You have two in the family?"

"Well we have three my Dad has one as well I guess we have a thing for them" He eased back in the seat "You have amazing eyes you know that"

"Well that's one way to change the subject" I tipped my head and looked at him. He was movie star handsome a strong set jaw with eyes that literally looked like they were about to hypnotize you and drag you off to the bedroom and seduce you. He shrugged out of his jacket the t-shirt he was wearing clung to the hard set muscle contours of his body. I squeezed my thighs together trying to stop the sudden tingle and burn that ran between my legs

"You okay you look a little flushed" Beckett frowned at me and lent on the table

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"I'mâ ¯ Iâ ¯ will you excuse me a minute" I got out of the booth and went to the bathroom pulling my phone from my7 pocket and hit Dial

Hadley \* What the hell you only left here half an hour ago?

Me \* Oh god Hadley I don't know what the hells going on

Hadley \* He stand you up

Me \* no he was here earlyâ ¯ oh god he's good looking

Hadley \* well DUH hello he's really good looking we were trying toget you to see that last night

Me \* No as in he's hot and he's got me allâ ¯

Hadley \* what are you doing to him

Me \* nothing he's justâ ¯ Urghhh

Hadley \* okay you really aren't making sense

Me \* all I can think about is getting naked with him

There was a whole lot of laughing and whooping coming from the other end of the phone

Me \* oh damn you had me on speakerâ ¯ SNOWY STOP LAUGHING

Snowy \* well you're house is empty right now take him there for breakfast

Me \* shut upâ ¯ Hadley what do I do

Hadley \* sorry I'm with Snowy I'd take him home and tie him to your bed and take everything he's got to offer before you go boarding

Me \* I just met him

Layton \* technically you met him yesterday on the mountain which can be considered your first date. Then the guy took a body shot off you in the bar last night which constitutes date number two to this is date number three and you need to put out for the poor guy keeping him hanging just ain't right girl.

Me \* Damn it you are no help

Hadley \* hey go with the flow no one will judge you and when was the last time you got down and hot and heavy with someoneâ ¯ !?

Me \* over two years

Hadley \* oh damn no you go out to that man throw him down on the floor and ride him like a stallion

Me \* So hanging up right now, I'll talk to you later

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I hung up and turned the ringer off on the phone and walked out of the bathroom Beckett was sitting talking on his phone he smiled as he saw me his eyes looking me up and down, okay so not helping with the sudden desire to lick him all over. I stopped walking and took a deep breath damn it was hot in this place. I opened my eyes and looked at him again he bit down on his bottom lip. I sat back down

"Everything okay?"

"Yeah I just had to talk to Hadley I forgot to do something at the bar" I felt my cheeks burn red and I swear to god my nose was going to grow like Pinocchio's.

"Do I make you nervous?"

"Hot not nervousâ! Shit" I groaned suddenly realizing that had been said out loud and not in my head. Beckett's smile lit up the room "Okay I didn't say that forget I said that" I gabbled as the waitress came over

"You both ready?"

"More than readyâ! but I'm not sure we're thinking food" Well didn't that make my head whip up and give me a case of whiplash.

"I agree" where the hell did that come from half of my brain was screaming what the hell and the other half of me was already stripped naked and splayed out on the table for himâ!â!â!..

## Chapter 14: Out of my mind but feels so good

"I make awesome omelets" He rubbed his hand over his jaw "Do you have eggs?" all I could do was nod and watch as he got up from the table and threw a twenty on the table "Let's go before we come to our senses" he took my jacket and held it out for me to put my arms into making sure as my arms went into it he trailed his fingers up to my shoulders, my breath caught in my throat. I don't know how but we were out on the sidewalk in front of his car. He opened the door and looked at me. "You'll have to tell me where to go or were going to end up at my place and my brother lives there as well and I'm not going to have you where he could walk in on us" his hand cupped the side of my neck his thumb rubbed along my jaw.

"I'll drive" I stepped back from him toward my jeep

"Fine" he licked his lips we both got in the jeep, my hands were shaking as I tried to get the key in the ignition. "I thought you said I didn't make you nervous" his voice was like liquid honey

"It's the way my mind seems to have dropped into the gutter is what's making me nervous" oh thank god the key slid into place and the engine fired up

"Mind in the gutter" he chuckled his arm resting on the back of my seat

"Oh you don't want to know" I headed for the house "I'm scared"

"Of me?" he moved so he was sitting up right

"No, there is something about you" I rubbed the back of my neck "I feel comfortable and I just met you" I pulled up to the house

"Chelle" I turned off the engine and looked at Beckett, he moved forward he put his hand at the back of my neck and pulled me to him his mouth meeting mine in a kiss that was soft yet it melted any remaining brain cells that were telling me it was a stupid idea to bring him here. His tongue flicked over my lower lip making me moan into the kiss. "I've wanted to do that since being on the mountain"

"The snow is getting heavier I think we should go inside its warmer" I swallowed hard and moved to get out Beckett was right behind me. I unlocked the door and shrugged out of my jacket Beckett took it from me and turned me to face him his mouth was on mine in a heartbeat my hands went up his back and gripped on his shoulders. I felt the wall against my back and had a flash of my broken snowboard after Hadley and Snowy had been having sex down here.

"Not here" I gasped as his mouth moved along my jaw making my legs turn to j-ello. He stepped back from me allowing me to move in front of him I took the stairs two at a time.

"Nice place" he took off his jacket and tossed it over the arm of the couch

"Thank you" I looked over my shoulder at him. He smiled at me and pulled off his t-shirt "Holy Snowman" his body was tight muscle the pads of his pecs perfectly smooth "Well you don't see that too often" the ring that was through his right nipple caught the light from outside and seemed to flash

"Bother you?" I shook my head unable to take my eyes from it, I stepped up to him "I need to" he pulled up the bottom of my shirt and tossed it on to the couch along with his "I don't like to wait to get to the best parts"

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He snagged the clasp at the back of my bra and flicked it open sliding it down my arms he backed me to the door of my room and captured my hands under one of his and his mouth worked on my neck his free hand slipped into the waistband of my yoga pants and dipped into my underwear. My hips surged forward against the probing fingers that were teasing me. It had been so long and the last time had been soâ well yawnâ to be honest and this was so far from it, it was almost forbidden and I was sure the snow outside was going to melt with how hot I was feeling a second finger slipped inside of me making me yelp as every fiber of my body tensed as the orgasm rocketed through meâ lâ lâ !..

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## Chapter 15: Like a Porn Star

I held on to Beckett as my body tried to get back on track I felt my face was beet red

"Well damn" he chuckled "That wasâ"

"I couldn't hold back"

"That's fine" he nuzzled in to the side of my neck his hips pressed mine back against the wall

"You want to take it in there?" I pushed open my bedroom door; He smiled and nodded before backing me to the bed

I sat down my hands going for his belt I tugged it free. I bit down on my lip as I popped the button and slid down the zipper my hand moved round his hips and pushed down the denim and set him free, I felt a smile play across my lips as his erection bobbed in front of me, I was sure I wouldn't be able to get my hand wrapped round the beast in front of me I wrapped my hand as far round him as I could before taking him in my mouth, grinning inwardly at the hiss that escaped his lips.

I hadn't done something like this for so long but it was like riding a bike you just don't forget how. Beckett's hands gripped the back of my head as his hips surged forward. Something almost animalistic seemed to take over as I licked and sucked hungrily at him. I glanced up his head was thrown back his eyes tightly closed and his mouth slightly open, I felt empowered and like this was the most natural thing for me to be doing with Beckett right now. He looked down at me and pulled his hips back pulling me to my feet.

"Well that took me by surprise" he bunched my hair in his hand and pulled my head back to expose my throat, he nipped at the soft spot below my ear then blew across the wet skin his hands pushed down my pants and underwear and he eased me back on to the comforter his knee splitting my thighs "You've got one hell of an amazing body" he pushed his hips forward and my back arched off the bed as it felt like I was stuffed to breaking point.

"Oh damn" we both seemed to roll round on the bed each of us taking it in turn to drive the other to the brink

"I'm not going toâ I hell yes" He gripped my hips as I straddled him, he thrust up his head back as I felt him coming, the sexy look in his face sent me reeling and spiraling in to my own sheer bliss. My head fell forward resting on his chest I listened to the thundering rhythm of his heartbeat he lifted a hand and stroked up and down my spine as I lay on him.

"I need to" I sat up and got off the top of him and lay next to him he turned on his side and looked at me before he pulled the blanket from the crumpled heap it had fallen into on the floor and put it over the two of us.

"You okay?" he chewed his lip nervously "I want to say sorry but it would be a lie"

"I should be the one that says sorry I have never ever done something like this?" I ran my hand through my hair, my body ached in a good way, in a way that I'd never really felt even after the years I'd been withâ" I shook my head

"Chelle?" He frowned at me "You look like you're worried"

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"Memories of not so good times" I sat up and hugged my half of the blanket to my chest. He traced his fingers down the tattoo on my side

"Can I ask you something?" I looked round at him the ring in his nipple caught my eye making me want him all over again "You Seem a little lost, I know how much your friends love you that is more than obvious just seeing them with you and the guys damn I think they would kill to be with you like I have just been"

"That was a statement not a question" I pointed out

"Okay why aren't you with any one?" he sat forward and looked at me "You have a wall up we saw it the day on the mountain and in the bar you're comfortable with the friends you have and all the other guys in the bar that were trying to hit on you, you kept a distance from"

"I've had a rough time with trusting people and it takes a lot normally and I've never wanted to jump into bed with anyone until I touched his arm "I've never ever been with a guys after a day of knowing him That's Hadley's department well till Snowy staked his claim on her anyway"

"So why did you let me" he pressed his lips to my shoulder "Why was I the lucky one?"

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## Chapter 16: Full on Cupcake

â lâ lâ lâ !. I eased off the side of the bed and grabbed my PJ's from the chair in the corner and put them on keeping my back to him.

"You said something about Omelets?" I walked toward the door

"Michelle" I stopped and looked round at him "Is it too much to ask why you just took me in your bed?"

"Because I like you and I felt comfortable enough in a way I haven't with anyoneâ ! well ever" I opened the door and walked into the kitchen and reached for the coffee pot I rubbed my hand on the back of my neck as I watched the dark brown liquid plop into the pot. Hands slid round my waist and I was pulled back against Beckett.

"Well I'm glad I made you feel like that" he rubbed the back of my neck with his nose "Even if there is more to the story"

"I don't share about my past Beckettâ ! ask any of my friends they will tell you that they don't know anything about my life before I came here two years ago" I chewed my lip "I left my old life behind and what you see now is what you get"

"Well I like what I see and I loved what I got" he turned me around "I know there is so much more to you and I want to know I'm nosey by nature, and I'm going to make you trust me enough that you will open up and you will tell me where you came from" I frowned at him "What you think I'm too fast?"

"Well I met you yesterday and today I just rolled round in my bed with you so yeah it's fast"

"Okay I'll open up to you about something" he let go of me and pulled two mugs from the shelf and filled the cups I sat on one of the stools at the breakfast bar and he pushed the coffee over the counter at me. "Where do you keep your pans?"

"In the cupboard next to the stove" I watched as he took out a small frying pan and went to the fridge and fetched out eggs cheese and ham.

"Forks, knives and bowls?" I got off the stool and got out the things he wanted as well as two plates. He started cracking eggs and cutting the ham. He started to heat the pan and dropped the first of the egg mixtures into the pan and moved it around

"You said you were going to tell me something?" I pushed as the silence seemed to become deafening he tipped out the first omelet on to the plate and handed it to me with a fork and went back to making a second one

"I'm lousy with relationships, I mean I'm really bad" I frowned at him "I've dated women since I was in high school and I've done it because it's what is expected I guess the all American guy needs to have that girl on his arm that everyone thinks is who it should be"

"Well that makes me feel wonderful" I took a drink off the coffee

"I don't' want a girl that is just a window dressing, a damn Stepford wife, I grew up seeing Men having the women that looked good and that did what was expected as a wife shelling out the usual kids running them



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around to soccer games, while the guy worked fifteen hours a day and then banged his mistress before coming home" he seemed to get a little lost and angry in his thoughts "My Brother and I are the black sheep in a family of fifteen cousins, they all do what is expected often but we while we both work damn hard we like to play harder and while Tate likes to have a different girl in his bed every night I'm looking for the girl that intrigues me and you did that within minutes of meeting you and seeing how protective Niall was when we were boarding and you weren't dating it intrigued me all the more" he took my now empty plate and put it along with his in the dishwasher he moved round the counter and pulled me off the stool and too my feet. "I want a girl that is and can be my everything and have her own mind"

"You make it sound like you're about to declare that you love me"

"Not yet. Love takes a lot; I do want more of you it's like a damn drug I want to take you to dinner and just spend the night talking to you. I want to go to the mountain and watch you on a snowboard, and I want to strip you naked and take you all over the house until neither of us can walk, talk and hardly breathe" he's lowered his voice and became almost a sultry growl, he fixed me with a stare that held me on the brink of forgetting my own name.

"Hey CHELLE" Hadley's voice called up the stairs "Snow got sick so I came home to make him some" her head popped round the door at the top of the stairs "Oh Shit, Sorry I'll" she caught sight of Beckett without his shirt one

"Had can you give us a few minutes" I started

"It's okay we'll go in your room" Beckett smiled warmly at Hadley and took my hand and pulled me with him back to my room and closed the door behind us "Am I freaking you out?"

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## Chapter 17: Fucked over and a call

â lâ lâ lâ !. I sat on the end of my bed and smiled at the state it was in

"You're not freaking me out you're surprising me, it takes a lot to freak me out" He paced a little in front of me "seems like you might be freaking yourself out more than me"

"I've never admitted it to anyone before" he stopped and looked at me "I look at you and since seeing you I've wanting to get inside of you sexually and mentally" he popped the top button of his jeans

"Okay now that's a little creepy" I smiled amazed how much he relaxed me

"Sorry" he came over to me "You might have to call in sick at work?" he tipped me back on the mattress and pulled off the plaid PJ pants I was wearing and he dropped to his knees pushing my thighs apart with his shoulder and dropping his head between my legs

"Oh God lord" I grasped the sheets under my hands and arched my back off the bed as he held my stomach down with one hand while his free hand pushed fingers into me while his tongue lapped and swirled. Sparks seemed to go off behind my eyes as I gripped the back of his head holding him in place while I rode out the orgasm that rocked through me. "Damn it" I groaned letting go of him he licked his lips as he hovered over me

"You taste good" he smirked

"What the hell are you doing to me?" I put my arm up over my eyes

"Making you smile and trying to make you feel like you've never felt before" he ran his fingers over the inside of my thigh making me moan in response.

"Well you did that in that first kiss alone" I moved my arm and looked at him "Shouldn't you be working?"

"I should" he nodded "But I gave myself the day off, I found something that caught my attention more than construction" he pushed up my shirt and played with the charm in my belly ring.

"You're the boss?" he looked at me and nodded

"You need to stay here with me today" he kicked off his jeans my eyes went right to what I knew I wanted again

"I can't I have a class in two hours" I glanced at the clock

"Call in sick" he pulled me on top of him "See I'm not the only one that wants you to stay" he pushed his hips up slipping inside me

"I can't" I put my hands on his chest "I have to make rent and I love my job"

"I'll pay your rent" I stopped moving on him

"S'cuse me"

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"I'll write you a check right now to cover your rent" I got off him irritated beyond irritated "Chelle"

"Get out" I grabbed my pants and pulled them back on "Get the hell out" he sat up and looked at me like I'd slapped him "Do I look like a whore you can pay for" I snapped "What get me on my back and you get what you want? Well guess what I can't be brought, I work for me I don't want to be reliant on any one especially a man again it sucks! So get the hell out you want a plaything at your beck and call you're pissing up the wrong fire hydrant boy" I walked out of my room Hadley looked at me wide eyed from where she stood in the kitchen "I'm going to work if he's not out of the house in five minutes call the cops and have them throw him out" I stormed down the stairs pushing my feet into my boots at the bottom and grabbing my keys board and Jacket. I went out to my jeep throwing my board in the back as the door opened and Beckett appeared

"CHELLE"

"Fuck you" I got in my jeep and locked the doors and backed out spraying him from head to foot in slush I headed for the mountain cursing myself for listening to my friends and to my body instead of my mind" I pulled into the parking lot and got out as Layton walked out of the office

"Early aren't you and why are you in Pajamas?"

"Long story, I need a shower and to get ready for work" I walked over to him

"Nice hickey" he poked the side of my neck

"What" I put my hand up

"Hickey I'm taking that's got nothing to do with you and Niall sharing a bed" I swatted him and pulled open the door and walked inside Niall was leaning on the desk talking to Tore they both looked at me. Niall smirked at me

"Not a damn word okay! either of you not a damn word" I went into the locker room and started a shower running before going to my locker. I was thankful for the fact I kept spare snow gear in my locker as well as toiletries I grabbed my shower gel and stripped off wrapping a towel around me I went into the shower stall and let the hot water pound down on my head and body.

"You threw him out" I jumped and looked over the stall door Niall was sitting on the bench in the middle of the room his phone in his hand

"Yes and who told you?"

Hadley just sent me a text and to let you know Cupcake is on his way here" he looked at me "what the hell happened?"

"I got fucked basically and he wanted to pay my rent" Niall raised his eye brows "you see this is why the hell I stay away from relationships and even one night stands" I shut off the water and wrapped a towel round me and stepped out "I hoped he was different but who am I kidding" I walked out into the locker room Niall followed me looking away as I dropped the towel and pulled on my underwear and clean clothes "I know you guys meant well but I'm going to carry on just being me" I looked over my shoulder at him

"Chelle you know if you talked to us we might have more of an idea what is going on in your head?" he held my hands "for god sake girl we love you and we're worried about you and Tore got a call this morning from a guy in Wisconsin asking about if we had a Michelle Deering working here?" I gripped onto his hands as the

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blood drained from my face to my feet"â la la la !

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## Chapter 18: Up on the mountain

"Whoa" Niall eased me down on to the bench and looked at me "Chelle"

"What did he say?" my voice wasn't above a whisper

"He told him he couldn't give out information like that about staff members" Niall looked down at my hands that were still holding on to him "You're shaking"

"I needâ " I struggled to lock my knees and get to my feet "I want to get a few runs in before"

"Oh hell not like this you're not going up there you are too distracted" he turned me to face him "Michelle Come on that letter that Hads brought here yesterday had a Wisconsin postmark on it"

"You going to come with me" I went to my locker and pulled on my snow pants and jacket "The new snow always makes the runs betterâ " right?" my voice was getting shakier

"Do you need me to get Tore to send your ass back homeâ " because I will" Niall grabbed my arms and shook me a little "Let the wall down Chelle" I shook my head

"I'll be on the mountain" I pulled away from Niall I was having a feeling like I was trapped and the walls of the locker room were closing in around me. I careened through the outer office Tore calling after me as I got outside and braced my hands on my knees and sucked in lungfuls of icy mountain air.

"Chelle" Tore and Niall were behind me

"Sorry guys I need" I headed for the lift waving at the operator and jumping on the next available seat

"Damn it" Niall ran his hand through his hair "Radio Layton he was going up to the chalet at the top to check the med supplies She didn't even take her board" Tore went back into the office as Niall went to my Jeep and fetched out the board from the back.

"Hey where is she?" Niall looked round as Hadley pulled up and Beckett got out of the front of her car

"Up there" Niall pointed to the top of the mountain "and what the hell happened with the whole paying for her rent dude?"

"She told you?"

"Yes she told me Chelle doesn't tend to keep things from her friends other than her past" Niall tucked my board under his arm

"Is she okay" Hadley pushed in between the two of them

"No she's not" Niall looked at her and shook his head "there was a call from some guy in Wisconsin asking if she worked here and when I told her about it she freaked out, she lost all her color and was shaking like a shitting dog"

"I need to see her" Beckett moved toward the lift

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"Like hell" Niall pulled him back "You're not dressed for being up there and you do not have a pass and I'm sorry I'm pulling the staff card and you ain't going near Chelle right now considering you caused half of this crap"

"I'll get a pass"

"What ever" Niall moved to the board rack and picked up his board and jogged over to the lift hopping on and following me up there"

"What the hell has a call from Wisconsin got to do with any of this" Beckett looked at Hadley

"I don't know I think it has something to do with the reason she's so clammed up about her past" Hadley looked to the disappearing Niall on the lift "Look what you suggested was bang out of line but I know she likes you and I know you like her" Beckett pushed his hands into his pockets "I'll handle the guard dogs that are Niall and Layton, Snowy is well he'll do what I say anyway" she grinned "and I'll get you time with her to try to make it up to her"

"Thanks" Beckett bent and kissed her cheek "You think you can run me back to town so I can pick up my car and go get my snow gear?"

"Sure" Hadley nodded

"Okay just how do you think you're going to get down the mountain?" Layton walked over to me as I got off the lift. I looked down at my hands and groaned

"How the hell do you forget to pick up your board" I shook my head "I'm a space cadet today"

"You can say that again" Come on I just made a fresh pot of coffee" Layton pushed his hands in to his pockets and we walked into the top chalet the first aid guys were in there treating a girl as her Dad looked on. "So how was breakfast?"

"Good , hot" Amazing" I smiled "Then it all went to hell in a hand basket" I took off my jacket and sat down "I'm going to become a nun, I'm officially bad news where men are concerned"

"You just haven't met the right one" hell you have to test drive a few first" it's like buying a new car without taking it out first never a good idea" He sat down and laughed "So you going to see him again?"

"Not if I can help it but he knows the two places I work so it might be a little difficult to avoid him"

"I had a word with Tore about him kissing you" I hung my head and groaned "He was crawling up his own ass when he realized what he'd done" the guy really does like you"

"I know but he's been around the mountain and got every t-shirt and then some" I relaxed being up this far from everything with one of my best friends was the way to go about it "I'm just going to be alone with some of the goofiest friends a girl could ever ask for" I patted his hand as the door opened and Niall walked in.

"Hey you're as ditzzy as Had's sometimes" he held my board out "Beckett was down by the office"

"yeah well public mountain so can't really do anything about that" I got up and poured a coffee for Niall my hand was still shaking. I caught Niall and Layton look at each other both of them itching to know what the hell was going on

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## Chapter 19: Bite back

"You guys coming to the bar tonight?" I asked wanting to get off the subject of either Beckett or the call from hell.

"Of course we have to give you and Had crap don't we" Layton grinned

"True" I nodded I put my head back against the seat and closed my eyes "I wish I could stay up here and hide all day"

"Well you have a lesson in an hour unless you want me to take it for you?"

"No I need to work, I have rent to make" I sat forward and braced my elbows on my knees

"Beckett will make it for you?" Niall giggled

"You'll go down the mountain head first if you even so much as make that joke again" I finished the coffee "He's an ass" I walked over to where my board was resting in the rack "Meet you boys back at the bottom"

I walked out feeling a little more relaxed. I clipped into my board at the top of the run and put my hands on my hips and looked over the perfect view of the town below and the sun shining off of the snow. This was my deserty island the place where I was untouchable.

"You still here?" I looked round at Niall

"Taking in how beautiful it is up here that's all" I shrugged

"He's going to be down the bottom of the mountain waiting you know"

"I know but I have a lesson so he pisses me off and he's going to get thrown off"

"He probably wasn't thinking when he said it"

"Niall it's no excuse I don't need some macho caveman not matter how hot and how good he is in bed he's all body and no brains" I put my goggles on "See you at the bottom" I pushed off and started down the slope. It felt so good the noise of the wind rushing by was like a shot of adrenaline Tore was waiting at the bottom as I stopped

"Hey you're lesson cancelled the kid fell down the stairs of their house and broke their ankle this morning so you're free to run girl" I got off the board and nodded "Chelle"

"Tore please"

"No I need to say sorry for what happened when I took" I held up my hands

"It's forgotten" I shook my head "The call you took this morning did they leave a name or anything?"

"It was something like Landry yeah that was it Brett Landry" I groaned and pulled off my goggles "He wanted to know if you worked here" Tore narrowed his eyes at me "He said you a missing person"

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm not missing I'm right here and I know I'm here" I chewed my cheek "Niall said you told him you couldn't give out that information?"

"I can'tâ Chelle you've not broke the law or something have you?" I started to laugh and shake my head

"No I promise you I've never broken the law in my lifeâ well apart from some underage drinking and a few skinny dipping times" I picked up my board

"Well he got pretty agitated when I told him I couldn't tell himâ who is he?"

"A thorn in my sideâ and a skeleton from my closet" I saw Hadley walking over "So it's okay if I leave right I have to go shopping for something for tonight?"

'Sure you can go and you will still get paid as they family have said it's only fair not to refund the money as it happened late"

'Oh awesome" I walked away from Tore "How's Snowy?"

"He's fine he's finally stopped throwing up" she linked my arm "So did Beckett find you?"

"No I was up top for a while in the chalet.. you feel like going shopping I'm feeling in a kick assed mood for the bar tonight?"

"Oooo sounds like fun" she grinned "He's got a nice car?"

"Yes he does"

"Nice body as well and did he really have his nipple pierced" I looked at her "What it just looked sexy"

"Yes he's pierced and yes it was sexy" I felt my cheeks flame red "and he does have an amazing body and he was wellâ I'm going to grab my wallet and my cell from my locker okay" she nodded. I went inside and grabbed my things going back out to Hadley. We spent the rest of the afternoon shopping down town; Before going home and the two of us getting ready for work.

"I think tonight is going to be a good night" Hadley picked up her keys "and we look smoking hot so the tips will be flowing" I high fived her "You're really trying to send a message to Beckett aren't you"

"Sort ofâ !" I grabbed my coat and put it on

"What if he came in to the bar and charmed youâ !" I raised my eye brow and looked at her "I heard you this morning and boy it sure sounded like that boy knows his way around a woman"

"Okay can we change the subject"

"Fineâ !" there was a comfortable silence as Hadley drove into town "So I have to know this one last thing"

Hadley" I started to laugh

"Just one question" she wined

"What?" we pulled up out the back of the bar and got out



Is the snow whiter?

"Did you lick it?" She ran to catch up with me

"HADLEY and lick what?"

"OMG you went down!" I Gibbs slapped her with a laugh as we went into the bar and into the office to ditch our jackets "Sorry I meant the ring in his ear I've never had a man with his"

"He likes it pulled" I blushed as I closed my locker. She started to grin "Now can we get off the subject and if you're so interested hit on him when he comes in This one is one where girl code goes out of the window" I walked backwards out of the office and turned on my heel to step behind the bar and was face to face with Beckett "lâ lâ lâ"

links below for the outfits for Hadley and Chelle

## Chapter 20: Confusing and worrying

Beckett's hands rested on my hips as he looked at me his face was set hard, his eyes looking dark.

"I came to the mountain and Niall said you'd left with Hadley a few minutes before I got there" He didn't give me chance to pull away from him "We need to talk"

"Why you want to pay for something else?" I wanted so much to pull away from him but my feet were refusing to move, He closed his eyes and looked like I'd slapped him "Excuse me I need to get to work" Damn my legs wouldn't move and I was getting butterflies at the sensation of the heat from his hands on my hips

"After work can I talk to you" I opened my mouth to tell him where to go "Please" he frowned at me

"I don't know"

"Celle a little help here" Hadley called from behind the bar I hadn't even known she'd gone by me

"Excuse me" I managed to take a step back and get behind the bar and started to work people commenting on my shirt and shorts Beckett and Dane were sitting at a table across from the bar on the far side of the pool table two women made their way across to them. Layton and Niall walked in with a still not too well looking snowy

"I thought I told you to stay in bed" Hadley tapped her foot and put her hands on her hips.

"I was feeling better and I needed to get out for some fresh air and damn you look hot tonight" he grinned as he eased on to a bar stool

"Well you're not drinking tonight" I pushed a glass of water over the bar in his direction

"It's okay I don't really feel like drinking anyway" he smiled at me as his eyes never seemed to leave Hadley. Niall had his back against the bar as he looked around

"Hey you want a drink and where did Layton go?" I poked him in the shoulder

"He went to the bathroom and yup" he looked at me and then back in the direction of Beckett "So who the hell is he with?"

"I don't know" I busied myself getting his beer and getting a shot for Layton "So tore apologized to me" I so wanted to change the subject it was hard enough to see the blond draping herself as close to Beckett as she could he kept looking from her to me and fidgeting.

"Well is he trying to piss you off for fucking him and throwing him out?" Snowy grinned making Niall snort beer down his nose

"Hey you want me to throw your ass out in the street because I will" I snapped frowning at him

"Damn Girl laying it on a little thick aren't you" Layton hip checked Niall out of the way of the stool and pointed to my shirt I turned around and pointed to the 'STFU' printed on the ass of my shorts "Oh well nuff said"

## Is the snow whiter?

"Well she has a point" niall nudged him and nodded in the direction of Beckett

"Damn what did you do to the poor guy?"

"I banged the ass off him and he was an ass" I walked away from them "Had can you deal with the three musketeers down there I really don't have the patience for them"

"Sure and he's watching every move you make" she squeezed my hand "much to the disgust of the skislut he's with"

"I don't care"

"Sure you don't" she smiled "You wore the clothes you are to get a point across and get to him and I'm sorry but he's the only guy to get close to you in a way those guys can't" she walked away from me.

I chewed my cheek and looked out across the bar. Beckett shot me a weak smile making me want to go over to him and kiss the living hell out of him to get rid of that girl that was touching what was MINE. I stopped half way to bending to grab a bottle of beer from the fridge, where the hell had that MINE come fromâ we'd rolled round in bed and I'd had the hottest sex I'd ever known with a man I hardly knew and he'd annoyed the ever living crap out of me with a single comment.

"Earth to Chelle" a hand waved in front of my face making me jump Tore's grinning face was the first thing I saw.

Sorry got a few things on my mindâ what can I get you?"

"Two pitchers of beer and a shot of patron Please"

"coming right upâ hey do you have anyone covering for Snow tomorrow?"

"He's coming back in. You and he are taking a group out from twelve till three" he lent on the bar and knocked back the patron as I filled the pitchers "And those guys that you had the lessons with the other day want you and Niall again for another go round" he smiled pushing off from the bar with a pitcher in each hand. I walked quickly down the bar and tapped Niall on the shoulder as he was trying to chat up a redhead with more make up than the entire beauty department in Macy's.

"What?" he looked at me

"We've been booked again by Fluffy princess and cupcake" I cocked my head and looked at him he frowned and forgot about the redhead as he faced me

"Why?"

"I have no clue Tore just let me know about it"

"Well you'll have me up there with you and hell if he annoys you tell him you slept in my bed the other night" he started to laugh. The jaw on the redhead went lack and she glared at me

'Calm down sweetheart" I smiled at her "he's my best friend and we weren't naked he's all yours" niall started to laugh as the door to the bar opened and a young girl walked in struggling with a vase of Flowers and two

## Is the snow whiter?

boxes. Niall and Layton jumped up and went over to help her as Hadley came across

"See they are gentlemen deep down" she put her arm round my shoulders the girl walked over to the bar

"Hi! I have a delivery for a Michelle she works here" she put the flowers on the bar my grip on Hadley's waist got tighter.

"Who are they from?" I said my voice breaking a little as I asked

"It starts with a B" she giggled "give me a minute" she fumbled with the delivery note. Hadley looked at me

"Chelle what's wrong?"

"He's found me" I murmured "He knows where I am"

"Here you are it's from a Beckett" she smiled as she looked at me before the smile disappeared from her face

"Oh god" the relief that washed over me was like a shot in the ass I braced against the back bar and took a deep rattling breath.

"Can someone sign for these" the girl was standing looking around Hadley took the board and signed for them and the girl walked out.

"Damn these are beautiful" Hadley picked up the vase and handed it to me "That's one hell of a man to do this" I looked up Beckett was standing up in front with his back to the girl that was over there with him and his eyes were fixed on me.

"I'm sorry" he mouthed "lâ lâ lâ !".

Link below for the gifts

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 21: Uptightness

"You so have to open what's in the boxes" Hadley put them both next to me on the back of the bar

"I will after work" I fingered the mauve petal of one of the roses in the vase

"Oh my god how can you wait?" she groaned

"Because I'm not going to give in so damn easily" I pushed off the back bar and rubbed my hand on the back of my neck

"You're just too hard headed he made a mistake and he was an idiot. Come on he's a man and they don't tend to think a whole lot before they speak" she started to flash her brilliant smile at me "Especially after Sex" she walked away from me to serve Tate as he came to the bar.

"What was that?" Snowy asked as I came round the bar and started to collect the glasses

"What was what?"

"The look of sheer terror on your face when that girl was trying to tell you who had sent the stuff" he rubbed his hand across his jaw

"You're seeing things, it's because you're sick" I couldn't look at him

"Yeah right does that make us sick as well" Layton held out an empty glass to me "Chelle come on you need to let us in a little.

"I don't know" my resolve waivered a little I stepped back from them and walked around taking the glasses back to the bar and collecting more

"Hi" I jumped a little and looked up and was looking right at Dane

"Hiâ my boss just told me you guys want another lesson?" I wanted to get something out so he couldn't ask me about Beckett. He nodded

"Well since we want to spend more time having fun and this time of year it makes sense to make the most out of the mountain" he tipped his head and looked at me "My Big brother is a total idiot sometimes"

"Who's your brother?"

"Beckett" he pushed his hands in his pocket "He's been a real ass since you threw him out"

"Well when he said what he did it was unacceptable" I shrugged

"Would it help if I said he's neverâ"

"DANE" Beckett came over

"Excuse me I need to get these glasses and get back to work so Hadley can have her break" I reached between the two girls at the table where Beckett had been and picked up the glasses. I turned to go back to the bar

## Is the snow whiter?

"Who the hell dresses like a slut to work?" one of the girls giggled to the other

"She does obviously, screams needy and easy" I went to say something but Beckett beat me too it

"Jealousy is an ugly trait you know and when you have to work hard to pay your bills and you look that damn good then why not wear what you want" He was shaking his head at her "And she's my girl"

"Your girl?" the girls voice raised a few octaves "She doesn't seem all that into you wearing a shirt like that?"

"Well that is none of your business" he snapped I walked back to the bar and looked at Hadley

"You can take your break if you want" I loaded the dishwasher "Snow looks like he could do with hug"

"So does Beckett and that girl he's talking to looks fit to slap him"

"You're so nosey" I teased not even wanting to look up at him

"Yes, yes I am" she wiggled her eye brows and grabbed herself a beer from the fridge and went round to the guys Snowy possessively pulling her in between his legs as he sat on the stool I worked the bar smiling and chatting with the customers. Hadley was talking to Beckett in the middle of the room, she was interfering she looked over at me and smiled before walking across to the bar and coming behind to me

"What were you doing?" I wiped my hands on a bar towel as I put away glasses

"That you were going to need a ride home tonight I'm going to Snowy's" she shrugged

"I'll come with you?"

"And sleep where on the couchâ?" we both looked at each other before she started to laugh and I shuddered

"Hell no there is more DNA on that couch than all the criminal data bases in the US" I pulled a face

"Well Looks like Niall's hooked up and Layton left he thinks he's coming down with what Snow just had"

"I'll call a cab and go home" I shrugged

"Oh for god sake stop being a stubborn ass" Snowy threw a peanut at me "Let him take you home and bang out the untightness out of you" I looked at him wide eyed

"Dude is that even a word" Niall broke off from kissing the overly painted girl he was with "But I agree with him Chelle"

"I thought you were supposed to be friends" I groaned

"We are it's just he's hot, he's obviously good in bed by the noises that were coming from the bedroom this morning, he has hardly taken his eyes off of you all night and did I mention he was HOT" Hadley laughed Just hear him out and if you are still mad with him kick his ass out in the snow and lock the door"

I looked over to Beckett who was deep in conversation with Tate and Dane

"FINE" I huffed "But I'm holding y'all responsible if anything happensâ lâ lâ !..

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 22: Apology

Hadley and I closed down the bar I locked the takings in the safe in the office leaving Hadley to wipe the bar over. I went and grabbed my jacket and double checked the safe.

"Hey Hadley it's all done in there I think" I stopped talking the bar was empty apart from Beckett sitting on a stool at the end of the bar the two boxes and the flowers next to him.

"They left" oh he sounded like he'd gargled with rocks. I put my jacket on the end of the bar

"Left and they left you here?"

"Well I'm the ride home" a slight smile toyed at the corners of his mouth

"Hmph" I walked behind the bar and cracked the top off two beers and pushed one across the bar at him and wrote it on a piece of paper and dropped it in the register. "So where did your little friend go?" I gestured with the bottle toward the table where they'd been sat.

"I have no idea Dane's probably got her and her sister in his bed" he toyed with the bottle "He's going through his early twenties crisis" I nodded "Can we really talk?"

"I guess" we don't have a whole lot of choice do we since my so called friends ditched me" I sank the beer and reached for my jacket, Beckett snagged it and held it out for me his breath was on my neck as he stood behind me.

"Thank you" I was shocked I couldn't remember the last time anyone helped me on with a jacket

"You're welcome" I picked up the vase of flowers and he grabbed the two boxes "You think you might want to open these when you get home?" he walked out and held the bar door open while I walked out and locked up the bar.

"I might" I pocketed the keys and he walked over to the sidewalk where his car was sitting, the drive to the house was silent other than the sound of the tires on the road the light smell from the roses mixing with the leather interior smell. Beckett pulled up next to my jeep and shut off the lights and then the engine. "So I take it you want to come in?"

"I want to talk to you and I think we'd begin to freeze in the car" he opened the door and took the boxes from the back as I got out with the flowers and went inside. The fire was low in the fireplace and it was screaming for more wood to be added. I turned on the lamp and walked over to the fire and reached for the wood bucket and put more wood on to it and slid the guard back in place. I stood back up and unzipped my jacket and turned round. Beckett was leaning on the breakfast bar between the living room and the kitchen watching me. "I'm sorry" he pushed off the counter "I really am sorry for not thinking and coming out with such a douche bag comment" I didn't think of how it might sound it just seemed in my head to be such an innocent comment" he pushed my jacket down my arms and I pulled my hands from the sleeves "What happened to you to make you so defensive about" he sounded so sincere, I put my hand over his mouth he frowned at me

"I'm sorry for jumping down your throat" I moved my hand "I'm touchy about things that really shouldn't be a big deal" I walked over to the breakfast bar and turned the vase round "these are amazing by the way thank you" I've never been given flowers before"

## Is the snow whiter?

"Never?" he said it like it was the strangest thing ever I looked at him and shook my head "Not a corsage for prom or valentines rose?"

"Noâ€¦ do you want a beer?"

"Sure" he followed me as I went to the fridge and pulled out two beers and popped the lids off I held one out for him he reached for it "So my apology?"

"I'm still hurt by it" he put the beer down

"I can see that by the shirt and the shorts and by the way that is so distracting having letters on that it makes me stare more" I felt the color rise in my cheeks. "Chelle I couldn't take my eyes off you tonight and apparently I've been a real pain in the ass all day" he took the beer from my hands and put it next to his "all I wanted was to have the time to say sorry to tell you I really didn't mean how it sounded and I want to start over with you" I frowned at him

"Start overâ€¦ a little hard when we've seen each other naked" I had sudden flashes of seeing his body and the ring I knew was under that shirt.

"I knowâ€¦" he moved closer to me "I justâ€¦" he looked like a little boy lost; his words to the girl in the bar came back to me. I put my hands on his face and kissed him, it took a few seconds before he realized what was happening his hands slid round my waist and pulled me against him My arms went up round his neck and my hands tugged on his hair, something about him had me weakened, something about him and how he'd said things in the bar made me see he was different. He pulled back and put his forehead against mine

"Can I try to be the knight in shining armor instead of theâ€¦" I stopped him talking as I took a step back and gripped the bottom of my shirt and pulled it off over my head "Damn" he moaned, he reached his fingers out and touched the tattoo on my ribs I sucked in a breath just at his touch "I want you" his voice was more of a growl right here right now"

All I could do was nod as he swept me up my legs wrapped around his waist my hands working on his shirt, he laid me on the couch and stood up and pulling off his shirt before he lay back on me the rest of our clothes coming off hands and mouths working like it was the end of the worldâ€¦ !â€¦ !..



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 23: Pillow talk

.. I grasped on to Becketts as we both tried to calm down, the sheen of sweat on both of us was highlighted in the flickering light from the fire, I frowned as the lamp was on the floor on its side knocked over in the midst of ..,y mind went blank as I felt fingers trailing up and down my thigh.

"You think we should go shower?" I murmured as I caught the ring in his nipple between my thumb and forefinger and tugged lightly on it

"Together?" I nodded "Well I think I like the sound of that" he got up and offered me his hand damn he was a fine looking man .. a mile away from the .. "Hey you look miles away" he stopped halfway across the room

"Sorry I was lost in a memory" I walked by him into the bathroom and started the shower

"What memory?"

"It's nothing?" I looked over my shoulder at him "now are you coming in here with me?" I didn't want to go there not after what had just happened in the living room. I glanced in the mirror my mouth was red and puffy from the assault that had been dealt to it Becketts face came in to view in the cloudy mirror his hands slipping round my waist and he dropped a kiss on my shoulder. The shower was like a slow motion wet repeat of the living room, he was insatiable as he had me against the cold tile wall calling out his name. Somehow we dried off and made it to my bed. He got up. "Where are you going?" I pulled the covers up and snuggled against the pillows he came back into the room with the flowers and put them on the dresser as he handed me the two boxes

"I want you to see the rest of my apology to you" he jumped over me and climbed under the covers the silver ring flashing in the lamp light he eased me forward and put his arm round me and pulled up the boxes from the foot of the bed and put them on my lap

I picked up the bigger of the two boxes and pulled open the flaps and smiled as I pulled out a bear dressed in snow gear with a snowboard strapped to its feet

"I thought it might remind you of me" he pushed aside the jacket and I started to laugh where the bears nipple should have been was a matching ring like Becketts" he nuzzled the side of my neck

"I don't know he's cuter than you I think" I put him on the nightstand "I love him it's something I would go into a store and buy for myself" he nudged me with the flatter box

"I want you to open this one" I looked at him as I lifted the lid the smell of sugar cookies hit me

"These are amazing" I looked at the cookies nestled in the box with snowmen and snowflakes on "They look almost too good to eat"

"Well my mom will get a little pissed if you don't eat them because I sort of hovered over her while she decorated all of them" he took a deep breath

"Your Mom?"

## Is the snow whiter?

"She owns the bakery in town" he nodded "she was supposed to be making a cake for my sister's wedding but I made her do these for you instead"

"You have a sister?"

"Yes she's a year younger than me" he nodded "She's getting married in two weeks" he was so flippant about it it made me start laughing "What?"

"You stopped your Mom from making her daughter's wedding cake so she could make cookies for a girl that had screwed her son and threw him out of her bed" I wiped away the tears for laughter "Wow that had to have gone down well"

"Well to tell you the truth it did" he took a cookie and took a bite, I mirrored him "My mom was sort of fascinated that I was being such a bear over a girl that she'd never even heard me speak of" he looked at me "She's a hopeless old romantic and has been married to my dad for just over thirty years by the time they were twenty one they were married, they had careers for a few years before I came along" he ate the last of his cookie and turned on his side propping his head on his hand and looked at me "she thinks I'm some old crone for hitting twenty five and not having a steady girl of more than six months" I got wide eyed

"You've never had along term relationship?"

"Nope" he shook his head "what about you?"

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 24: Spilling something

It is a little short but you'll see why i wanted to get out part of Chelles story to be able to carry on

Well didn't that question slap me back to earth. I closed the lid on the cookie box and got out of bed and put it on the dresser next to the flowers.

"Chelle"

"I've had a long term relationship" I got back into bed and sat forward and drew my knees up to my chest

"How long?"

"Three years" I looked round at him "Didn't end well"

"What happened?" he rubbed his hand over the Tattoo on my side

"I was being pressed into something I didn't want to do" I shrugged and put my chin on my knees "So I walked out" I heard my voice crack "well it was running more than walking"

"Are you alright?" I felt the bed move and he put his chin on my shoulder

"I don't know" I could feel myself shaking a little "I've never" I mean" I moved away from him and got off the bed and grabbed my robe and walked out of the room, I heard Beckett scrabble and got off the bed.

"You've never talked about this have you" to anyone?" I picked up the beer we'd left on the counter and drank half of my bottle

"and I don't know why I just told you" I turned around he was stood with the blanket from my chair wrapped round his waist "Damn" I hung my head

"You're hurting I can see that" his voice was soft and quiet

"I'm past being hurt, I was the one that ran, I was the one that left him" I almost yelled at it "I never loved him, I never truly loved him"

"Michelle there is more to this than you just not"

"I was expected to marry him; I was told it was happening because it was" I stopped my damn mouth was running away from me "I need to go to bed"

"Can I come with you?" I nodded he held out his hand to me and pulled me with him back into my room and closed the door I shrugged off my robe and climbed into bed Beckett tossed the blanket on the chair and got into bed. He turned off the lamp and pulled me into him "Was he a bad person?" he pushed

he wasn't he just became too overbearing along with a few other people and I couldn't" the silence fell between us

"You're Tattoos" are they anything" I mean I know there are Nickelback lyrics on your ribs"

## Is the snow whiter?

"I like the band but I like the words more and the one on the back of my neck isâ well you do only get one chance at life so don 't waste it and go for what you want" I looked at him in the pale light from the window

"That's what you did?" I nodded "I want to do the same" he touched the side of my face "I want to be there for you" I raised an eyebrow there are two women "I've brought flowers for and one was my sister when she was sick in hospital and the other was my mother until youâ I don't know what you've done to me but I" I moved and pressed my lips to his. He moaned into the kiss before I pulled back "Okay shutting up" he chuckled we both lay there, I listened as his breathing slowed and became deeper. There was more to the story but how do you tell himâ how do you actually tell someone that you were marriedâ married to a man that wanted to get in with my father and his sure fire way in was by marrying meâ .

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 25: Cupcakes Mom

The next week it was the usual routine of work and friends only difference now was Beckett was almost a permanent in my bed every night. He got on with Hadley and the guys like they had been around each other all of their lives. Beckett hadn't pushed me to tell him anything else and he hadn't spoken to anyone about it either which made me trust him even more.

I pushed my board into the rack as Snowy lent on the rail

"So I heard on the grapevine you're going to meet Becketts Mom?" I looked at him

"Who told you that"

"Layton, Niall told him after he'd been talking to Hadley who spoke to Dane" I linked his arm

"Wow you guys are like gossip mongers I swear to god" I laughed "And I didn't realize I was supposed to be meeting his mom you know she owns the bakery in town right?"

"Ooooo freebies can I come meet her with you?" he looked at me and grinned his huge warm smile

"No freebies" I swatted him my phone started to ring. I let go of Snowy and pulled my phone from my pocket

Me \* shouldn't you be working?

Beckett \* I had a meeting this morning and I was wondering if you were done with the lesson you had

Me \* Just got Done Snowy and I were just talking

Beckett \* well how about you meet me at my Mom's store and we can grab some lunch and you can meet her

Me \* you want me to meet your mom?

Snowy grinned at me and nudged me

Beckett \* yes I want you to meet my mom she's taken to grilling Dane about it over dinner the other night, I want you to meet all my family actually, But Dad is out of town working until the middle of the week and you already know Dane so my Mom and my sister are the only two around right now

Me \* your sister gets married next weekend I think the last thing she'll want to do is meet a girl her brother is hooking up with

Beckett \* She still wants to meet the girl I'm dating especially because they have hardly seen me in the past week and a half I did tell them you were keeping me chained up in your bedroom

Me \* Oh My God please tell me you didn't

Beckett \* Okay I didn't say that but I'm lying

Me \* Oh I'm leaving town

Is the snow whiter?

Beckett \* Oh hell no I'll follow you

Me \* fine when do you want to meet

Beckett \* about half an hour at moms shop

Me \* alright but I did just come off the mountain and I don't have time to run home and change

Beckett \* is Snowy there with you still?

Me \* He's right here you want to talk to him?

Beckett \* put me on speaker

Me \* oaky your on

I held the phone between Snowy and myself

Beckett \* Hey Snowy I want Chelle to come for lunch how cute is she looking

Snowy \* well she's a little windswept but she's always looks good

Beckett \* see snowy said you look good and I believe him, just get in your car and come down

Snowy \* I'll bring her down because I picked her up for work this morning

Beckett \* awesome Baby I'll see you there

He hung up, snowy looked at me

"Baby?"

I don't know where that came from" I held my hands up, "I need to at least brush my hair"

"Well you do need to look good for the future mother-in-law" he laughed as he pulled open the office door "I'll grab my keys and wait in the truck for you" I groaned and walked into the locker room and quickly tried to make myself somewhat presentable before going out to where Snowy was waiting and I climbed in next to him "Ready?"

"No I feel like I'm being made to walk the plank" I twisted my hand in my lap as he drove into town

"Oh you got mail at the mountain" Snowy looked at me as we climbed out of the truck in the parking lot across the street from the store

"What?"

"Someone delivered it for you" he moved the liner over the bed of his truck and pulled up a box "I think Beckett likes giving gifts" he handed it to me and took my arm as we went across the street "I'm grabbing a cupcake and a coffee and I'll leave I promise" he laughed opening the door for me

## Is the snow whiter?

"Oh hell no you can at least wait with me until Beckett gets here" I hissed at him as I looked round at the people in there Beckett not being one of them "I'm not going to look like an ass on my own"

"Okay" he smiled "You grab that table over there and I'll get you coffee" I nodded and looked at the women working behind the counter wondering which one was Beckett's Mom. I sat down and tugged off my jacket draping it over the back of the chair as I looked at the box there was no return address just a large B in the corner above my name, Beckett had threatened to do something like this when I refused to make breakfast for him the day before. I was going to have to take that man in hand.

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 26: Not him

"Oh these cookies are so good" Snowy sat down opposite me his mouth stuffed with cookie two coffee's in his hand and a cupcake on a plate balanced on one of the cups "I think I'm in heaven" he handed me a coffee and took a huge bite out of the red velvet cake. "So you opened the box" he peered over the table at the box

"I was about to when you came over" I smiled

"Ooo I forgot to ask its Hadley's' birthday next week I need you to come shopping with me and help me with her gift"

"Why do I have to help you?" I laughed

"Because you're her best friend and you love me" he gave me the puppy dog eyes "and I can't go into Victoria's secret and go she's this big" he held up his cupped hands

"Oh Jeez" I groaned "she's a 32 C"

"How do you know these things" he pulled a face

"Because she's my roommate and we do joint laundry" I shook my head "Ask Tore for tomorrow afternoon off. I'm only on in the morning and we'll go shopping"

"Oh you rock" he got up and smushed me in a hug

"You know if I didn't know better I'd say you were hitting on my girl" a voice laughed from behind us

"Dude I am secretly in love with Chelle and we're running away together" snowy grinned keeping his arm round me "Don't tell Hadley"

"I won't" Beckett grinned as Snowy let go of me

"I'll leave the two of you alone" he picked up his to go cup and the rest of his cupcake "See you later and thank you" he kissed my cheek and walked out

"Hey you" Beckett came over and caught my face in his hands and kissed me taking my breath away "How was your morning?" he asked as he pulled back

"It was fun I love teaching little kids" I smiled "You didn't wake me this morning when you left"

"I had to be out by five and you looked so comfortable and relaxed I wasn't going to disturb you" his eyes were on mine

"You're crazy" I sighed

"No my mom had me tested" he held up his hands "So you ready to meet her and my sister?"

"No" I pulled a face "I'm nervous" what if they've been in the bar and seen me dressed for work? Oh what if they were in the bar the other night when it was Bikini night" I chewed my lip nervously



## Is the snow whiter?

"Okay now you're the crazy one" he rubbed his thumb over my lip stopping the chewing "And you know something" I tipped my head and looked at him "I can feel eyes burning into the back of me right now" he turned his head and looked over his shoulder "Kit I can see you looking you know" he called across the store making people look around he reached behind him and linked his fingers with mine as a woman moved round the end of the counter her dark hair pulled back in a messy bun but the eyes unmistakably the same as Becketts

"And I was being really good from the minute you walked in" she swatted him and looked round him at me "You do know my big brother is a total ass right?"

"Oh please don't get in to this" he chuckled shaking his head "Chelle this irritation is my sister Katherine" at that she groaned and rolled her eyes "sorry she hates Katherine so we all call her Hell child" he started to laugh

"Shut up" she balled her fist and punched him in the arm

"Ow see she beats me" Beckett looked at me

"See he's a total ass and you can call me Kitâ !" I liked her instantly "I knew it was you the minute you walked through the door" she nudged Beckett out of the way "But I did have to wonder about the guy you walked in with he was hot"

"Hey you get married in less than a week" Beckett huffed and put his hands in his hips

"Hey" she mimicked him "I can still browse the merchandise even if I'm not buying"

"She's right you know" I nodded "you never ever stop looking at hot men that take your eye"

"Really?" Beckett pushed his tongue in his cheek

"Oh yeahâ ! you should have seen this one guy on the hill this morning ass like two boiled eggs in aâ !" I looked at the look on Becketts face "Snowy pointed it out to me" I flushed and looked away from him

"Oh I like this girl already" Kit Laughed

"Yeah so do I" Beckett rubbed his hand over his jaw and smiled

"Mom is in the back you want me to go get her?"

"Sure" Beckett nodded "can you grab me a coffee on your way back and one for Chelle"

"I'm good Snow got me one" I said sitting back down

"Just for me then"

"No problem" Kit nodded and walked off

"You look alike" I picked up my coffee and took a drink

"It's the eyes" he nodded "People have said it for years" he looked at the package "What's that?"

Is the snow whiter?

"Oh don't give me that" I laughed "You sent it to me" I tapped the B in the corner of the box "It was delivered to the mountain for me"

"I haven't sent you anything" he frowned

"Beckett stop" I nervously laughed

"I swear to you I haven't sent anything since the gifts last week" he looked at me. I felt the blood fall to my feet as my grip on the box shook.

"Beckett" he looked round as Kit came back over with a woman her hair neatly wrapped in a bun at the back of her head her eyes curious as she looked directly at me. Beckett got to his feet and kissed her on the cheek

"Hey Mom" I could tell the tightness in his voice and hoped to good I could get through this with out fretting to much about the package. "I..

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 27: Will he go

"So you are the girl that has my boy in such a tizzy" I felt like I was under the microscope "You know I never thought there was such a girl"

"Mom" Beckett covered his face with his hands

"Well none of us did and I'm sorry Mom and I were kinda waiting for you to come out of the closet" I felt my jaw go slack

"Katherine" Beckett's mom tried to keep a straight face and failed

"Oh and here I was thinking this was a good idea to introduce my girlfriend to my family" he put his arm round my shoulders the instant he did it I felt a little calmer

"It is a good idea we're teasing" his mom put her hand on his arm "I'm Dina" she offered me her hand

"Chelle" I smiled as I shook it "I'd like to ask you to come to dinner tonight?" I watched Beckett's eyes get wide

"I'd love to but I have to work"

"On the mountain?" she frowned

"No I work bartending in the evenings" I shook my head

"A hard working girl I like it" Dina nodded "How about tomorrow night?"

"I work" she raised her eye brows at me "I have one evening off a week" I shrugged "I have to make rent" I felt Beckett fidget at the mention of rent

"Well did you ask her yet" Kit tugged on Beckett's sleeve

"No I was going to today" he sighed "But when I've got her naked in bed" Oh god lord ground open up and swallow me I felt the rush of embarrassment and the heat hit my cheeks

"Oh I'm about to throw up my brother having sex" Kit made retching noises

"Well we all do it sweetheart even me and your dad still get it"

"MOM" Beckett and Kit both looked at her as if she'd killed a puppy

"What?" she chuckled "Okay so at least can you manage lunch tomorrow" she looked back at me

"NO" I felt awful for having to keep saying no "I have a client at 10 and then I have to go shopping with my friend's boyfriend for her birthday otherwise she'll end up with god knows what and then I'll be down a friend"

"I'll tell you what I'm going to be going to the bar tonight with Chelle so I'll stay at the house with her if that's okay and we can all have breakfast" He suggested

Is the snow whiter?

"That sounds like a plan" Dina nodded "Chelle"

"I like that idea" I was relieved that there was some happy solution and it wasn't like I was avoiding being around his family.

"Awesome" Dina grinned "Now if you'll excuse me I have a wedding cake to finish" she hugged her daughter with a smile "Kit can you make some soup and sandwiches for Chelle and Beckett"

"Sure" Kit nodded as Dina kissed Beckett on the cheek

"I'll see you in the morning then honey" she looked at me

"Yes Ma'am" I smiled at her Kit poked Beckett in the ribs and nodded in my direction

"Ask her" she hissed through gritted teeth

"I will" he hissed back she walked back behind the counter. He sat down opposite me "So was that so bad?" I shook my head

"Well not until you started talking about getting me naked" I ran my hand through my hair

"Well we're a family that messes around and doesn't get embarrassed about anything" he grinned "so" He leant his arms on the table "What time do you have to be at work?"

"Seven" I moved in the seat and knocked the box over as Kit came over with the food

"Hey Sis can we get those to go please?" he shot her a killer smile "I want to ask Chelle something" I frowned at the two of them

"I'll sort it out for you" she nodded and all but skipped away I bent and picked up the box I swear intrigue flicker in his expression

"Are you sure you didn't send this to me?"

"I was going to send you something but I didn't get round to it and I'm useless with sizes and I also have to ask you something first" He sighed "So no it wasn't me"

"Beckett" he looked over at his sister as she held up a bag

"Let's go back to yours and eat and see what the hell is in there?" he got up and held my jacket out to me

"I don't want to open it" I admitted as we drove toward the house this time we were in his truck he used for work he frowned and looked across at me

"You're Ex?" he asked

"I hope not" I need to talk to you some more and I'm not sure you're going to like what I'm going to have to say" I suddenly felt nervous and sicker than a dog after eating grass. We pulled up at the hose and got out I toyed with the box as Beckett picked up the bag of food.

## Is the snow whiter?

"Hey?" Beckett came over to me and kissed my temple "Let's get inside I hate seeing you looking like this" he rubbed the back of my neck. We went inside and he put the food in the kitchen as I put the box on the breakfast bar and shrugged out of my jacket "So you want to talk or do you want to open the box?" he looked at me

"Talk" my voice was sounding tight and strangled, I suddenly realized my biggest fear right now was Beckett was going to walk away Beckett pulled out a stool and sat down and waited for me to start I paced the floor "You know I was in a long term relationship" he nodded "and I left him"

"Yeah you didn't love him"

"No I didn't he was using me to climb the ladder at my Dad's company" I wrung my hands "My dad always wanted a son and he got three daughters instead"

"you have sisters?" I nodded

"We were supposed to find our own careers and I wanted to board and teach that and fill in with other work on the off season and it wasn't good enough but the man I was with wanted to be the son my dad wanted" I couldn't look at Beckett right now "Brett was money hungry and saw it as a way to get to the top by being with me and my dad was okay with it as I had no drive to get a real job"

"So he doesn't think you're good at doing what you do?" I shook my head

"It's messing around in the snow not anything serious"

"That's a crock of shit I've seen you teach hell you've taught me and you're good at what you do" I managed to smile at him.

"He went out for a business meeting with my Dad one night and when he came back I was getting married" the words almost choked me to get out "I didn't have a say in it and I didn't want it but my Mom and my sisters said it was the only way to get any sort of acknowledgment from my dad and he promised he'd let me go every winter to Aspen and find a part time job if I went through with it" Beckett was gripping the stool with his hands to the point of being white knuckled. "All I'd wanted for years was my Dad to be proud of me" I walked to the window and looked out "I went through with it Beckett" I went through with it and I married him" the sobs wrecked my body and I crouched down hugging my knees to my chest waiting to hear the sound of Beckett walking out of the house

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 28: fear

â I rocked myself the pain inside was tearing at me, this was the reason I hadn't wanted to get close to anyone let alone fall in love with someone. I heard footsteps and the sound of a zipper I gripped my arms round my knees harder to the point it felt like my fingers were going to break, he was leaving Beckett was walking out. The footsteps went down the stairs to the mud room and I heard the door open and close. I cried harder and literally crawled to my room, thoughts of Brett flooded my mind with how he's used me to get at my father and how my father had looked in the rear view mirror of my car as I was driving away leaving Brett. I got on the bed and pulled the comforter over my head and cried into my pillowâ.

â Beckett paced in front of his truck waiting for his call to be answered

Hadley \* well how did meeting your Mom go?

Beckett \* and hello to you as well

Hadley \* yeah, yeah I want to know if your mom liked Chelleâ well how can you not like her she's just Chelleâ

Beckett \* I need a favor from youâ there's something happening right now that's not good and she's falling apart, I'm not going into detail because I want to get back to her

Hadley \* Beckett is sheâ

Beckett \* I've got her its okay I need you to get someone to cover her shift tonight in the bar

Hadley \* consider it doneâ look after her okay and Niall isn't working this afternoon so if you need him call him

Beckett \* I'm going to try to take her to my parents house to get her away but if I do I'll let you know

Hadley \* you've fallen in love with her haven't you

Beckett \* I have to go

Hadley \* I know you have, it's okay

Beckett hung up his phone and braced his hands on the hood of his truck and closed his eyes married was the last thing he would have ever expected, another man had already put a ring on her finger, another man had woken up with her day after day, another manâ SOME OTHER MAN was the only thing that ricocheted round his head. He inhaled the icy air and pushed off his truck and came back in talking the stairs two at a time shrugging out of his jacket.

He looked round the room his eyes fell on the box left on the counter. He picked it up and carried it into my room. Beckett kicked off his shoes and crawled on to the bed and wrapped his arm over the top of me pulling me hard against him. He tugged the comforter down and stroked my hair from my face

"Chelle look at meâ please" he pulled at me turning me on to my back "Is thisâ I mean is this the thing you've been hiding from everyone?" all I could do was close my eyes and nod "No look at meâ" his voice was a little sharp, I opened my eyes his face was blurry with the tears that filled my eyes

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm sorryâ "

"Don't" he brushed his hand over my cheeks and wiped away the tears "Open the box"

"I don't want to"

"Michelle you need to open it and see what the fuck is inside this and then maybe we can talk about this because right now I'm confused as hell" He sat up and picked up the box and put it in front of me. I moved and sat up and looked at the box Beckett got off the bed and walked over to the window and looked out as I tugged on the tape and opened it up.

"Oh god" I groaned Beckett came back over I lifted out the note on the top "No" he took it from me his face turned to thunder as he read it I picked up my wedding band from on top of the white fabric of the dress I had to wear when I got married

"What's that?"

"The ringâ ð god I hate this thing" my words came out interrupted with sobs " he took it from me and sat down on the side of the bed

"This was his idea of a wedding band?"

"He said he didn't want to spend a lot of money as he wanted a new car and I could use it as a wedding and engagement ring" I pushed the box away

"Fuckwit" Beckett muttered turning the ring over in his fingers "You deserve the best diamond there is" he held the ring back out to me I took it and dropped it in the box.

"Why did you marry him?"

"Because I was nineteen and stupid and all I wanted was to make my Dad proud of me" fresh tears threatened to spill over "I did what was expected" Beckett closed his eyes and pinched the bridge of his nose

"Are youâ ð I meanâ ð is it Mrs. Deering?" he looked over to me hurt in his eyes

"Noâ ð I left there two years ago I had been putting money in an account for six months" my teeth were chattering like I was sitting out in a snow bank. Beckett reached for the blanket from the chair and put it round my shoulders "No one knew about it I waited to get enough to be able to runâ ð and the day I did My dad turned up at the house as I was leaving and he lost it with me, he screamed at me in the street I wasn't his daughter and I was no good and a loser and Brett was too good for me, and I couldn't even get pregnant" Beckett made a sharp intake of breath "Well to get pregnant you needed to have sex" I pulled the blanket tighter round me "and you don't need to be fitted with an IUD. Brett had the sex drive of a rock and when it did happen it wasâ ð urgh" I shuddered and pulled a face "He wasn't the man I wanted ever to have children with and having the IUD meant no one knew I was on birth control" I wiped my own hand over my face my eyes felt sore and swollen from crying.

"So you and he stillâ ð "

"When I left I was nursing a black eye from the swipe my Dad had taken at me, ask Snowy he was the first person I met here and he offered me a place to stay" I looked at Beckett "I managed to get the job on the mountain by showing them what I could do and the job in the bar and I got a lawyer back home where I lived

## Is the snow whiter?

and field for divorce" Becketts head snapped round and he looked at me "I made it so everything had to get sent through the lawyer so Brett and my Father didn't know where I was, I expected more of a fight than I got but he signed the papers and in six months it was over, I was divorced it was over"

"So you're not married to this jack ass?"

"No not anymore, but from what I found out, there is some deal happening and It won't go ahead without my signature on a few forms he and my Dad had set up companies in my name for tax purposes and they want to do something with them but I'm the only one that can sign things off and they must have forgotten about it and it's hurting them"

"And now they've found you?" I nodded "Are you scared?"

"My dad thought nothing of hitting me for wanting to snowboard over business he'll do what is needed to get it done"â

what was in the box the link is below



## Chapter 29: Something is different

"Get a few things together" Beckett touched the side of my face "You're not staying here"

"What?"

"Hadley can stay with Snowy can't she?" I nodded "Well you're going to come to my parents with me until I talk to Dane and we sort out our place for you to come there" I frowned at him

"You're not walking out" I stammered, he smiled weakly and shook his head

"I'm not going anywhere unless you're with me you could have told me you know" I leant into his hand "Your friends would have understood"

"I didn't want to be that girl that did something stupid and wanted acknowledgement from others, I wanted to be the real me and that is what I have been for the past two years" my head hurt like a bitch I rubbed at my temples "Apart from not telling people about my past I've been what I wanted to be"

"And you wouldn't let a man get close to you"

"No not until" my eyes met his enough was said in the look between the two of us. Beckett moved closer to me and brushed his lips gently against mine.

"Get some things together please and stay with me until we know if they are around here"

"I have to go to work?"

"No I called Hadley and she's getting someone to cover for you" I opened my mouth to say something "We're not going there I know you made rent you told me and one night isn't going to wipe you out" I closed my mouth and got off the bed I moved numbly round the room picking up clean things and toiletries and putting them into a bag Beckett leant on the foot of the bed. "Chelle what are you going to do with" he poked the box

"Throw them out I don't want anything to do with them" he nodded and picked up the box and walked out of the room. I grabbed my bag and followed him. My legs felt like the bones were made of rubber I sat down on the top step as Beckett went out of the door out to his truck. He came back and looked up the stairs

"You okay?" I shook my head he came up the stairs and pulled me up and walked with me down the stairs "Lets get you to my parents and get you in bed"

"Does nothing stop you?" I tried to make a joke

"Not where you're concerned no" he opened the door and took my bag from me "Chelle" I looked at him as I got in his truck "I think I'm" he sighed and hung his head "Doesn't matter" he closed the door and walked round to the driver's door. We headed into the town and then out to one of the more affluent areas before he turned into a sweeping driveway that led to a house out of some ski magazine. I looked at him and then at the house and back again

"This is your parents' house?" he nodded

## Is the snow whiter?

"It was finished a few months ago" he smiled "Construction company worked wonders don't you think?" he smiled as he opened one of the six garage doors and pulled inside.

"It's beautifulâ Wait you built this?"

"My company did" he nodded opening the door and getting out with my bag I got out and waited for him "This way" he opened the door into a hallway that lead into the house everything was wood and smelled warm and cozy. "No one is home everyone's working" he took my hand and lead me into a state of the art kitchen and opened the fridge and got out two beers and two bottles of water "Let's go up to my room" I followed him through the kitchen and up a spiral staircase and out onto a landing with doors all on the left side he opened the second door to a room with views of the mountain in floor to ceiling windows across from the bed. "The windows are tinted so people can't see inside" he put my bag on the couch in front of a fireplace.

"This room is almost the size of half of my place" I looked at him

"You want shower or a bathâ !?" he fidgeted

"I shouldn't be here you seem uncomfortable" he looked at me

"I'm not sure how to be right now how much you want from me" he shrugged "I know I want to get you naked and I want to make love with you just to try to make you feel wanted" he came over to me "I can't imagine how it is to have lived with this, and what it must have taken for you to finally leave" he rubbed my arms "I still want you" he caught my face in his hands and kissed me, he bent and swing my legs from under me and picked me up and carried me toward the bathroom, hands stripping off clothes mouths hardly separating. Beckett put his hands on my shoulders and pushed me gently back from him "Let me start the shower"

He moved across the room the brown stone had shimmering flecks of quartz in it as he turned on the four headed shower and moved over to the lights and turned them down a slight glow coming from the heads of the shower making this the most incredible thing I'd ever seen. Beckett offered me his hand and pulled me back to him and under the streams of hot water his body molded together with mine as he seemed to need me as much as I needed him he edged me to the wall and lifted one of my legs over his hip before driving his hips forward and pushing himself into me, my mouth broke from his and my head fell back and he surge forward again.

Fresh tears came as I held onto **B**eckett the sheer power and strength of his always caught me off guard ever since the first time we' been together but this time something was different something was making it more than just the lustful got to get him inside of me sex it had been before. Beckett's mouth was on my neck as the water pounded down on both of us he moved his free hand down my body and lifted my other legs so they were locked round his waist and he moved me away from the wall his arms holding me on him as he pulled my body down on him deeper than I ever thought possible. My body crumpled and let go as I came milking him to the point of release, his head threw back and he let out a guttural moan like I'd never heard his legs trembling under him as he pumped his orgasm into me over and over till we were both gasping for air and he slid down the wall still inside of me as he stroked my back and he buried his head in the crook of my neckâ lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 30: a little awkwardness

How we got in to Becketts bed I had no idea. He lay back and stroked his fingers up and down my spine as I lay with my head on his chest.

"Can I ask you something?" I nodded as my fingers toyed with the ring in his nipple

"Call this an ego thing but what did he look like?" I propped myself up on my elbow and looked at him "What stroke a guys ego please" he pouted "unless he was movie star good looking then just don't"

I got out of bed and walked over to where my things were and pulled my phone from my jacket before going back and getting into bed as Beckett held back the covers for me. I moved next to him and sat against the pillows and searched for Brett on my phone. I shuddered as I pulled up the link for my Father's Financial Company and clicked on the partner's link and pulled up the picture I knew was there of Brett looking professional. I handed the phone to Beckett and chewed my lip nervously.

"This is him?" there was a hint of humor in the question "Did you mean he's well sort of? Damn girl you're hot? I'm not saying it because you're my girl and I'm bias, but I've watch men hit on you half naked in the bar and on the mountain when you've got more layers on than anything else" he frowned at the picture on my phone "How the hell did this man get near you anyway?" I took the phone and exited out of the picture and pushed it onto the nightstand "I wonder how the hell I got you and not to sound too conceited but I'm"

"Hot as a volcano erupting" I managed a smile at him

"I like that" he kissed my shoulder "So come on why him?"

"We went to school together and our families lived a couple of streets away my Dad played golf with Brett and his father and I guess being round him all the while and seeing what was expected from my Father I sort of, just didn't look for anything else? I honestly just wanted approval and to be told it was doing okay at something for once in my life and I thought if I did what my Dad wanted and be with a successful man I'd get it" I ran my hand through my hair "I was really pathetic"

"I'm just glad you got away" he murmured pulling me to him and pulling the covers up over us "I'm glad you took control"

"Brett looks like he couldn't do any damage but he's got one mean temper? He'll do anything to get more money in his damn bank account" I sighed and put my head back on his chest

"Yeah well we've all got a temper but mine isn't over money" he clipped my chin "you being hurt will make my blood boil" he kissed me gently "Did he ever get physical with you?"

"No he knew if pushed I would have floored him and he didn't like even holding a conversation with me when we weren't in company putting on the face of a happily married couple? we were married for less than a year and we had sex the day we got married and on his birthday three months later" I trailed my finger over the ridges of Becketts abs "We had Sex more that first day when we'd gone for breakfast" Beckett caught my hand and lifted it to kiss the inside of my wrist. "I never thought it could be anything like this"

"Thought what couldn't" he moved the covers and nudged my legs apart as he eased himself between them



Is the snow whiter?

Brett's link is below

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 31: Working things through

Beckett took the plates back down to the kitchen I picked up my phone and dialed

Hadley \* Hey girl, what the hell is going on you've got all of us worried

Me \* I need to talk to all of you face to face I'm not going to do this over the phone, I'm okay I'm not hurt or anything

Hadley \* good, and you have Beckett

I could hear the grin on her face making me smile

Me \* I do, but he's asked me to go to his sister's wedding with him this weekend and its formal

Hadley \* oh shit as in gown and fancy

Me \* yup

Hadley \* Oh Shopping trip I can feel it coming

Me \* I don't know I can't afford to splurge on a dress right now, I have a repair bill from my board and the bills are coming in this week

Hadley \* isn't that what credit cards are for?

Me \* for you maybe, we should I guess go to the rental place and see what they have

Hadley \* just let me know when

Me \* sorry for not being at work tonight

Hadley \* shut up your man sorted it all out and I get it and he's head over heels in love with you

Me \* Hads

Hadley \* ask Snowy he said he saw it in Becketts face at lunch how he looked at you

Me \* I'm going to go I'll call you in the morning okay

Hadley \* okay and we love you

Me \* love you too

I hung up the phone and looked round Beckett was standing in the doorway

"Everything okay?"

"Yeah" he smiled at me and came over to the bed "I'm not about to get into an argument but" he opened the dresser drawer and picked up a Black credit card "I asked you to come to my sister's wedding so I'd like to be

## Is the snow whiter?

the one that treats you toâ"

"Oh hell no, I'll find something to wear that I can afford and not to embarrass you" I bite my tongue as I sounded abrupt and clipped

"I said I wasn't going to get into a fight with you and what would happen if like the flowers I just got it for you?"

"Beckett" I groaned Feeling vulnerable as I was naked covered with his bedding

"Did your husband spoil you?" I hung my head and looked down "No come on" he was sounding irritated "Did he? Hell the guy wouldn't even take you to bed. Has no one ever spoilt you?" my eyes shot to him "I'm sorry" he rubbed the back of his neck "I understand pride, but I'm not doing this out of charity I want to do thisâ I want to be that man that makes you feel like you are the only girl in the damn world. I want to spoil you" He braced his hands on the foot board of the bed "I've never wanted to spend money on a girl until you I told you this last week when I sent you the apology and it made me feel good to go buy you flowers" he smiled a little sexy grin

"He brought me my wedding band and that was it" I felt totally caught off guard "My mother's assistant brought our birthday and Christmas gifts until we were old enough to shop alone and we then got checks, so no in answer to your question, I've never been spoiled by anyone" Beckett's eyes darkened "It's not a big deal"

"I think it is" he pushed off the end of the bed "I think it's a huge deal" I rubbed my temples

"Beckett it's not all about things like that is you grow up one way you don't know it any other so you get on with itâ what you've never had you can never miss" I glared at him "My Dad was a millionaire by the time he was thirty, and yes we never truly wanted for anything my sisters thought it was okay just to ask for money and they are so materialistic it's not funny they'll drop several thousand dollars in one shopping trip" Beckett eased down onto the end of the bed and watched me "It never meant anything to me I tried it and it was just stuff so when I was fifteen I got a job on the small mountain where we lived, it wasn't anything like here but it was fun and I was loving making my own money and being able to buy what I wanted, and that's what I've done ever since"

'what about your car?"

"Oh that" I smiled at him I was the wife of an executive in my father's company so my Dad gave me a car fitting my status"

"Go on" Beckett seemed intrigued

"I was driving round in a brand new Audi R8" Beckett let out a whistle "Eh!" I shrugged "Not that impressive, I'm a snow bunny I want practical so when I ran I sold the car and brought the jeep which is perfect for what I need and so unpretentious"

"So my Mustang is pretentious?" he cocked his head

"In some crazy asses delusional dream" I pulled a face "that sore of car is something else" I shrugged "I love muscle cars if you want something sexy but I'm not a car snob" Beckett was smiling his eyes narrowed at me "what?"

## Is the snow whiter?

"I love the 'fuck you' you left with" He literally crawled over the covers like a lion stalking his pray "Selling a car for something you know they would be disapproved of" I bit down on my lip as he braced his hands either side of me "Turns me on"

"Seriouslyâ breathing turns you on" I slid down under him

"Well only when it's you doing it" he chuckled he bent his head and kissed meâ.

â!â! The alarm on Beckett's phone went off. I groaned as he rolled over and reached over me some how I'd ended up on the other side of the bed with his limbs tangled with mine. He picked up his phone and rubbed his eyes with his free hand

"Mom says breakfast in thirty minutes" he pulled back and kissed my stomach

"Oh I ache" I stretched hearing my back crack and click as I did

"Well we did fall off the bed last night" he chuckled "and I landed on you"

"Well technically you were in me when I fell off the bed and I took you with me" I slapped his ass as he got off the bed

"You're in a playful mood" he walked toward the bathroom

"I feel like a weight has gone" I pushed back the covers and walked over to my bag and pulled out clean clothes

"Well you're not bottling up memories anymore" I jumped as his hands slid round my waist and he kissed the tattoo on my back "You opened up and you have a boyfriend that dotes on you"â!â!



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 32: Family breakfast

"Boyfriend?" I turned in his arms and put my hands on his chest and suddenly got lost in his eyes

"Well I've told everyone I have a girlfriend so I'm not well I'd love to know you think of me as your boyfriend" he cocked his head to the side

"We sound like two kids in high school" I laughed

"We can go make out in the back of my Dad's car if you want he's got a big Mercedes" he wiggled his eye brows at me

"Ooooo I like that idea as long as you don't leave a hickie or I might get in trouble" I teased

"I like this you" he put his hands flat on my butt and patted it

"What?"

"The smiling and carefree Chelle" he let go of me and walked over to a dresser and pulled out clean sweats and pulled them on

"I guess like you said I'm not hiding anything anymore"

"And you have a hot boyfriend that knows how to get you all worked up and" the door knocked

"I'll go get dressed" I walked into the bathroom and closed the door. I braced my hands on the sink and smiled at the reflection that smiled back. I'd fallen in love with the man in the other room but after everything that I'd come out with and owned up to with him, I didn't know what he'd do if I told him that.

"Hey baby" there was a knock on the bedroom door "you ready?" I pulled the brush through my hair and opened the door

"I'm ready" he reached for my hand and linked his fingers with mine. We headed down the stairs the smell of breakfast and fresh baked goods wafted through the house.

"Well good morning" Kit was sitting at the table her hands wrapped round a large red mug "Chelle did he finally let you out of bed"

"Katherine" Dina laughed from the kitchen

"What he's a walking sex bot where this girl is concerned" she looked at me "No offense "

"None taken" I smiled at her

"Shut up" Beckett rolled his eyes at his sister as he pulled a chair out for me to sit down "And Chelle is going to be coming to the wedding with me" Kit looked at me and a grin broke out on her face

"OOOO Do I get to go shopping with you?" she beamed

## Is the snow whiter?

"No you have a rehearsal and a final fitting and a meeting at the lodge about the flowers" Dina called out "MARTY GET YOUR ASS TO THE TABLE AND AWAY FROM SPORTS CENTER" I raised my eye brows at the normal nature of this woman in this house fit for a queen "Kit got get your Brother and Davis" Kit got up from the table

"You'll met my man in a few minutes and my dad" Kit winked at me she walked behind her brother and hugged him making him laugh

"What was that for?" he called after her

"For finding a girl I like" she laughed as she literally skipped down the hallway. I felt my face flush Beckett put a cup of coffee down in front of me.

"Did you sleep okay Sweetie" Dina ask as she put down a pile of pancakes on the plate in the middle of the table

"Yes thank you and you have an amazing home"

"I do don't I?" she smiled "My husband and my son planned all of this without me knowing"

"It was the hardest fifteen months of my life" Beckett sat next to me and rested his free hand on my thigh while he cradled his coffee in his other hand "Trying to keep her from finding out was like a nightmare"

"I think it's sweet" I smiled "And look at the outcome"

"Yeah my dad likes to spoil my mom" Beckett looked at me pointedly "and he got the chance to blow her out of the water with this place" Dina rested her hands on the back of the chair where Kit had been sat and smiled

"Well we came a long way since the trailer we brought when we first got married" she laughed "Hell of a long way"

"With a lot of hard work" I looked round at the sound of a man's voice "You must be the famous Chelle! I'm Marty" he smiled his eyes creasing at the corners his hair was the same color as Becketts just with a smattering of gray.

"Yes she is" Dane walked by his dad and smiled at me "Morning Chelle"

"Morning" I was happy to see someone I at least knew a little Kit came back in with a look of a love sick puppy as she led in a cute guy

"Chelle this is Harris, Harris this is the girl that has finally made a human out of my big brother"

"Well it's about bloody time" his accent was just like James Bond surprising the hell out of me "Nice to meet you" he offered me his hand, I smiled and shook it warming to him instantly

"You to and congratulations on the wedding" He smiled wider than I thought possible as he tucked Kit into him

"Oh you two are so loved up it's almost putting me off of breakfast" Dane grumbled "and now we have these two" he waved a piece of bacon at Beckett and I

Is the snow whiter?

"Dane maybe you should be more selective over the girls that you seem to fall on top of in your bed" Marty pulled out a chair and sat down "and maybe you'll get to feel the love instead of the antibiotics you have to get prescribed for that rash" everyone other than Dane started to laugh

"Oh let it go it was poison ivy"

"Oh I thought her name as Hailey" Beckett fought back the urge to burst out laughing "Not Ivy"

"MOMMMM" Dane pouted and looked at Dina

"You brought it on yourself, now get your breakfast all of you" she put her hand on Danes arm and she squeezed it. The rest of breakfast was easy with questions fired at me but nothing about my past, which I was thankful for. Beckett kept his eyes on me as we all sat talking.

"What time do you have to be at work?" Beckett rubbed his fingers on the back of my neck

"I have a lesson at noon and I'm there until around six and then I'm going right to the bar till close" I got up and helped clear the table

"I think we all need a trip to the bar" Marty looked at me as Beckett started to choke on his coffee

"Dad it's not a normal bar" Dane was wide eyed

"You make it sound like a strip club" Beckett snapped a little "and it's far from that" Dina was looking a little confused

"It's just a bar yes Hadley and I don't wear a whole lot behind the bar but we are dressed and you can't see anything you wouldn't if I were on a beach" I held up my hands "If you guys want to come in I'll buy you both a drink" I smiled at Dina and Marty

"Thank you Honey" Marty got up from his chair "Now I have a meeting so I need to get to the office, I'm sure we'll see you soon Chelle" he kissed his wife and grabbed his laptop bag and walked down the hall toward the garage.

"I need to get to the office as well" Dane got up "See you guys later"

"So I hear you're coming to the wedding with Beckett" Harris asked I nodded

"I know it's really short notice" Kit got up from her seat "and I know how busy you are when my brother actually lets you out of bed to go to work" Beckett rubbed his hand over his jaw making a rasping sound with the stubble "Sooooo she grabbed my hand "I'd like for you to go shopping in my closet"

"Oh god idea you have dresses in there with the tags still attached" Dina rolled her eyes

"Well nature of the beast when you work in Fashion Mom" Kit sighed

"I thought you worked at the Bakery?" I looked at her

"No I just wanted to meet you so I hung about there yesterday waiting for Beckett to bring you in" She giggled "I work in New York for Bloomingdales as a buyer but with the wedding coming up I took some time off"

Is the snow whiter?

"Go shop in her closet" Dina grabbed my arm "it will be perfect as you don't have much time"

"And considering I got most of the things for nothing" Kit wiggled her eyebrows, I looked at Beckett

"It will save you from trying to find time in the next four days to go shopping" he shrugged "Hell call Hadley and get her over here to help you as well" Kit frowned "Hadley is her Best friend well other than the guys but you'd like her"

"Well bring her over then" Kit pulled her cell from her pocket and held it out to me.

"I would but it's way too early to call her she worked my shift in the bar last night and I can guarantee that she wouldn't have gotten home till at least four and as it was Snowy's place she went to, they wouldn't have gone right to bed"

"Snowy was the guy with her yesterday" Beckett chuckled

"Damn he was fine" Kit whistled

"Hey"

"Sorry honey but he was and you can look like you were looking at that waitress last night at dinner" Kit put her arms round Harris

"You pointed out her boob job" Harris laughed

"Only because I was waiting for her to fall over" Kit rolled her eyes

"Hey getting off the track here" Beckett interjected "Chelle has to be out of here by eleven to get to the mountain and ready for her lesson.

"Hey you think you could teach me how to snowboard?" Harris looked at me "I'd like to be able to keep up with my future brother in laws"

"I'd love to If you can get away this afternoon I can fit you in for a couple of hoursâ anything so I don't have to do paperwork" I nodded

"Well now that's sorted SHOPPING TIME" kit grabbed my hand and ran with me to the stairs and up them to her room.

"I think you found your one" Dina walked over and hugged her son "You haven't stopped watching herâ and she gets that smile on her face when she looks at you that is more than just sex"

"I want to tell her I love her but with what she went through and is going through with that excuse for an asshole she married, I'm scared to" Beckett chewed his lip

"Did she divorce him?" Beckett nodded "so she obviously doesn't love him or want him" Harris picked up his coffee cup "don't second guess it go with your instinctâ I did and I'm marrying a girl I thought was out of my league"â

link for Kit and Harris is below

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 33: Dress and admission

Kit opened the door to her room, everything was the same as Beckett's room, apart from the décor which was a lot more girly very much the way Kit was.

"This house blows me away" I said closing the door after myself

"It is pretty good but don't tell Beckett I said that he'll have a huge head over it and it's already big enough" she rolled her eyes "But you seem like a girl that can keep him in his place" she looked over her shoulder at me as she pushed open the closet door.

"I like him the way he is" I shrugged stepping into the closet behind her "HOLY SHIT" I'm sorry" I put my hand over my mouth amazed at the amount of clothing in there

"There is a lot isn't there?" she pulled a face "I'm sort of a fashion whore I guess"

"Well considering the contents of my closet would fit in the first three feet of this" I laughed "I'd say you were something"

"So you obviously have an amazing figure" I looked down at myself

"Boarding keeps me pretty toned" I nodded but "I wouldn't say amazing really" She turned and put her hands on her hips

"What ever" she laughed "Do you mind if we come to the bar where you work?" I shook my head

"It's a fun bar to go to and Hadley and I really don't wear a whole lot, we've had bikini night and things like that" she got wide eyed

"And you are okay working a bar like that" I nodded "Don't guys hit on you"

"Yep but you know how far to take it and I have as you saw in Snowy yesterday some pretty big friends that handle a few if they get out of control" I sat on the plush squat chair in the closet

"I wish I had the guts to do something like that" she walked over to part of the closet that was filled with long dresses

"Well come in tonight and we'll get you on the bar and Harris can take a body shot from you" I clapped my hands together

"Body shot as is"

"You lay on the bar and he has to take the shot off of your body and it'll make a change from it being me or Hads" I laughed

"Oh I can't wait to come in now" she hooked several hangers on her fingers and brought them over "Okay let's see what looks good on you" that started a whole hour of trying on different dresses. Kit flopped down on the floor as I walked up to the long mirror; I peered in even without having my hair done and make up on the dress made me feel amazing as it hugged every inch of my body to mid thigh before the soft flowy material hung and trailed out behind me

## Is the snow whiter?

"Helloâ" the closet door knocked and Dina put her head round "I was going to be leaving for work and wanted to say bye" she stepped inside "Oh that dress is beautiful on you"

"I agree" Kit nodded "that has to be the dressâ if you like it that is"

"I love it I've never worn anything like this before" I turned slowly getting all angles

"Well I think you'll make an impression with the rest of the family at the wedding if my brother will even let you met them" Kit giggled

"Are you sure it's okay for me to borrow it?" I looked at her

"Borrow it you can keep it I never had the boobs for that dress" she smiled at me

"I have to get to work" Dina hugged Kit "Chelle we'll see at the bar tonight"

"Yes Ma'am" I nodded she walked out I changed from the dress back into my jeans and shirt "Hey do you know how to snowboard?" kit shook her head

"I can ski"

Well come down when Harris comes and I'll get one of the guys to come help" we walked out of the closet

"Really I won't break a bone or anything before the wedding"

I promise I'll keep you safe, I'll let Niall have you" she raised her eye brow "Niall is awesome with novices and if he comes out with a smart assed comment you can Gibbs slap him" the door to the room opened and Beckett and Harris walked in.

"So how did the dress hunt go?" Harris put his arms round Kit's waist

"Amazing Chelle will look stunning" she grinned "and she's offered to give me snowboard lessons as well this afternoon" she clapped her hands together

"Really?" Beckett raised his eye brows

"Yes, I know Niall has the afternoon off so I'll just get him to come and show your sister how to do it" I shrugged

"Okay I so want to blow off work now this afternoon and come watch my sister fall on her ass" Beckett folded his arms over his chest

"Bite me" She swatted him

"You're the boss you can give yourself the afternoon off" Harris looked at Beckett, I could listen to his accent all day

"I would but I have a meeting about the house on the ridge the owner is wanting things changed" he took a deep breath so I might not get done till this evening

"Good last thing I need is to have you laughing at me" Kit pushed him

## Is the snow whiter?

"Oh I'll throw his ass off the mountain if he laughs at you" I poked him in the ribs "He still has room for improvement when he's on a board he's not all that"

"Okay mortally wounded over here" Beckett pouted "But it really doesn't help when she is pretty amazing on the snow"

He kissed the side of my neck "do you have your things at the mountain or do you need to go home?"

"I need to go home and get my things and my other board" I nodded and I have to pick up my jeep because I'm going right to work tonight

"Okay lets go get you sorted and then I'll go to my meeting" he linked his fingers with mine I looked back at Kit

"Thank you for the dress and when you come to the mountain if you don't see me go to the office and they can radio me"

"Okay can't wait" Harris smiled. Beckett and I went out to his truck and he drove me home.

"Call me if you need me for anything" Beckett looked at me as I loaded my jeep with the things I was going to need for the rest of the day "I mean I'll drop the meeting ifâ" he stroked my cheek

"I know and I will call if I see or hear anything from him" I pushed up on my toes and kissed him "I'm going to talk to the others as well before my shift at the bar" he nodded "Thank you"

"For what?" he frowned

"For making me see sense and getting me to open up about things" he smiled at me and kissed me again

'Yeah well you have to do these things" he walked to his truck "especially for the people you love" he winked and got in his truck and pulled away leaving me a little shell shocked at his statementâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 34: All in the open

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. "Hey earth to Chelle" Tore waved his hand in front of my face "You have some people here to see you"

"What?" I rubbed my hand over my face

"What planet are you on today?"

"Sorry I was thinking about something" I smiled at him "Who did you say was here?"

"Some English guy and a cute assed girl" he pushed his hands in his pockets

"Hey that is Beckett's sister and the man she's marrying this weekend" I swatted him "Has Niall gotten here yet?"

"Yep he was in the office when I came out here"

'Awesome" I Kissed him on the cheek

"Okay what was that for?" He pulled a face at me

"Let's just say I'm having a really good day" I patted his arm I picked up my board and walked over to the office and pulled the door open Kit and Harris were standing talking. "Sorry I was outside"

"Its okay we only got her a few minutes ago" Kit grinned "I'm nervous"

"Don't be you'll be fine" I laughed the door from the Locker room opened and Niall and Snowy walked out

'Oh thank god you're okay" Niall pulled me into a huge hug "We were worried about you" he held my arms and frowned at me

"I was with Beckett" I smiled at him

'We know where you were butâ !"

"Tonight okay Before I start my shift I want you and Snow and Layton at the bar and I'll tell you about it" Niall folded his arms over his chest "I promise no more hiding things okay" Snowy looked at Niall

"It's all we can ask" Niall just nodded "We love you girl" Snowy kissed my cheek "I'm going to Go see Hads"

"Okay see you tonight and don't get wasted before I get there" I called after him

"I won't I want to understand what the hell as been happening in your life" he called over his shoulder

"Beckett okay?" Niall asked putting his arm round my waist

"He's more than okay" I grinned

"Oh you are so loved up I think I'm going to bring back lunch" I looked up at Kit and Harris both watching me



## Is the snow whiter?

"Up so what" I hips checked him "Now you can help me out a little with a lesson right" I pointed to Kit and Harris. We walked over to them "This is Niall he'll be giving you a lesson" I looked at Kit "This is Becketts sister Kit and her Fianc e Harris"

"Fianc e"

"Yes we're getting married on Saturday" Harris nodded "So please don't let her break anything?"

"I won't I'm good at my job" Niall Shook his hand "and As you happen to be Becketts family I'll be even more careful or Chelle will kick my ass" By the time we were starting to hit dusk we'd got Harris and Kit both on to a secondary slope and they were loving it. We walked over to the office

"Oh that was just so good" Harris smiled as Niall took his board and put it in the rack "I think we're going to have to come back and do more of this"

"Now I know why Dane and Beckett love to do it" Kit linked her arm through mine "Thank you so much"

'Yeah right after the dress you gave me this morning I think I'll be teaching your grandchildren how to snow board" I shook my head I pulled my phone from my pocket "Oh Damn I have to be at work in less than an hourâ Guys I have to run and grab a shower and I'll see you tonight"

"No problem" Harris nodded "We will see you later this evening" I walked into the office and into the locker room and showered faster than I think I had ever showered and dressed before running out and getting to the bar as fast as I could. Hadley was already behind the bar stocking the shelves with Snowy, Niall and Layton sitting at the bar on stools

"Hey"

"Oh thank god" Hadley shot out from behind the bar and crushed me in a huge hug "Do you know they things tht have been running through my mind about what might be wrong"

"I have money on that your pregnant" Layton Lent back as I dropped a kiss on his cheek

"Yeah well you've just lost that money I'm not pregnant" I shook my head "Had can you take five minutes I need to talk to the four of you"

"Sure you want a drink?" She tipped her head and looked at me

"I'll take a beer" I nodded and walked over to a table by the window where I knew they all liked to sit I started to get really nervous and I twisted my hands together and jiggled my leg up and down Niall looked at Layton and they both grabbed a hand each and held it

"Its okay, this is us" Layton looked at me "Chelle"

"I know" I groaned "And after telling Beckett everything last night this should be easy but it's still notâ you guys mean the world to me" I smiled at Hadley as she sat next to Snowy "Remember the letter you said came for me" Hadley nodded "It was from someone from my pastâ My Father has opened companies in my name and he wants to sell them and they are trying to find me to get my signature"

"So why don't you just sign?" Snowy chewed his lip



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 35: Bar time

Beckett backed away to the table keeping his eyes on me making me blush for some unknown reason. Hadley and I started to work as the first rush of the people coming from the mountain came in. We had it down to a fine art the way the two of us moved to get the job done and still have fun. I got up on the bar and was dancing holding a bottle of Vodka in my hand offering shots. Beckett and the guys were all close together all talking and gesturing and then laughing over something.

"Well this is a little different for the Mountain" I looked round at the sound of Kit's voice and smiled as she was stood there with her Mom and Dad Harris and Dane were just walking in through the door

"Glad you guys made it" I nodded "Give me a minute" I walked to the end of the bar and got down getting back behind the bar.

"You look so cute" Dina beamed at me

"Hot Mom the word is she looks hot" Beckett walked over and hugged his Mom

"And that's not a word as your Mother I want to be calling your girlfriend" She laughed

"Well I think she looks hot" Marty laughed "Can we get a couple of pitchers of beer please"

"Sure" I nodded I walked away from them and over to where Hadley was adding change to the register "Well all of Becketts family are in" I hip checked her as I filled the first pitcher

"Where" She looked round me "OOOOO that woman owns the Bakery in townâ oh she is a god with cupcakes" Hadley gripped my arm

"OW and that s Becketts mom" I laughed swapping out the full for the empty pitcher

"Ah is that why you're a little more conservatively dressed tonight" she smirked

"Really look at the shorts I have on" I shook my head "admittedly I wasn't going to put on my bikin top asi knew they were coming in"

"So who is the guy talking to Dane?"

"That's Harris he's the one getting married to Kit Becketts sisterâ oh and by the way she has let me have this amazing dress for the wedding so I do have a chunk of money now to go buy shoes with" I shook my head "admittedly I wasn't going to put on my bikin top asi knew they were coming in"

"So who is the guy talking to Dane?"

"That's Harris he's the one getting married to Kit Becketts sisterâ oh and by the way she has let me have this amazing dress for the wedding so I do have a chunk of money now to go buy shoes with"

"OOOOOOO YAY" she bounced on the balls of her feet

"You're a shoe whore you know that" I walked back to where they were at the bar with the pitchers

Is the snow whiter?

"You calling my girl a whore" Snowy walked over and held up three empty bottles of beer I nodded

"Yes I am where shoes are concerned" I smiled "Okay Kit hop up on the bar will you" I called out "Hey Hadley BODY SHOT" Hadley grabbed the Tequila bottle and walked over

"What's a body shot?" Dina tugged on Marty's shirt and he shrugged

"It looks like Kit is about to be the glass for the shot" Niall had walked over Dina looked at him like he had two heads "I was the one that helped her with the Snowboarding this afternoon, I'm Niall"

"Oh she said she had a fantastic time" Dina nodded "I can see why" she looked him up and down making Niall laugh

"MOM" Beckett hung his head

"What Window shopping doesn't hurt a thing and he has a nice ass not as nice as this one" she grabbed Mary's butt and squeezed" Hadley looked at me and I just shrugged

"I love your parents" Snowy chuckled

"Okay can we stop the gum flapping" Hadley held up her hands

"Will one of you guys help this lady onto the bar please" I looked at all the guys Niall offered her his hand and Kit got on the bar. I reached for a clean bar towel and put it down to lay her head on "Right lie down" Kit was beet red as she lay back with her hands over her face "Harris come on you're up" I laughed "Kit you need to lift up your shirt for me"

"Oh God" she groaned as she did it

"Open up" Hadley offered her the lime slice "you need to hold this in your teeth" I tipped her head back and put the salt in the dip at the base of her throat

"Harris get ready you need to take the shot then the salt and end with the lime" I instructed

"Where's the glass?" Harris frowned

"DUDE you did not just ask that?" Layton clapped his hand on his shoulder "Hey Cup cake what are you and Princess teaching this guy"

"Did you just call Beckett cupcake" Marty raised his eyebrows

"Yes sir and Dane's a princess"

"We gave them nicknames when they first came to the mountain" I added

"Hence she now has a cupcake fetish and it's not for the delicious ones that you make" Hadley giggled looking at Dina and pointing the tequila bottle at me

"Hey can we get the shot done" I rolled my eyes as Hadley moved over and pointed at Harris and then at Kit's exposed stomach

## Is the snow whiter?

"You have to take the shot from here and then do what Chelle said with the Salt and the lime" It was hysterical watching Harris do what was asked of him and Kit was trying not to laugh and choke on the lime. I looked up and Beckett locked his eyes with mine and smiled before biting down on his bottom lip sending a shiver through my entire body. Suddenly the laughing made me snap back into the real world as Harris pulled Kit off the bar and into his arms and kissed her while we all cheered and clapped.

"You can go take five" Hadley murmured to me "That man of yours I think is wanting a little attention"

"And snowy doesn't" I looked at her

"Oh he does but You're going to close for me tonight I've got a little something planned at the house" she stopped and looked at me "I mean if you're not coming home that is or I could"

"It's okay I'm not going to be home tonight I'm stopping with Beckett" can we go shopping at lunchtime and talk about things" she held my hand and nodded "Thank you" I hugged her

"Go see Beckett" she pulled away from me "He looks like he needs you to breath sometimes"

"Yeah right" I groaned I moved away from her "But I'll take the few minutes with him" I walked round the bar and crooked my finger at him. He handed his beer to Dane and walked over to me "I have a five minute break"

"I can do a lot in five minutes" he put his hands on my hips and backed me round the corner toward the office and kissed me

link for her bar out fit is in the comment below

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 36: dampner on things

The rest of the night went so quickly everyone was relaxed and having a really good time Dina even at one point embarrassing the hell out of her kids by getting on the bar with Hadley and I and dancing on it. We closed down the bar and everyone drifted off home while I locked everything up. Beckett put his arm round me as we walked outside and over to his truck.

"Well you have really won over my family" he opened the door for me

"I like then they're good people and they've taken me as I am" I shrugged

"You're not hard to like" he stroked the side of my face. The silence that fell between us was as if we both wanted to say something. "You want to go back to my parents and share a bottle of wine in the hot tub?"

"Wine?"

"Well it makes a change from beer" he smiled "but we can do the beer instead"

"Wine soundsâ I trailed off as something caught my eye

"Chelle?" I got out of the truck and walked over to my Jeep where it was parked "baby" there was an envelope under the windshield wiper

"Look" I held his arm as he reached for it and pulled it out "Throw it in the garbage" I swallowed hard "Please" I was almost begging him

"Is it from him?" I nodded

"I recognize my father handwriting"

"We need to see what it is, because if there is a damn place to meet or something they're going to have to deal with me" He looked at me "I don't like leaving your car here"

"They won't do anything to it they're not like that" I shook my head. I looked round "Can we go because I feel like I'm being watched" Beckett nodded and pulled me back over to the truck and closed the door after I got in. He pulled away from the bar and headed for his parents house He reached over and took my hand and brought it to his lap as he drove.

"They know my car" I groaned "They know both places where I work"

"That's a scary thing" he chewed his lip as he waited for the garage door to open and he pulled inside "Do you have work before the wedding" I shook my head

"I'm going shopping with Hadley tomorrow but other than that I'm off until Monday"

"Good and I can go shopping with you" I looked at him and raised my eye brow

"Really"

"Yes really this asshole is not going to come here and try to scare you and bully you" he snapped a little

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"And he's not dangerous" I bit back "he couldn't beat a fly with a swat even if her tried and my father is all mouthâ and have you not met Hadley I've known sweeter pit bulls when provoked" I walked over to him and put my hand on his arm "and what can they do when we're in public shopping"

"Chelle I don't know these people and I don't trust people I don't know especially ones that are out to hurt you" we walked into the house and into the kitchen

"And I know these people and they are pussies at the end of the day standing up to them outside of the board room and they will fold"

"Fine, but they come near you, you even catch sight of them somewhere and you call me" he faced me and was inches from me

"I will" I nodded "I promise you" he held the envelope in his hand

"Can I open it?" I nodded pulling out one of the stool at the counter and sitting down as he tore open the paper and tipped out the contents a card key for the Ski resort at the foot of the mountain and a piece of paper.

*Michelle,*

*Working like some airhead in a bar half naked, I was right all along you have no class and would make nothing of yourself. Watching you and that over muscled ass making out in the hallway ten feet from the bar was disgusting, Brett is better off without you and I cannot believe you are my daughter letting a man touch you like that in publicâ Brett said you were an ice maiden in the bedroom that is why you did not have a child and I have to say it's a good job because you would have failed at that as much as you failed at being a wife and a good hard working daughter.*

*Michelle you will be at the hotel and at Suite 1193 at noon Saturday, and you will do what we want and you will sign the documentation we require. To save the company you know I worked hard to build these sales have to go ahead sign them and you will never have to acknowledge your family again, but you will forfeit all rights to any inheritance or known bank accounts and trust funds and property given to you.*

**Noon Saturday**

*Frederick Deering*

*CEO Deering Ent.*

Beckett looked at me wide eyed; I just shrugged and rubbed my hands together

"It's a way I can be rid of them"

"I cannot believe that this is your Father writing this" he shook his head "It's so damn cold and harsh"

"That is typical of him, you should have seen some of the notes I got when I graduated high school not to say congratulations but that he was amazed I'd graduated being as stupid as I was skirting with a 3.75 GPA since middle school" Beckett went to the wine fridge that they had in the kitchen and pulled out a bottle of wine

"Let's go get in the hot tub before I go to this hotel and kick his ass" the nerve in his cheek twitched.

"Beckett" he looked at me

Is the snow whiter?

"Chelle I'm protective over things I care about, how do you think I am over things I love"â lâ lâ lâ lâ !.



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 37: Big step

There was him saying that again he lead me through the house everything was quiet. We went into his room and he put the wine down and opened the door to the veranda from his room. He walked out and took the lid from the hot tub before coming back inside and closing the door.

"I would say we don't need to wear anything if we were at my place then I could make Dane stay away but hereâ"

"It's okay I have a bikini in my bag" I pulled it out and walked over to the bathroom

"I'm going to go get some glasses I forgot them" he walked out of the room; I changed and looked in the mirror at my reflection. Could I ask him if he meant it? Could I tell him I was in love with him? I hung my head my stomach was in knots and it had nothing to do with the letter from my father it was everything to do with the cupcake that had walked into my life and knocked me off my feet.

I pushed off the sink and walked out into the bedroom the only lights were from the fireplace candles lit the way from the door of the veranda to the right toward where the hot tub was. I walked out; Beckett was already in the water with a glass of wine in his hand and a second on the edge of the tub.

"Hey" He looked round and smiled as I walked over and stepped in with him "I like the candles"

"I can do the romantic stuff" he chuckled picking up the second glass and offered it to me I took it and took a drink

"I think we need to talk"

"If you're thinking of going to the hotel alone it'll be over my dead body, no way in hell would let you do that and we have my sister's wedding at three, and I'll call in your friends if I have too"

"Shut up" I moaned Beckett opened his mouth to say something as I was sitting across from him in the water "this has nothing to do with Brett or my father" I put the drink down

"What's wrong?"

"You"

"Me" he looked wide eyed

"You keep saying things and then walking away and leaving me so confused and nervous and scared" he frowned at me

"Why would you be scared?"

"I'm scared of getting hurt if I admit how I feel. If you're messing me around and stringing me along" I looked at him he was watching me

"I'm not stringing you along far from it" he moved over toward me "What do you want to admit?"

## Is the snow whiter?

"You keep saying things about people you love and you look at me" he rubbed his hand over his jaw "and walk away and it scares me" you've admitted you've never had a serious girlfriend" and if I tell you how I'm feeling you might realize it's too much too soon" he was shaking with nerves

"Tell me" his voice was low and steady as he put his hands on the side of the tub either side of me "Look at me and just tell me" I took a deep breath before looking up at him

"I love you" it just happened I fell in love with you when I was least expecting it and with the things" I couldn't say anything else as he pulled me to him the water swirling round us, his mouth captured mine as he kissed me his hands wrapping round me our bodies pressed tightly together so I could feel his heart beating in his chest making my mind want to melt" lol lol lol lol.

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 38: Do you?

Beckett pulled back I moved away from him in the water and pulled the ties on the sides of my bikini bottoms and pulled them off dropping them over the edge of the hot tub onto the deck, I watched the smile on his lips twitch.

"You're dangerous Miss. Deering" he all but growled at me

"Dangerous how?" I tipped my head

"You're like a drug I need" he snagged me round the waist pulling me sharply through the water to him "I don't like not seeing you, my day at work seems endless, I just want to catch a glimpse of you" his hands moved under the water "I'm trying to work out what the hell you've done to me I meet you almost three weeks ago and I've"

"I hope to god you are both wearing clothes" he jumped and looked round as Dane walked out of another doorway a little further along the deck"

"I am she isn't" Beckett looked at little irritated with seeing his brother as he moved back and got out of the tub to retrieve my bikini bottoms and he handed them to me

"Sorry" Dane held up his hands "I wanted to" he pulled a girl out of the doorway behind him she was blushing

"Well dude we got here first" Beckett got back in the water with me "And you were interrupting"

"We'll go and use the"

"No Dane wait" Beckett's whole demeanor changed "How much for a retainer?"

"For what" Dane seemed to change his stance and his eyes became serious

"For some advice and maybe handling something"

"Depends on what it is and who it's for, normally it's five thousand" he walked over to the side of the hot tub "But I'm not going to get you off with damn speeding tickets again"

"No this is going to be a fight"

"Oooo you have me intrigued" Beckett looked back at me "You want to try to fight them?"

"I don't know I've not"

"Dane you think you can go throw on a pot of coffee and meet us in the kitchen in five minutes?" Beckett looked back at his brother

"Daaanne" the girl behind Dane whined

"Tell you what you put on the coffee and give me fifteen minutes and I'll not charge my consultation fee" Dane bit down on his bottom lip as he looked at the girl



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 39: Up all night

Beckett smiled down at me and bent his head and kissed me, my toes almost curled on the spot.

"Let's go see Dane" he wrapped his arm round me and we made our way down to the kitchen. Beckett put on a pot of coffee before coming back over to me "I feel like a little kid at Christmas" he chuckled pulling out the stool next to me and sat down "but it feels so right"

"I know how you feel" I put my head on his shoulder

"I know you don't have work tomorrow, so you want to spend the day with me?"

"What about work?" I smiled at him "and I have to go find shoes to go with the dress Kit let me have"

"I can take you shopping" he nuzzled my neck

"I'm going with Hadley we haven't had a lot of time to talk in the last week" I moaned and shivered as he nipped at my ear "You have to work"

"I only have one meeting at nine about breaking ground on a new home" his hot breath made my heart jump "how would you like to come back to my place the one Dane and I have?"

"After I've been shopping I'd love to meet you there if you give me the address" I moved away from him "and you have to stop that or your brother is going to come in and interrupt something I won't be able to stop"

"Teach him to interrupt us from the get go won't it?" Beckett got off the stool and came after me. I started to laugh and ran round the table to get away from him

"Shhhh your parents and sister are sleeping" I giggled as I dodged him "Beckett" I laughed as he snagged me round the waist and pinned me against the fridge and kissed me I moaned into the kiss.

"Heyâ it's four in the morning people" Dane walked into the kitchen with his laptop under his arm "Get a room"

"We had the hot tub until you stopped us from getting allâ !" I put my hand over Beckett's mouth

"Well that is true I guess and sorry I took a little longer than I said but she was insatiable"

"Okay I hope you cleared it with Mom and Dad before you brought her back here" Beckett moved my hand and led me to the table before going and filling three cups of coffee

"Mom will be fine she's passed out in my bed Mom will be at work before she wakes up"

"Does she have a name?" I asked taking the cup from Beckett and wrapping my hands round it

"I guess so" Dane smirked "I didn't ask"

"Another notch on the Dane Mackay bedpost" Dane fired up his laptop and sat opposite me "So what's this about?"

Is the snow whiter?

"My Father and my ex-husband" Dane choked on his coffee

"Yes she was married" Beckett sighed "to a total douche bag" he added

"My Father has a business and has set up several companies in my name to get round some tax thing" Dane sat back and took note on a yellow legal pad "now they want me to sign the papers so they can sell it"

"And"

"They don't deserve it they drove her away literally telling her she wasn't worth it and That fucker married her to get a promotion and be close to her father" Dane frowned

"Is this true?" I nodded

"My father had never thought I'd make anything of myself because I wanted to snowboard and just, just be meâ ever since I was kid I was told the best I could do was marry a man they could look after me and had the brains because all I had was my looks" Dane raised his eye brows and looked at Beckett who got up and refilled his cup "I married Brett because I thought my Dad would finally think I was something other than a mistake" Beckett leant on the edge of the counter and cradled his cup in his hands

"Did you walk away from the marriage with anything?" Dane looked at me I shook my head

"Well I had a car but I sold it and I took the clothes I liked and my snowboards" I put my cup down "I do have paper work in a safety deposit box in the bank with the details and contracts of these companies"

"Well that's something" he wrote it down

"Her Father and the idiot are here in town" beckett walked back over and braced his hand on the table "they found out where she worked and sent her her wedding dress and this" beckett reached into his pocket and tossed my wedding band on the table. Dane picked it up

"Oh that was my wedding and engagement ring"

"You are kidding right I have pens with larger nibs than the diamond in thisâ!" Dane pulled a face "Cheap assed bastard isn't he"

"He wanted a new car instead" I looked down at my hands "Size of the diamond is still bigger than his dick" I muttered

"Well at least you've upgraded" Dane chuckled putting the ring down

"If you get me the paperwork you have I can look into this more and see what can be doneâ in fact what is it you want to do?"

"Sell it out from under them if possible" I took a deep breath "I've learnt how life is supposed to be, I have amazing friends and two jobs I love and I have your brother" I looked at Beckett who looked at me and smiled "I've actually found the real Michelle Deering, not the wall flower wanting some form of recognition from people who's many goal in life is a huge bank balance"

"And you're with himâ!" Dane put his hands behind his head "The houses he builds aren't exactly leaving him penniless" I frowned at Dane "Do you read the money magazines?"



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 40: New Day

"Will you guys go to bed for a couple of hours and I'll wake you up when I leave for the bakery" Dina came behind Beckett and I putting her hand on our shoulders.

"Okay thanks Mom" Beckett kissed her cheek and put his arm round me and we walked back up to his room. I walked over to the bed and yawned "I guess we really should get some sleep shouldn't we" Beckett came over and put his hands on my hips. I nodded leaning back against him "I'm sorry we sort of got sidetracked"

"No it's good" I turned to face him "This needs to be done even if nothing comes of it it's going to show that I'm done with them and I don't care anymore" he smiled at me as my fingers trailed across the tight abs "Take me to bed"

I murmured biting down on my lower lip, his pupils dilated and he hiked my shirt up and over my head in one swift movement his mouth bent capturing one of my nipples in it while his hand rolled the other between his thumb and forefinger. I let my head fall back and I closed my eyes as Beckett pushed his hips against me. He backed me against the bed and let go of me I lay back and scooted up not taking my eyes off of him as he caught the bottoms of my PJ pants and tugged then throwing them in the corner along with my shirt he gripped my knees and moved them apart. He smiled at me and lowered his head. My hands gripped the sheets under me as his tongue dipped in and out of me and licked over me. I let go of the sheets and gripped the back of his head he pushed two fingers in me my back arched off the bed and I came hard against him.

"Damn" I moaned as he moved over me and pushed down his shorts I wrapped my legs round his waist as he pushed into me moving at a slow languid pace he braced his elbows either side of my head looking at me as he moved, this was a whole different level of sex making me feel somehow closer to him. His pace increased and he dropped his head to the side of my neck as he came I wrapped my arms round him and held him to me as he stilled and rolled to the side taking me with him.

"I know it's the wrong time to say this right after mind blowing sex" he smiled "but I love you"

"Say it when you want I like hearing it" I touched the side of his face

"Well I have a feeling I'm going to be saying it quite a lot" he nuzzled in to my side

"Can we get under the covers?" he eased out of me and got off the bed one side as I got off the other and we pulled back the covers and got back in and snuggled down together. Beckett wrapped his arms round me. Sleep came quickly to both of us.

"Beckett" Honey it's eight thirty" Dina's voice cut into my sleep and I felt Beckett stir and move behind me.

"Hey Mom" his voice made goose bumps spring up on my arms

"Coffee is here on the night stand and I've left some muffins in the kitchen"

"Thank you" I felt him roll on to his back "It's alright for Chelle to sleep for a while longer isn't it?"

"Of course Your Dad is working from home today so she'll be alright when she needs to leave"

"Thank you"



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"You've found a really nice girl there"

"I know and I actually grew some balls and told her" Dina let out a squeaking noise "Shhhh" he laughed "Now Mom go to work because I need to get up and get showered and ready to go to my meeting"

"I'm going and I'm proud of you for becoming a man"

"Gee thank's mom" he groaned I heard the door click closed and pushed back into him "Sorry I didn't mean to wake you" he moved and put his arm over me

"It's okay"

"I have to get ready for my meeting" he pressed his lips on the back of my neck "You go back to sleep"

"Butâ "

"But nothingâ ! you get some more sleep I'll set the alarm for eleven and it gives you time to get up and go to the bank to get the papers and meet Hadley and take them to Dane"

"I like the idea of more sleep" I yawned "Some hot man wore me the hell out early this morning"

"He'd like to wear you out as often as possible" he chuckled "but for now go back to sleep and know that I love you" he kissed my neck again and got out of bed I snuggled back down under the covers and drifted back to sleep. The alarm woke me I groaned and rolled over taking a few minutes to realize where I was. There was a note propped up on the pillow where Becketts head had been, I picked it up.

*Hey Baby,*

*I could have spent the day laying here with you waking up and making love to you like last night but like you said last night that isn't the way to run a business. So I'm out to work but you don't have your Jeep here so take my Mustang keys are on the nightstand and go do what you need to. I'll call you as soon as I'm done with the meeting.*

*I love you even writing it has made me smile*

*Beckett xxx*

I smiled and slid out of bed and walked over to the bathroom and showered and got dressed before making a call to Hadley that I'd pick her up from Snowy's place. I was nervous that I was going to take on too much trying to take my Father and Brett to task but I had nothing to lose and I had people around me supporting meâ !â !â !.

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 41: Dane's office

â lâ lâ lâ | I pulled up outside the guys house and sounded the horn and pulled my phone out of my purse

\* Mackay and Westbrook Attorneys at law

Me \* Hi Dane Mackay please it's Michelle Deering

\* one moment

There was a click and I was put on hold

Dane \* Chelle?

Me \* hey, I went to the bank and I have the papers

Dane \* awesome I've cleared most of my afternoon so I can get going with this

Me \* I'm picking up Hadley now to go out. I'll be at your office in about ten minutes

Dane \* I'll be here waiting

I hung up as Hadley got in the car

"Hey girl you look like you've been up all night" Hadley grinned at me

"We were" I pulled away from the house "We just have to swing by Dane's office and give him something"

"Okay" she nodded "Are we grabbing lunch while we're out?"

"Hell yeah" I glanced at her "You feeling okay you're looking a little pale?"

"I think I'm getting sick" she chewed her lip "But what you gonna do. So how is Beckett?"

"He's good" I couldn't help the smile that came at the mere mention of his name

"Oh Spill it you've never looked so damn mushy and happy since I've known you" she laughed

"I fell in love okay" my face flushed "I never thought it would happen and I really never expected to fall in love so damn fast"

"Well you have one hell of a hot looking man and I'm trying to convince Snowy to get pierced" she wiggled her eye brows "It looked so damn sexy on Beckett"

"You are kidding he cried when I had to pull a splinter from his finger and yes it is rather sexy" I giggled high fiving her "I was wondering if I got mine done"

"OW" she rubbed her own chest "that we should leave to the men just go get another tattoo"

## Is the snow whiter?

'Oh where is your sense of adventure" I pulled up in a parking lot of an office building "You were up for anything a week ago"

"Hey I only did that dare because I was getting a coach purse from the guys for doing it" she got out with me and we walked toward the building "and it was worth it ask snowy" she poked her tongue out showing the bar in the middle of it.

"Ew" I wrinkled my nose at her "I'll pass on that" I pulled open the door and walked over to the desk

"Can I help you?" the girl sitting there looked up at me and Hadley and tried not to pull a face at the way we were dressed.

"I'm here to see Dane Mackay"

"Take the elevator to the second floor and turn right when you get out"

"Thank you" I tugged Hadley toward the elevator

'Stuck up bitch" Hadley muttered

"Ignore her" I sighed pressing the button

"So what are you giving to Dane?" she looked at the large envelope in my hand

'Something I hope to piss off my Father and Brett" we stepped inside and rode up to the second floor

"And Dane's helping how he seems like a bit of an assâ ı no offence "

"Danes a Lawyer" Hadley inhaled and choked on her gum

"Wow teach me to never judge a book by its cover" I banged on her back as she coughed "I thought you had to have a brain to be a lawyer"

"Oh it shocked me as well but he's good from Beckett said" we opened the outer door and stepped in to a modern looking reception a model like girl sitting at a glass topped desk.

'Okay well she doesn't surprise me after the bimbo he left the bar with yesterday" Hadley whispered

'Will you shut up" I groaned "Hi I'm here toâ ı"

"Chelle" I looked round as Dane walked out of an office "I was just talking about you" he laughed

"I dread to think" I frowned

"No Beckett is waiting on me to send him a couple of contracts so he can get out of his meeting" He held open his office door "Come on in" Hadley and I walked inside "Coffee?"

'No we have some things to do" I shook my head Dane went behind his desk and sat down. I handed over the envelope

"Everything in here?" I nodded "Is there things with your signature on?"

## Is the snow whiter?

"It's all got my signature on there is no mention of Brett or my Father"

"Okay well that's a plus" he flipped through them "Can I call you if I have any questions?"

"Yes no problem but I'm not sure what I could tell you I basically was told to sign things and that was about it" I sighed

"Chelle don't worry okay if I can get these sorted and make sure there is no way your father can claim them" he smiled at me "So you told my big brother you fell in love with him are you sure you're sane?" he chuckled

"He told you?"

"No my mom called and told me so I had to give him ten tons of crap"

"Dude that's just mean" Hadley groaned "I think they look and are amazing together"

"I wasn't saying they weren't, but it's fun to wind Beckett up"

"I have this for you" I opened my bag and pulled out a thick Bank envelope and pushed it across the desk

"What is it?" Dane picked it up

"Five thousand dollars almost all of my savings" I murmured "I can't expect you to do this without paying it's not my way"

"And I said I'm not going to charge you" Dane became serious "and I meant it" the chance to fuck over some big egomaniac and a guy that didn't buy his fiancée a diamond worth anything, especially when I think my client is a pretty awesome person and she's dating my brother" I opened my mouth to say something as he pushed the money back in my direction "I told you last night you're as good as family and if I can pull this case off you can pay me and take me for dinner but you want me to take money now then I won't deal with the papers" I frowned at him "I don't mess around Chelle" I picked up the envelope "and it's not I don't think you can't pay" hell I've seen how hard you work, I know you can afford this" I looked down "Now go shopping and have fun and I'll catch you tonight if I have any news on this" he taped the papers on his desk

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 42: Money and misery

Hadley and I walked around down town window shopping more than anything when the price tags on most things we're as much as my rent was for a month.

"Where the hell am I going to find total Bang the ass of me shoes for a cheap assed budget?" I groaned as we walked out of a store I linked her arm

"Girl did you not just go to hand over five thousand dollars to Dane?" She stopped and put her hands on her hips "Hell I wish I had that in a savings account"

"I know but I might need it forâ" I frowned "Okay I can't think of a reason yet but"

"But you need some shoes that is going to make that man you have want you as soon as he sees you in them" she shook her head "Splurge a little it won't kill you"

"I've neverâ" I

"So help me live like the wild girl I know you are I've seen you shake your ass on the bar more than once and hell you and Beckett all but screamed down the house when you" I put my hand over her mouth her eyes twinkling"

"Fine" I smiled "you are a bad influence" I moved my hand

"I know Snowy tells me all the time" she giggled pulling me back inside one of the stores we carried on shopping Hadley putting a serious dent in to her credit card as I found a pair of shoes I felt amazing in and tried not to cry as I handed over just over a thousand dollars. We walked out and went to one of the bars to grab some lunch. Talking to people we knew from our bar while we waited. My phone rang I pulled it from my purse

Me \* Mr. Mackay your meeting finished

Beckett \* yes finally, it feels like my head is going to explode

Me \* hard morning?

Beckett \* people who can't make up their minds over what they want, but I think they have it down to a few choices that they are going to mull over till next week because I told my office to hold everything unless it is a life or death emergency.

Me \* Beckettâ" I

Beckett \* what my sister is getting married in a few days and the whole family is coming into town

I suddenly felt nauseous, his family would be at the wedding Oh god lord and if he'd never been anywhere with a girl

Beckett \* Chelleâ" I Hey Chelle

Me \* Sorry I gotâ" I did you say all your family is going to be there?

Is the snow whiter?

Beckett \* you know it's going to be a big wedding

Me \* Oh great

Beckett \* you're nervous

Me \* I am now

Beckett \* they'll love youâ I do

Me \* I love you too

Hadley choked on her beer I swatted her

Beckett \* so where are you?

Me \* Wickets just by your moms shop, we needed a beer after spending the money we just did

Beckett \* did you find shoes?

Me \* oh yeah I'm still reeling from handing over the money

Beckett \* see I should have been a better boyfriend and spoiled you

Me \* Hey remember the rent thing and I threw you out, I can buy my own shoes

Beckett \* I wasn't saying you couldn'tâ I'd like to treat you to something

Me \* Treat me to a repeat of last night and we'll call it good

Beckett \* I've been trying not to think of that all morning because it would have been the end of me

I smiled at the sudden deepening to his voice

Beckett \* you mind if I come and join you and Hadley?

Me \* No feel free we're just eating

Beckett \* okay I'm going to be there in about fifteen minutes

Me \* Love you

Beckett \* love you too

I hung up

"He's told you he loves you?" Hadley pointed at me with a French fry

"Yes he has"

"OH SHE SHOOTS SHE SCORES" she got up and danced round the table I groaned and hung my head

## Is the snow whiter?

"Will you sit your ass down" I smacked her ass as she wiggled it in my face

"I'm so happy for you"

"I'm dating the guy he hasn't proposed?" I picked up my fork and took a bite of the pasta on my plate "How is things for you and Snowy?"

"It's going well" she flushed "He gives off the whole Dumb blond all I do is Snowboard kind of vibe, but you can hold a conversation with him and talk to him about anything"

"You mean you're not just doing it for the hot sex?" I teased

"Noâ well yes the sex is amazing but I think it's going to be more than just a way to get laid" she took a deep breath "I told him this morning I loved him"

"What did he do?" I picked up my beer bottle and took a drink

"He looked at me like a lost puppy before he hugged me and told me he felt the same and heâ" she reached into the neck of her t-shirt and pulled out a chain with Snowy's ring on it was a ring he'd always worn as long as well knew it

"Damn he's asked you to go steady with him OMG" I put on my best bimbo voice and put my hands on y face

'Oh shut up" she laughed "he's sweet and he's Snowy for god sake"

"You've got a good guy there" I took another forkful of my lunch

"I think we both landed on our feet with the men we have" I picked up my bottle and clinkedit against heres "Hell makes up for all the damn assholes in the past"

"Amen toâ lâ!" I trailed off as the door to the bar opened "Oh god" my appetite vanished and I felt like throwing up the lunch I had eaten

"What's wrong?" Hadley looked at me and followed where I was looking

"That's Brett" I murmured "And my father"â lâ lâ!"

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 43: Safety

â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ! I could feel my heart thumping in my chest I gripped onto the table

"switch seats with me then you'll have your back to them" Hadley truly looked worried for me I nodded and we moved so I had my back to them "Please tell me you've changed your hair at least?" I nodded

"Please keep your eye on them if they head this way"

"Don't worry about it I will" she reached over the table and squeezed my hand I was a nervous wreck the hairs on the back of my neck were standing up "Call Beckett"

"He's already on his way" I rubbed my hands over my face "I didn't know how I'd feel seeing them again butâ !" I held out my hand flat and watched as it shook

"You're not here alone right I'll kick ass if I have to no one upsets my best friend and gets away with it and I'm damn sure there are a few people in here we know that will also help us out" I nodded "They went and took the booth in the far corner" she watched them as she carried on eating "I'm sorry you are so out of his league" she pulled a face making me smile for the first time since they'd walked in

"Hey Baby" I jumped as I felt a hand on my back and lips press against the back of my neck

"Sit" Hadley hissed at him pulling him into the seat next to here

"What'sâ !" he trailed off as he saw my face "You still not over the shoe price" I shook my head

"Brett and my father are over there" I muttered looking down at the half finished food in front of me and pushing it away

"What?" his voice hitched

"The ass and the older ass that fucked over your girl are sitting in the booth over there" I shot Hadley a look "Well what you want me to be polite about it and you'll be waiting for a lifetime" she held her hands out. Beckett looked round his eyes locking on to where they were sitting eating. His entire face seemed to darken and his mood changed the air seemed to become heavy round us.

"Can we just leave, I'm not ready to face them right now" I touched his hand making him jump and look at me

"I agree she needs to get the hell out of here" Hadley chimed in "Take her to where ever you need to but keep my best friend Sane please"

"Oh I will" Beckett looked at her "Chelle lets go" I'd never felt so relieved to leave somewhere in my entire life. I kept my back to the corner and I picked up my things Hadley put her arms round me and hugged me "Call me later okay"

"I will" Beckett picked up my bags and put his arm round me

"I'm praying that they don't see me"

"Yeah well you think they'd start something in here?" He looked at me



## Is the snow whiter?

"I don't know" I chewed my lip

"Well let's go, is you okay to drive my car?" I nodded reaching into my pocket and pulling out the keys Beckett walked me to where the car was parked and waited while I got in "I'll go get my truck and you can follow me" I nodded And waited and watched him cross the street to his truck and get in I looked over at the bar and was half expecting them to walk out, the sound of a horn made me jump and I looked round to where Beckett was waiting. I followed him through the town relentlessly checking the mirror to check we weren't being followed but there was nothing.

We pulled up to a house that wasn't anywhere near the size of his parents but it was big enough for a family of at least ten to live in comfortably. Beckett got out of the truck and came over as I turned off the engine to his car, he opened the door and offered me his hand.

"You doing okay?" He put his hands on my hips

I don't know, that scared me. I had it in the back of my head that because of the note and to dress and they were here but I never expected to see them in a damn bar"

"Well you're away from them now and you have me all to yourself and you don't have to worry about anything" he smiled at me "Now you want to see where I live?" he gestured to the house

"You have to be kidding right?" I swallowed as he led me to the steps and up to the ornately carved heavy double wooden doors

"What?" he chuckled

"This house is Sick from the outside and I've seen the inside of your parent's house remember" I waited while he unlocked the door and one of them open

"Well my Mom was the one that decorated their house this was all me and well Kit helped a bit" he shrugged "so it's not quite the classic look Mom does so well" he rubbed the back of his neck as he closed the door behind me "I hope you like it"â lâ lâ lâ lâ .

## Chapter 44: more in love

â lâ lâ lâ !.. The house was the perfect a total Guys house but without being a frat house. Huge leather couches were in front of the stone fire place. The view from the floor to ceiling windows had a perfect look over the entire valley. The kitchen off of it was like a smaller version of his Mom's. I looked over my shoulder at Beckett as he dropped his keys into a bowl on the end of the kitchen counter. His face was still etched with anger his eyes dark and menacing.

"This is more than amazing" I put my hands on the back of the couch "Is this another one that you built?"

"Yes Ma'am" he smiled walking over to the fridge and pulling out two beers he offered one to me I came forward and took it. "It was only finished a few months ago"

"And you and Dane live here?"

"For now?" he tucked a piece of hair back behind my ear

"Are you selling it?"

"Hell no" he chuckled "Dane's Loft Apartment is almost ready downtown"

"You again?"

"No this is defiantly more City than anything I do" he shook his head "So this is all mine in another few weeks"

"Thank you" I sighed leaning in the counter

"What for?"

"Not going crazy in the bar just when you saw them" I put the bottle down and looked at him

"Well I'd be lying if I said it didn't take everything I had not to go over and redecorate with the pair of them" he literally growled I put my hand on his chest making him look at me "Well I'm sorry but what they put you through is ridiculous"

"I had something to do with it as well you know, I agreed to the wedding and to sign the papers"

"Only because you wanted to be treated like a daughter by your Dad" he shook his head "I'm sorry when and if I ever have kids as long as they are happy in what they decide to do I'm good with it" he put his drink down next to mine "Yes you gave in to what they wanted but at least you realized it wasn't right and you did something about it and got out of there and you followed this" he put his hand over my heart "Mushy I know but true none the less" he put his hands on my hips and lifted me to sit on the counter and stood between my legs

"Damn you know how to make me smile" I rubbed my hands up and down his arms

"Look forget we saw them and remember when you do have to go face to face with them I'll be right there with you"



## Chapter 45: Friends are the best

"Are you going to let me make dinner?" I asked as I lay in his arms in his bed

"You cook?"

"Yes I cook" I swatted him as he laughed "I'd like to do something for you"

"Baby you just did" he put his arms behind his head and looked at me

"Sexual favors don't count" I shook my head "and you did make those omelets for me the first time weâ" my mind drew a blank just thinking about our first attempt at a date that ended up in us in my bed.

"That was one hell of a date" he chuckled as if reading my mind "But if you want to cook hell go for it I wouldn't mind a night in"

"Amen to that" I rubbed my hand over my face "I also have to go home at some point"

"Why?" I looked at him

"I need clothes and well it's my place"

"And you agreed to stay with me until we know your Dad and his little lackey are out of here" he reminded me "and to tell you the truth I'd rather have you here even after they have left" he rolled onto his side and looked at me "Kinda like having you in my bed when I wake up kicking my ass to get to work" I felt my jaw slacken a little

"I don'tâ I meanâ I moveâ I wow" I sat up

"Look, quick? Yes, scary? Hell yes" he sat up with me "But what the hell is life without a few chances being taken"

"Will you give me time to think about it?" all he did was nod

"I have to go see my Mom about something do you want to come along?"

"I'll stay here and make dinner if that's okayâ and then it means you'll come back to me if I tell you that you can have dessert in bed" well didn't that make him sit up and smile

"I won't be long, do you want me to swing by your place and get anything?"

"No I'll go over to morrow and get my car and some other things otherwise I'll be struggling to get ready for the wedding" he slipped out of bed and grabbed his jeans from the floor and pulled them on "Are you wearing a tux for the wedding?"

"Oh yeah" he groaned as he pulled on his t-shirt and a hoodie "Monkey suit is a must" he looked over his shoulder at me "Not looking forward to that part but it's what my sister wants so I can put up with it for a day"

"I think you'll look cuteâ well hotâ" he stopped and faced me

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm getting ready to see you in a dress" he lent on the bed "And I hope you can dance because I'm wanting to be dancing with you that night" I felt my cheeks flush as he bent and kissed me "Anything to help get the thoughts of having to meet your Dad before we go to the wedding out of my head" he straightened up "I'll be about an hour" I nodded at him "Make yourself at home"

I watched him walk out of the room before I got out of bed and walked over to his closet and opened the door there was typical Beckett clothes he wore every day and then some button down shirts. I grabbed a powder blue one and slipped it on fastening it up before retrieving my underwear from on the lamp in the corner of the room where he'd thrown them. I made my way down to the kitchen my phone was ringing in my purse. I picked it up and went over to the fridge as I answered it.

Me \* Hadley sorry I should have called but I sort of got distracted withâ well a nipple ring

Hadley \* Niceâ so your Daddy and that thing with him we're just in here asking for you

I glanced at the time not realizing it was already after seven and Hadley was working at the bar

Me \* what did you tell them?

Hadley \* nothing just you weren't working here anymore and I had no idea where you'd gone

Me \* did you behave?

Hadley \* of course but it took Niall and Snowy everything not to get out of their seats and throw them out on their asses and Snowy wants to talk to you

Snowy \* hey girl

Me \* hey

Snowy \* what the hell kind of mind bending drugs were you taking when you agreed to marry that weasel

Me \* Snowâ

Snowy \* hell Chelle they give me a severe case of the hee-bee jee-bees and not in a scary way just in a creepy way

Me \* I know

I sighed and slid down the fridge until I was sitting on the floor

Snowy \* Promise me one damn thingâ now make that promise all of us including yourself, that you will not give up Beckett and you will never ever go back to whatever rock it was they crawled out from under.

Me \* Snowy I swear I'll never go back there and I'm happy with where I am now

Niall \* better had be girl because Beckett is a really good guy and by the way I took you jeep to our house

Me \* Thank you I'll get it tomorrow, I'm at Becketts place right now and I'm going to be staying here for a while

Is the snow whiter?

Hadley \* moving in with him?

Me \* why'd you ask that?

I felt my cheeks flame red as if I'd been caught out

Snowy \* because I want to move into your place with Hadleyâ !OW Had what was that for?

Hadley \* we were going to ask her face to face dumb ass

Me \* hey guysâ ! its okayâ ! Look Snowy I'm good with you moving inâ ! I have to go and thank you for not throwing me under the bus withâ !

Hadley \* we'd never do that and you go have fun with Beckett and have a good time with those hot assed shoes and Beckett this weekend

Me \* I'll tryâ ! love you guys

I hung up the phone and pushed up off the floor and put my phone on the counter as I moved round making dinner for the two of us. My mind working overtime about should I move in with Beckett and how the hell was I going to come out the other side of this meeting with Dad and Brett as sane as when I went inâ !â !â !â !..

links for Becketts house and the outfits Haldey ang Chelle were wearing are in i think the 5th comment down

## Chapter 46: Now that's a diamond

"Sorry I took longer than I expected" Beckett called out "But Mom sent me home with a raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake for dessert" he walked in to the kitchen "Damn it smells good in here" he put down the cake box on the counter and moved behind me putting his arms round my waist.

"It's just a stir fry" I shrugged "Hadley called while you were out"

"Oh yeah?" He let go of me and sat on the counter while I put the food out

"Guess who had been in the bar asking about me?" I looked at him, Beckett frowned

"Seriously? What the hell"

"Don't worry I have awesome friends and they didn't say anything" I picked up the two bowls and walked to the table and set them on the mats I'd found. Beckett went to the fridge and grabbed two beers bringing them over

"The fact they are trying to find you before the meeting they set is them trying to get to you" he sat down

"I know intimidation is their only tool" I shrugged "They obviously didn't expect to come here and find that I have friends" I had select friends before" I took a fork full of food and took a bite

"Now you have friends that would do anything for you, and a boyfriend that they will have to go through to get to you and his tough assed lawyer brother" Beckett reached for my hand as he started to eat "Damn this is delicious you rock" he ate more

"Oh and Snowy wants to move in with Hadley at the house"

"Nice they haven't been dating much longer than we have, have they?"

"No they were breaking one of my snowboards with hot sex before I met you, and snowy has been in love with her for months" I smiled leaning back and taking the cap off of my bottle and taking a drink

"I think it's sweet" he wiggled his eye brows at me as he forked more food into his mouth

"Really?"

"Yeah just going for what they want"

"I'm still thinking about it" I got up to get the pan of stir fry "I promise you I'm giving it some serious thought" I put the pan on the trivet on the table and he took more before offering it to me I shook my head.

"I was talking to my Parents about what happened this afternoon when you were at lunch"

"Do they think you're now dating a crazy person?" I finished my food and pushed the bowl away

"No not at all, but they do also know that we're going to meet them before the wedding on Saturday" he got up taking my bowl as well as his and the pan and rinsed then before putting them in the dishwasher "My Mom wants to be there to give them a piece of her mind" he laughed grabbing a dessert plate and bringing over the

## Is the snow whiter?

cheese cake

"Oh I'd pay to see that" I smiled

"Oh I wouldn't, my mom scares the life out of me when she's mad" He put a huge slice of Cheese cake on the plate and offered me a fork "Lets share this" a comfortable silence fell over as we ate dessert. Both of us cleaned the kitchen and I put on the dishwasher while he added more wood to the fire and turned off the lights. I walked over and sat on the couch he came over and resumed the position from earlier and lay with his head in my lap.

I rested one hand on his stomach while I played with his hair with my other hand the only light was the bluish glow from outside and the snow and the flames licking at the wood in the fire. He reached for a remote on the table and hit a button music started playing low enough that it was just in the background. I put my head back against the back of the couch. This was the first time ever that I'd felt like this. The first time ever it felt romantic for me, just making Dinner for Beckett made me feel good and sharing dessert was something they only did in movies or so I had thought.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Beckett twisted in my lap and put his hand up to my face and wiping my cheek "Are you scared?"

"What?" I put my hand on my cheek and felt wetness

"You're crying"

"I'm happy" I smiled at him "I didn't know I was crying and the furthest thing from my mind was them" he eased up and kissed me "I just want this all done and over and to be able to go back to work and have fun again without looking over my shoulder"

"Well Dane is working on it, Kit took him some dinner to the office so we should hear something from him soon" Beckett got up "My Mom did come up with a good idea just to tick off your Ex" he went to the hall closet and dug in the pockets of his jacket and came back with a box in his hand and sat next to me "Wear this and we can show them you upgraded big" he opened the lid of the Box

"HOLY CRAP" I gasped looking at the flawless cushion cut diamond ring

"It's my Mom's anniversary ring my Dad brought her last year" Beckett smiled "But they both said to use it"

"Iâ Wow" I swallowed

"I'm not proposingâ but they don't have to know that do they" he pulled the ring from the box and slipped it onto my ring finger "Damn looks good though, way better than the thing you had beforeâ lâ lâ"



Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 47: Next step

Beckett walked down the stairs and into the kitchen his hair tousled from sleep.

"Well good morning?" Kit was sitting at the counter talking to me as I moved round making breakfast

"Why are you here at" he picked up his phone and looked at the time "Damn it's after ten" he scrubbed his hand over his face "You let me sleep in?" he walked round and kissed me

"You were dead to the world and I heard my phone ringing" I shrugged "And Kit brought over the dress" I pointed to the dress bag draped on the back of the couch

"And now I'm staying for breakfast, don't you have to work?" Kit smiled at her brother as she wrapped her hands round the coffee cup in front of her

"No. I'm off till next Tuesday" Beckett walked to the fridge and pulled out the orange juice and poured three glasses "Someone is apparently getting married and I have to be there" he sat on the stool next to his sister

"Chelle, what the hell do you see in this guy?" Kit laughed "In fact how the hell did you get this girl to fall in love with you?" she looked at her brother

"I put on my award winning smile and got her friends on my side to bug the crap out of her for me" beckett looked at me and wiggled his eye brows "and a breakfast date is one hell of a first date" I felt my cheeks flame red

"EWâ you didn't not on the first date?" Kit shuddered

"Hey you're in my house now so get used to embarrassing crap" Beckett patted her back

"HELLO, YOU GUYS BETTER NOT BE NAKED" Dane's voice carried from the front door

"Jeez call Mom and Dad and we'll have a family breakfast"

"They had locked their bedroom door and there was strange noises coming from inside" Dane walked in "But I did findâ "

"Morning" Hadley walked in "I called Dane to find out the address of this place" she was looking round wide eyed "and I brought your jeep there was another note under the windshield wiper, but it snowed and all the ink ran" she blurted out

"Did you see who did it?" I took my keys from her and put them in the bowl with Becketts keys

"Niall thought he saw something but by the time he got out of the house they were gone" Hadley shrugged "and damn is this house for real" I smiled at my ADD riddled friend

"You want to take a look round?" Beckett smiled

"Hell yeah?" Hadley grinned

Is the snow whiter?

"I'll take her" Kit got off the stool and grabbed the dress bag "I'll hang this for you as well" Dane put his laptop on the counter top as Kit and Hadley walked out of the room.

"You want some coffee?" I offered

"Dane put his laptop on the counter top as Kit and Hadley walked out of the room.

"You want some coffee?" I offered

"Please?" Dane nodded

"So did you manage to find out anything?" I put the food out and handed Beckett a plate as Dane sat down

"Oh Yeah" Dane smiled "considering they are such businessmen they got sloppy" he opened up his laptop "Hell I spent the night in the office because I really want to screw these people"

"Amen to that" Beckett added "Did you see what is on Chelle's finger?" Dane looked at me and then at my hands

"YOU PROPOSED?" he spluttered making Beckett and I start to laugh "DUDE nice move" okay that shut us both up and we looked at him "I'm so calling Best man"

"He didn't propose" I shook my head 'the ring is your Mom's"

"Ohâ ; well okay my bad" Dane fidgeted "Sorry"

"It's okay Bro. now what did you find out?"

"Well I found out who they were planning on selling these two companies to and I got in touch with them and told them I was the lawyer for the true owner of the company and I could act for you" he stopped and looked at me" and I wanted to call you but I had to act quickly and I hope you don't mind"

"I just want to get at them" I leant on the counter opposite the two of them

"Well that's what I thought so I negotiated a deal with them for you for ownership of the companies" he pulled up files on the screen "I found out your Daddy and the dipshit wanted a little over six and a half million" I felt my jaw drop "For one and three point two million for the other" Beckett coughed in to his coffee

"Dollars?" I croaked

"No Jelly beans" Dane smiled

"Hey" I frowned at him

"So just under ten million dollars?" Beckett rubbed his hand across his jaw as he forked up scrambled eggs I put another plate down in front of Dane

"OOOO food thank you" he rubbed his hands together and picked u a fork "Hey if he didn't propose then can I because you are awesome making breakfast" Dane grinned

"Hey" Beckett literally growled at him

## Is the snow whiter?

"I was messing around" Dane frowned "Lighten upâ!"

"Hey hello" I waved my hand in front of their faces "We were sayingâ well you were saying"

"Oh right sorry yes" Dane got up and got the bag he'd brought in with him and fetched out an envelope "These are legal watertight sale documents" he looked at me and laid them out in front of me "I undercut your father which made the buyers jump at it"

"How much did you tell them?"

"Seven point two million" Dane smiled "They want these papers back by noon"

"Are you sure it's alright, I mean it's legal?" I looked at the papers then back at Dane

"Totally I got Tate in working with me By the way if you go ahead and sign these and get the money then you have to buy both of us dinner and have us as your attorneys" he smiled. I looked at beckett

"He wouldn't screw you over Chelle I swear to you" Beckett looked sincere "but it's up to you" he put his hand over mine

"Chelle they used you to avoid certain taxes setting these up in your name but there was nothing tying them to either company set up" Dane picked up his coffee "Like I said they got very sloppy and they might have already realized this with how they are trying to find you, but you are one step ahead. One thing is I want to be with you and with him when you go meet them tomorrow, better to have your Boyfriend and your lawyer backing you right" All I could do was nod

"Chelle" Beckett squeezed my hand

"Do you have a pen?" I said taking a deep breath

"I do" Beckett pulled one from his bag. Both Beckett and Dane were perfectly still as I put my name where Dane had indicate with tags and initials in other places. I pushed them back toward Dane.

"Is that all I have to do?" I asked nervously

"No I need a bank account number for you so you can have the money put directly in there" He signed where he needed to sign and put the papers back into the envelope and into his bag "And then I just need to get back to the office?"

"Scan and fax them from here" Beckett suggested "Use my office"

"Okay good point" Dane smiled taking more food on his fork "All I need is the bank details and I'll go in his office and get all these dealt with" I walked over to my purse and pulled out my wallet and handed over my check book. "Don't look so nervous I'm very good at what I do" Dane squeezed my arm and took the check book from me and took his laptop and bag with him and went into a room to the left of the kitchen I hadn't noticed before but it was an elegant modern office. I felt hands on my shoulders.

"You okay?"

"So who gets the money?" I turned in his arms and frowned up at him

Is the snow whiter?

"You will, but Dane can help you make the most out of it" Beckett hugged me to him "I love youâ it's going to be one hell of a day tomorrow"

"You can say that again like the rest of our relationship it's been a whirlwind"â lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 48: Hit's home

"Okay I'm starving" Hadley and Kit walked back into the room

"You want some?" I stopped and took a deep breath

"Are you okay?" Hadley looked worried

"She's fine" Beckett didn't take his eyes from me

"Yeah I'm fine" I smiled at Hadley until this was all done and dusted I didn't want to say anything in case it didn't happen "So Eggs and Bacon okay?" I walked back into the kitchen Hadley was still looking at me a little puzzled, Beckett walked over to Hadley.

"Can I talk to you for a minute?" She looked at him and nodded the two of them walked out into the hallway as Kit talked about the wedding at ninety miles an hour showing how nervous she was.

"Is she really okay?" Hadley asked pushing her hands in her pockets "Because I swear to god if you use her, or hurt her in anyway shape or form I will frost your damn cupcake and it won't be pretty" She poked him in the chest making him smile at her

"Hadley I promise I'm not going to hurt her, I love her and I heard you and Snowy are set to move in together" Hadley nodded "Well I'm trying to get Chelle to come move in here with me" Hadley raised her eyebrows "What?"

"Quick isn't it?" She cocked her head "I mean all you've done is... Well to put it bluntly... Banged the ass off my best friend for the past month" Beckett took a deep breath

"And I understand that but we also talk and she has got me wanting to ditch work just so I can stay with her, I'd freeze my ass off all day on the mountain if I could, and drink myself stupid every night to have her serve me in the bar, and hell I let her drive my car without a second thought" that made Hadley soften "This shit with her Dad and the guy she married is about to hit the fan and I'm hoping it's going to go the right way for her but I need you and the guys to be there if she needs more than me.

"You are kidding right" he put her hand on her hips "We've always been there for her, hell the guys were there before I was friends with her and they love to death... never doubt that we would be there she's our friend" she poked him again "and damn this is one hell of a house... she deserves someone like you, you know that, it's about time she was happy" Hadley put her arms round him and hugged him "But I will kick your ass if you step out of line" Beckett stared to laugh

"That I really don't doubt" he put his arm round her shoulders as they walked back into the kitchen Kit and I were waltzing around the living room. "What the hell is going on?" he laughed

"Practicing" I called out as I dipped Kit

"I'm trying to remember how to make my feet work" Kit grinned "and damn your girlfriend can dance"

"Hmmm didn't know that" Beckett came over "May I?" He held out his hand

"Sure you can dance with your sister" I nodded

## Is the snow whiter?

"Dork he's talking about you" Kit backed away from me. I felt my cheeks flush as Beckett pulled me into his arms and started where Kit and I had left off.

"See I swear to god it should be you getting marriedâ!" Dane called out Beckett and I stopped dancing and looked at him I gripped onto Becketts arm

"Well" Beckett asked for me.

"I'd like you to sign into your Bank account Miss Deering" he put his laptop down in the counter and turned it to face me. I walked over and sat down and logged onto my online banking. Suddenly every breath seemed to be knocked out of me as I saw the figures in my account.

"Chelle" Hadley put her hand on my shoulder, I just pointed to the screen "OOOO the bank screwed up and put that in your accountâ! you have to call them or you could get screwed for it"

"Hmmm" I couldn't form words

"It's her money" Dane explained "Let's just say it was what was owed to her for the years of crap she's had to take"

"But that's over seven million dollars in there" Hadley squeaked "I mean it'sâ! Wellâ! DAMN" She sat down on the stool next to me

"I think you need this Kit put a glass of brandy in front of me"

"Kit it's eleven am" Beckett groaned

"And" I said picking up the glass and knocking it back "And you're sure it's legal"

"I'm positive it's legal" he laughed "Hadley you need that ride back to your place"

"Sure" Hadley nodded "Hey call if you need anything"

"I will" I kissed her cheek "Dane thank you"

"Yes Ma'am" he hugged me "Kit let these two have some time"

"I was going to" Kit grabbed her coat from the back of the couch and put it on "We'll see you at the wedding tomorrow" she hugged me "and good luck with the meeting"

"Thank you and I can't wait to see you tomorrow" I smiled at her Beckett walked them all out before coming back to me.

"You want me to clean up the kitchen" he asked tipping his head and looking at me

"No, you have work to do don't you?"

"Nope I did it all I just need to check my e-mails, but I think we both go out for lunch" and maybe how about we go boarding this afternoon and let you get some sense of normal"

"Sounds perfect" I nodded "Beckett"

## Is the snow whiter?

"Hmmm" he picked up the plates and started to load the dishwasher "You still want me to move in?" he stopped and looked at me

"Hell yeah! especially now you're rich" he teased I frowned at him "Baby I'm kidding we have almost matching bank accounts girl I'm not after you for your money" He wiped his hands and came over to me taking the dirty cups from my hands "I want you for you, so Sunday how about we move you in here?"

## Chapter 49: Big brothers and questions?

The rest of the day I didn't have time to think about the money or the meeting with my Father the next day. Beckett kept me occupied we went to the mountain and I ended up giving him a lesson along with Niall and Snowy who of course had been told about the events of that morning so it ended up with them making a huge deal out of the ring that Beckett hadn't allowed me to take off.

"Oh my god, you three are pains in the ass" I laughed as I walked into the Ski lodge and ordered hot chocolate for all of us

"Well Come on what the heck do you expect when you have a chunk of ice sitting on your finger" Niall hip checked me before taking two of the cups "and you were the only girl out there with us so we have to pick in you because we're your friends and you can't be as mean to us as you can to Cupcake" he laughed

"Why would I be mean to him I'm moving in with him on Sunday and I checked the roster you and Layton have the day off so you get to help move my things" I patted his cheek and picked up the two other cups and walked over to where Snowy and Beckett were taking up residence by the fire place. "Hey, We've got Niall and Layton to help move my things this Sunday" I sat down next to Beckett and handed him his drink

"No wait you tricked me in to it and I never said I would" Niall groaned as he gave Snowy his drink

"I'll make dinner if you help out and stop giving me so much crap about a ring that isn't mine" I wrapped my hands round the cup as Beckett sipped his drink with a smirk on his face

"You know we'll be there to help you" Niall smiled "So you guys going to come to the bar tonight?"

"No we're going home" Beckett looked at him "We've got a meeting at noon and then my sister's wedding"

"It's going to be one hell of a long day" I chewed my lip

"But it's going to be a good day" Beckett looked at me "We're going to make the most of it" he reached for my hand and squeezed it

"He's right Chelle don't let them intimidate you" Snowy moved forward and put his elbows on his knees and for once the fun Snowy was gone. "Time for them to get what's coming to them" Niall was nodding with agreement "We know what happened with Dane and what he's done and you deserve it and hell if Beckett needs back up if they try to screw you over then all he has to do is call and the three of us"

"Four" Beckett chimed in making the guys frown at him "Hadley"

"Damn I forgot about my girlfriend for a minute" Snowy smiled "But we'll come running"

"We love you" Niall sighed "You're the sister none of us wanted and all of us got" he laughed making Beckett smile "Thanks for the hot chocolate and a good afternoon" he finished his Drink "But we need to go and give Hadley crap at the bar" Niall and Snowy got up; I stood up and hugged them both. Niall was right we were like brothers and sister even if they'd all hit on my more than once. Beckett patted his lap to me as the guys walked out. I sat down and snuggled into him.

"You've got some amazing friends" his fingers stroked up and down my back



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"Pains in the ass most of the time but I agree they are amazing" I nodded "You think we can go home and just have a good night"

"And what do you consider to be a good night Miss. Deering?" He chuckled, a low rumble in the tone of his voice

"Dinner in front of the fireplace" I turned on his lap to look at him "Instead of beer a bottle of wine" I watched the smile twitch on his lips "Candles and the flames the only light" I moved my head and nipped at his ear making him jump a little and catch his breath "And thenâ!" I moved my hand between the two of us trailing my fingers over the ever growing bulge under his snow pants

"Okay let's get gone and we're grabbing Chinese for dinner" he swallowed hard I got up smiling and walked to the door. Beckett caught up to me and put his arm round me as we went out to his truck. We went and fetch Chinese food for dinner and took it home. Beckett lit the candles and stoked the fire as I put out the food. Bringing it over to the coffee table and setting it down as he opened the wine and poured it in to the glasses.

"Why did you make me wear this all day, I've been a nervous wreck in case I lost it" I looked down at the ring on my fingerâ "It was your mom drinking last night letting you take this" He sat back and picked up his glass

"Well she'd had a glass of wine with dinner like she does most nights" he shrugged "and it was sitting in her Jewelry box"

"Hell how do you leave a ring like this in a box" I let the light of the fire catch the facets in the stone "I'd be showing it off everyday

"Well she only wears a plain gold band when she's baking" Beckett explained ""So her engagement ring she'll put on when she gets home and this is for special occasions" I looked at him "Then won't she need it for tomorrow, for the wedding"

"No she's going to wear an emerald one to match the dress she's wearing" he shook his head "So I'm guessing we can freak out my family" I wiggled his eye brows

"Oh hell no, I'm meeting your family in one go and I'm not playing a trick on any of them" I shook my head "Dane's reaction this morning was insane"

"So you wouldn't marry me?" he leant on the table

"I want to live with you first remember I've been burnt by the marriage thing once because I wasn't one hundred percent committed and I never lived with Brett beforehand" I shook my head "I know I love you like I didn't think possible and you've never had a long term girlfriend" He nodded

"Okay you have a point" he laughed "But I can't see you being a plain diamond girl"

"I don't know, I like different, but I've never had the money for diamonds so to be honest I've never looked at them"â "â!..

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## Chapter 50: Feeling the nerves

â lâ lâ lâ !.. I woke up with Beckett curled round me the early morning light streamed through the windows. I inhaled deeply loving the smell of Fresh linen on the bed and just the masculine scent of Beckett, I pushed back against him and felt his arm tighten and his lips press against my shoulder

"Good morning" he murmured

"Morning" I rubbed the arm round me

"My body doesn't want to wake up" he groaned "You wore me out"

"Seriously" I laughed "I think you'll find you were insatiable"

"Okay true but you weren't too far behind" he rolled back and looked at the clock "I think we have time for a shower and some breakfast" I started to move under the covers raining kisses down his sides till I got to his hips "What are youâ !." He gripped the sheets and sucked in a breath as I took him in my mouth "Damn" he pushed his hips forward meeting and matching the movements of my head.

"Hey Guys, you awake" Dane's voice called from the living room "I brought breakfast and Coffee and GET THE HELL UP WE HAVE THINGS TO DO"

"I'll kill him" Beckett growled as I moved from under the cover "I'm kicking him out as of today and he's going to sleep on the damn streets"

"Like he'd be out on the streets" I flopped against the pillows

"You go shower and I'll go kill my little brother" Beckett kissed me "Love you" he got out of bed I smiled as he bent and picked up his jeans from the floor and pulled them on.

"Are you going Commando in your Tux later?" I giggled

"When have you known me wear underwear?" he stopped at the door and looked at me "When I have a girl like you waiting in bed for me another layer of clothing would be just frustrating" he winked at me and pulled the door closed behind him. Beckett walked down the stairs to find Dane sitting already in an impeccable suit.

"Well I hope you're going to be wearing more than just your nipple ring and your jeans" Dane sipped his coffee

"Well when some asshole comes in right when my girl wasâ ! Being extremely good, I ain't going to be getting up and getting dressed you're damn lucky I took a minute to calm down"

"Look you can bang her off every surface in this entire house after this meeting" Dane shrugged "She has to be prepared for it. Remember this Beckett these men ran her life and controlled her for so damn long she's tough I get it but they had some hold on her that is going to bring back some memories" Beckett rubbed the back of his neck

"I know" he sighed "I guess I'm just worried about her"

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"You thinkâ You've been together a month and she's moving in tomorrow, she's wearing a ring in her finger that I understand the reasoning about winding the asshole up, but I heard she was wearing it yesterday on the mountain" Beckett smiled

"How did you hear that?"

"I was in the bar with Harris last night and was talking to Niall" Dane pushed a coffee in Beckett's direction

"Fine I like the way it looks on her finger if you must know, I like the fact I put it there" Beckett walked to the windows and looked out.

"Dude who the hell are you and where's my Brother?" Dane picked up one of his Mom's Raspberry white chocolate muffins and took a bite out of it

"That girlâ I mean she's justâ I need her in my life. I can't tell you what makes me so sure" he looked at Dane "I'm scared Dane, I'm scared I'm going to screw things up with her and she'll be gone"

"Wow you fell hard and fast didn't you?" Dane tipped his head

"Unbelievably so, you should go check out the browser history in my laptop in my office and go see what I was looking at when I was on a conference call with some clients" Beckett walked over and picked up a muffin and walked over to the couch and sat down.

"You been on that porn site again?" Dane chuckled sitting opposite Beckett and getting the finger for it. "So what have you been looking at?"

"Well it'sâ !" Beckett sat back as I started down the stairs "Hey Baby you all good?"

"Yes, shower's free for you. Morning Dane"

"Morning Chelle, there is muffins and Coffee in the kitchen on the counter. Then we need to go over a few things" I nodded at him and walked into the kitchen. Beckett got up and came over to me

"I'm going to go in the shower, I won't be long" I nodded "If you want to wait to talk to Dane you can wait till I come out"

"I'll be okay" I hugged him "The nerves are starting to kick in"

"Don't worry you have Dane and I there to have your back they can't hurt you or do anything to you remember that" he kissed me "I love you"

"I love you too" I followed him back to where Dane was before he went upstairs. "Looking very professional Mr. Mackay" I laughed nervously.

"Why thank you Ma'am" his smile was as calming as his brothers "How you feeling?"

"Like I want to throw up" I curled my legs up on the couch and held the coffee close "My hands are clammy"

"You pregnant?" Dane cheekily poked his tongue in his cheek

"I'm not even answering that" I hung my head "do you think they'll say anything?"

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"Oh I think they will say a whole lot, especially that the company that you sold too yesterday, were going to let your Father's company know they were going to begin legal proceedings over the deal they were trying to set up because the companies weren't theirs to sell" Dane lent his elbows on his knees and looked at me "I've gone over the paperwork again and again and so has Tate and we even took it to the guy we both did internships with and he said it's watertight. They can scream shout and threaten whatever they want there is no court in this country that will take their side "Let's just see what they say okay and you can throw it all back at them".

I looked at the fireplace and took a drink and prayed that he was rightâ lâ lâ lâ lâ ;

## Chapter 51: That revelation was a kicker

â lâ lâ lâ !. The three of us walked out to the garage Beckett opened the door to his Mustang for me as Dane opened the door of his car and got in.

"I'll meet you both there" Dane said before closing the door and pulling out. Beckett came round and got in the drivers side and started the engine.

"You're chewing your lip" he glanced over at me as he reversed out and pulled down the driveway

"I'm sorryâ ; I don't know if I can do this" I swallowed hard

"Hold your head up baby and if you want to break then you do it on me after you've seen them you can scream and cry and throw things but you have to show them the girl you've become the strong beautiful woman I'm in love with, you don't let Snowy and the others give you crap, and I've seen you handle drunks in the bar this are assholes that made you a pawn in their game, didn't give a damn about you as a personâ !" he trailed off as I smiled at him "What"

"Yes coach" I laughed "You sound like my old Volleyball coach in high school giving the pep talk before a game" he reached for my hand and squeezed it, with a smile

We got to the hotel where we were supposed to meet my Father. The nerves ramped up as the valet opened the door Dane was waiting for us on the curbside.

"Damn Girl you look white as the snow" Dane's brow furrowed

"Slap me" I looked at him

"Hell no, he'll beat my ass" he chuckled pointing at his brother Beckett came over and put the valet tag in his pocket and reached for my hand

"What are you two talking about?"

"Slapping me"

"I'm not going to ask, and can we get this doneâ !"

"Amen to that" I nodded "Let's go before I run for the hills" the three of us walked into the lobby. Dane looked round I nodded in the direction of the hotel bar and gripped Becketts hand tighter. My father was sitting with Brett both of them dressed in business suits, my father reading the Wall street Journal while Brett was on his laptop.

"Damn he looks more weasley in person" Dane muttered

"You can say that again" Beckett was literally grinding his teeth

"Doing that is only making me want to turn around and bolt for the door" I said tugging on his hand

"I'm sorry Baby" he faced me and kissed my forehead

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"Let's get this over with" Dane put his hand in the small of my back I nodded. We walked into the bar. My father looked up and did a double take not recognizing me at first without the short cut blond hair.

"Well I would have walked right by you in the street" He meticulously folded the newspaper as Brett looked round his Jaw dropping open "I didn't expect you to turn up Michelle"

"I almost didn't but I wanted to tell you to get out of my town and leave me alone" Beckett was just off set behind me with Dane "I have a life that I love"

"You're playing Michelle" Brett jumped in "You need to grow the hell up and be the respectable wife of an executive"

"I divorced you because I didn't love you I never loved you and you just wanted to get in his back pocket" I pointed to my Father "and you used me and my need for your acknowledgement to get me to sign things for you" My Father remained calm

"Your Mother and Sisters were beside themselves when you walked away" he narrowed his eyes "Do you know the humiliation that the family went through when you leftâ the looks I got in the country club because My Daughter had left not only the man she married but her entire familyâ"

"We had to tell people you had a mental breakdown and had been sent to a facility in California" Brett scowled at me "How do you think it looked for a man in my position to have a wife with mental problemsâ but it was easier than to tell people you ran away" I saw his eyes stray to Beckett and Dane "especially when you obviously left me because you were cheating on me"

"I never cheated on you and believe me no one would have blamed me if I had because you sure weren't paying attention to me in the bedroom" I folded my arms over my chest "I left you because I realized I was nothing and would never be anything other than a pawn in whatever business deal you wanted to do and a trophy on your arm at the club"

"You're far from a trophy" My father snapped a little "Michelle you've always been the black sheep in the family I told your Mother it was a bad idea to raise you after her Drug addict piece of crap sister had you on the floor in that trailer she lived inâ we should have given you over to the state"â lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

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## Chapter 52: Hold it together

Well that was the last thing I ever expected to hear, I tried and don't know if I fully managed it to keep a poker face while my brain ran round scream 'WTH'. Beckett's hand was on my back, I took strength and comfort from it and remembered what he'd said in the car about staying strong in front of them and if I needed to break on him at home.

"Really, well to tell you the truth I would have had a better life if I had been lost in the system and passed from foster home to foster home instead of feeling like I was never good enough" my voice was stronger than I thought possible right now.

"Well with that said" My father pulled a file folder from his briefcase on the table "Sign these and we will never have to see you again" his voice was the one he'd always used when he was irritated.

"No" I shook my head "I made sure I had all the documents you made me sign when I left and I kept them just in case I needed to" I watched the color drain from Brett's face "I had my Lawyer go over them" I looked at Dane

"Mr. Deering" Dane sat down across from my father "I don't know who you had draw up the documents but they really didn't do a good job" he shook his head and took out the sale documents "A first year law student would have seen that in all rights the company's belonged to Miss Deering, started with money from her own accounts meaning untraceable to you or your other holdings" My father fidgeted with his tie "As of Noon Yesterday Both companies were sold for a lot less then you were trying to sell them for" the red rage rose from under the collar of my father's shirt "I've had my work checked out by one of the leading corporate lawyers in the country and what I have done is solid and airtight there is no come back that you can do" Dane smiled "Now I have taken the liberty of also having these drawn up after seen the distress that my client was in when she received things in the mail and at her work places from both of you" her handed and envelope to my father and to Brett "You are not allowed to have any contact with Miss Deering or be within five hundred feet of her from now" he looked at the Breitling watch on his wrist "Oh look at that ten minutes from now"

"You can't do this?" My Father spluttered

"Oh we have and we did" Dane got up "Miss Deering has two lawyers at her disposal twenty four hours a day and we will take down anyone legally"

"Chelle Lets go sweetheart" Beckett put his arm round my waist I nodded "Oh and I think this is yours" he dug into the pocket of his jeans and dropped my wedding band on the table in front of him "That is pitiful This is a diamond" He took my left hand where his Mom's huge ring was still sitting comfortably and showed them "Some men know what they have when they find the right girl" he put his arm back round my waist and we walked to the doorway of the hotel bar where Dane was standing waiting. He looked at me

"Keep going it's almost over" Dane rubbed my arm as we carried on past him before he turned and followed us out Beckett handed the Valet the tag

"I need a drink" I murmured

"Is Hadley working?"

"No not till tonight" I shook my head numbly

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"Okay" the familiar rumble of Beckett's car split the cold crisp air as it pulled up

"I'm going to go file some papers at the office" Dane was right next to us "I'll see the two of you at the wedding"

"Dane" I turned from Beckett and looked at his brother "Thank you"

"You're more than welcome and Tate and I are holding you to dinner one night" he smiled warmly and kissed my cheek "You are an amazing person no matter who your parents were" the valet got out of the car and came round and opened the passenger door for me to get in. I fastened my seat belt as Beckett got in and closed the door pulling away from the hotel without a second thought. He headed into town to one of the small cozy bars nothing was said between us. He got out and came round pulling me close to him as we went inside

"You go sit down I'll get you a drink" Beckett kissed my temple; all I could do was nod and walk over to a table in the corner. I put my head in my hands everything I'd known as a child had just been thrown out of the window. "Drink this" Beckett put a glass of Whiskey on the table in front of me.

"My life isâ" I didn't even have words for it

"I take it that you had no idea" I shook my head and cradled the glass in my hands "Not looking so good now am I?" the tears filled my eyes "My Mother was a junkie and my father was god knows whoâ I was never wanted Beckett" tears splashed onto my jeans and the glass shook in my fingers He moved his seat next to mine and pulled me to him taking the glass from my fingers so I could wrap my arms round him as I broke my entire body shaking as he stroked my hairâ



## Chapter 53: Push thoughts to the back of my mind

Beckett moved away and held my face in his hands wiping the tears with his thumbs

"Baby you are wanted. You wanted by your friends because they love you and you're wanted by me more than all of them put together, I love you and you are my world and I can't wait for you to wake up with me everyday" he smiled his best Beckett sexy smile "I'm the one here for you and I want to be there for you no matter what" he tipped his head

"I know and thank you" I touched his hand on my face "I'm going to be okayâ right?" he nodded

"Take the drink and let's go home we have four hours until the wedding" I picked up the drink and knocked it back

"I promise I'm not going to be sad at the wedding" I took a deep breath "I just want to go have fun and be with you, all the other stuffâ"

"We can work on later" Beckett moved back "Let's go" he got up and offered me his hand

"I was surprised with the whole restraining order" I said as I looked at the mountain as we headed to Beckett's house

"I'm not that's my brother for you he's normally three steps ahead of most people" he laughed "and he really likes you"

"I love your family, I guess it sort of has shown me in a short space of time what a family is supposed to be like" I looked over at him and felt a rush of butterflies just at the content look on his face.

"Well don't get them wrong" he sighed "we've had some huge fights over the years but I love my brother and sister" he glanced over at me as he pulled into the garage

"You can see that" I nodded getting out Beckett got out and rested his arms on the roof of the car

"You have a family you know"

"I knowâ Your friends are the family you choose for yourself" I nodded walking round to him I rested my head between his shoulders as he stayed leaning on the roof of the car "I love you"

"Are you still going to move in here with me Miss Deering?"

"As long as you still want me I will" I let him turn round and face me

"I want you and I need you" he touched my face "Never truly believed in things like love at first sight until you" he chuckled as my cheeks flushed "Come on let's go get ready I have something for you"

"I've heard that before and we haven't gotten out of bed for a few hours" I smiled glad that he was still treating me like me and not some orphan leper

"Don't tempt me otherwise I'll have a really crabby sister after me" he winked at me the two of us started to get read Beckett disappearing for a while to answer a work call. My phone started to ring. I walked out of the

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bathroom and grabbed it smiling at Hadley's picture that came up as ID

Me \* hey girl

Hadley \* how did it go? We're all sitting here eating lunch waiting to hear from you

Me \* sorry, I'm here getting ready for the weddingâ It sucked ass seeing them this morning

Snowy \* are you okay? Beckett looking after you?

Me \* yes he is and I'm going to be okay. I heard something that it going to take a while to sink in and for me to process, but I can't go into it and don't want to today because it's not good but how about tomorrow you help me move into Becketts place and I'll make dinner and explain a few things

Niall \* when have you ever known us to refuse food and as long as you're okay we can wait another day

Layton \* Call us when you guys want us and we'll help out

Me \* thank you guys and I love you

Hadley \* we love you too

I hung up the phone and re checked my hair and makeup in the bathroom mirror. I went back out into the bedroom and unzipped the dress bag pulling out the red strapless gown that was inside making me smile, it was stunning even my prom dress had been a rental where as my sisters dresses had been brought from a store in New York. I frowned small things like that hadn't made sense was the time but after what had been said that morning it was clearer. I pulled off the towel I'd been wearing while I got ready and gently pulled on the soft material tugging up the side zipper and smoothing my hand over the small ruches in the bodice.

"Sorry about that it wasâ Damn" Beckett stopped in the doorway of the room his eyes wide as he looked me up and down. I turned round and looked at him

"Well you think I look okay to meet the family?"

"I thinkâ I know you look incredible and they will think the same" he smiled walking over to me "Damn you're hot"

"Well you have to thank your sister for having such an amazing closet for me to go shop in" I picked up the purse and slipped my cell phone inside.

"There is something missing" he tipped his head "Give me five minutes to get dressed and like I said before I have something for you" I sat on the couch in the corner of the room and slipped my feet into the expensive shoes I'd almost choked on buying when I was with Hadley. "Okay How do I look?" I looked up as Beckett walked out in a perfectly fitting suit, I swallowed hard

"Oh talk about hot" I got up "Wow now that is impressive" I laughed

"Why thank you Ma'am" he drawled "Now" He opened the drawer on the nightstand on his side of the bed and pulled out a watch and quickly put it on and then he pulled out a flat box and came over to me "I had a meeting in the city the other day and Met my Dad for lunch" I nodded "Well he had to go and get my sisters gift from him and Mom for her wedding, and I went with him and saw these and all I could think of was you

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and the tattoo on your foot and how I met you in the snow" he opened the box, inside was a necklace with five snowflakes on it and a pair of snowflake earrings. I felt my eyes get wide "All pure white Diamonds so they catch the light" he murmured

"It's beautiful" I touched them

'Can I put the necklace on you" I nodded he set the box on the bed and lifted the necklace coming behind me and putting it on me letting it hang perfect above the dress I took the earrings and put them on Beckett came back around and smiled "I told my dad they would look perfect on you" I moved back into the bathroom and looked in the mirror he was right they did look amazing

"Thank you" He looked up as I came out of the bathroom "I love them"

"Good" he picked up the black wrap that went with the dress and held it out to me "Let's go I'm looking forward to seeing peoples reaction when I walk in with you on my arm"â

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## Chapter 54: Gold Digger ME!

We got to the Resort and a valet opened the door for me to get out Dane was standing at the top of the stairs by the door he smiled as Beckett took the tag from the valet and offered me his arm I gathered up the skirt and we climbed the stairs.

"Well you look good" Dane lent in and kissed my cheek

"Thank you" I nodded "And I have to say thank you again for what you did"

"Don't mention it, it was fun to say the least" He grinned "And well you're as good as my sister-in-law" he poked his tongue in his cheek

"Dude" Beckett groaned

"What well after theâ " "

"And my brother and I were just going to go this way for a minute" Beckett grabbed Dane's arm and pulled him back down the stairs.

"Boys will be boys" Marty walked out of the lobby "I'll escort you in if that's alright because it's freezing out here" he offered me his arm "And may I say you look beautiful Chelle"

"Thank you" I took his arm and we walked into the warmth of the Resort lobby

"So is Kit nervous?" I asked as I handed over my wrap to the Coat room attendant

"If she is she's hiding it very much like her brothers do" He smiled "I think Dina is more nervous right now" he chuckled "Come on I'd like to introduce you to My Mom" Oh here we go meeting the family. He led me through a throng of people saying hello to people as he went by them "Mom" a woman turned around from the people she was talking to.

"I wondered where you went" She smiled at him

"I saw Beckett pull up outsideâ " I'd like you to meet someone" he looked at me and smiled "Yvonne Mackay this is Michelle Deering"

"Ah the girl that has tamed our wild one" she tipped her head and looked at me "Well I must say he's always had an eye for the pretty ladies" I fought to stop my eyebrow from popping

"Mom" there was a warning in the use of the word from Marty

"Marty I think you should go check on Katherine"

"She's fine"

"Really then why is Dina on the staircase over there seeming to be looking for you?" she turned her son around and pointed to the stairs Marty frowned and turned back to me "Chelle I'm going toâ " "

"Go it's alright" I nodded and watched as he Walked away

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"So you've sort of fallen quickly into the family. You're a ski girl aren't you?"

"I'm a snow board instructor which is where I met your Grandson" I looked at her

"He's a catch"

"I agree" just what the hell was this woman getting at "But then according to him so am I" she suppressed a smirk "Yes I fell in love with beckett when I wasn't looking to find a man. Believe me with my past it was the last thing I wanted but he is different. He's driven, determined, good looking and he's got a heart and gives a damn about people"

"And he's got a very considerable bank account that a lot of people know about hence the reason he was one of the states most desirable men" she narrowed her eyes at me "There has been gold diggers before"

"Well didn't get them to far did it, I'm the one moving in with him and why would I want his bank account, I'm not that shallow. I work for the things I want and I work two jobs to make rent and pay my bills, I've never asked anyone for anything" after the morning I'd had this wasn't the best thing to be coming at me with.

"There you are Baby" I felt a hand in the small of my Back "Grandma, you'd better be being nice to Chelle"

"Sweetie" Beckett leant in and kissed her cheek "You know me I need to vet those you and your brother and sister deem to want to be with" she looked at him with utter pride in her face which made me soften a little toward her as she obviously adored her grandchildren

"Oh Jeez you didn't scare her away did you G'ma" Dane came over grinning from ear to ear "It's the first girl he's seen that we all like and she's a keeper"

"Well she's not scared to stand up for you and for being with you" She looked at Beckett "Reminds me a little of myself when your Great Grandmother didn't want me marrying your Grandpa"

"Well, Chelle is here to stay" Beckett looked at me as he slipped his arm round my waist "So expect her at thanksgiving dinner"

"Oh I will" His grandma looked at me "Keep up with that kick ass spirit my dear, my grandson sometimes needs a hard hand to rein him in" I heard Beckett groan

"Yes Ma'am" I smiled wrapping my arm round Beckett and hugging him

"Dane, will you escort your Grandmother to her seat" she beamed at him and he held his arm out to her and they walked away from us

'Oh Chelle I'm so sorry you got stuck with herâ she's vicious with new people sometimes" he seemed to look me over as if she's bitten me or something equally as strange

"It's okay I think she's just trying to protect you from gold diggers" Beckett's eyes got wide

"She called you that?"

"In a round about way sort of" I nodded "But I can see where she's coming from. she's got to know I don't make a ton of money with my jobs and you" I walked my fingers up his chest making him smile "Well brought me diamonds" I fingered my necklace

Is the snow whiter?

"And I'd buy them for you every week" he kissed me "I love you"

"I love you too"â lâ lâ lâ !

## Chapter 55: Wedding over

Beckett introduced me to a few other people before we walked through the too room for the ceremony. Everyone was dressed up women in gowns in a rainbow of colors. Other people I hadn't met turned and looked as Beckett held his arm round my waist possessively we took our seats next to Dane and their grandma. The room was decorated with trees in gold's and lit with candles Beckett linked his fingers with mine and pulled my hand on to his lap His thumbs absently stroking the back of my hand making me smile.

The entire wedding was beautiful right down to the vows they had written themselves making people laugh and cry. I'd never seen two people look so in love at Harris and Kit did. As they were pronounced husband and wife Harris dipped her in a kiss that had us all blushing. Everyone moved into the bar of the resort for cocktail hour Beckett close by my side introducing me to people that as soon as they had gone by I knew I'd forget their names.

"You doing okay?" Beckett moved round to stand facing me

"The wedding is amazing, it's perfect" I smiled at him

"I'm not talking about the wedding, I'm making sure you're okay after this morning" he put his hands on my hips "And being here and meeting the entire family has to be over whelming"

"It is but it's a really good distraction keeping my mind away from the crap" I sighed putting my hands on his arms

"Good" He smiled at me "You know I've been asked a few times if I was going to be next with the whole wedding deal" I raised my eye brow "People noticed the ring" he lifted my left hand and rubbed his thumb over the diamond ring of his Mom's.

"Well whose' idea was it for me to keep it on after this morning?" I poked him in the stomach

"Mine and I won't lie I love seeing the look on people's faces" he bent his head and kissed me

"Get a room" Kit laughed "Chelle you look amazing" she hugged me

"So do you" I held her hands "Your dress is stunning and Congratulations"

"Thank you, you ready to party"

"Oh hell yeah" I nodded

"I can see you having a total winter wedding all white andâ '"

"And my sister has been drinking too much champagne already" Beckett rolled his eyes

"And my brother has a stubborn stick up his ass that needs to be yanked out" she poked her tongue out at him as Harris walked over

"Excuse me guys I'd love to dance with my wife" I heard a little giggle come from Kit her eyes seemed to twinkle "Chelle you look almost as Beautiful as Kit here" he chuckled

## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm good with taking second to the bride" I nodded he pulled kit into his arms and took her to the dance floor with him "They are so in love" I sighed as I felt Beckett move behind me

"I'm sorry people keep making comments about us getting married and me putting a ring on your finger"

"Its wedding feverâ they'll stop with it as soon as today is over" I leant back against him "and I give your Mom the ring back"

"You want to dance?" he took my hand and pulled me into the mass of people now dancing. The rest of the night was spent letting loose on the dance floor and me wishing I was dressed more like when I worked so I wasn't so confined in the dress. The night started to wind down a little after one am. I sat down on a chair Dane sat with me as Beckett went to get my wrap

"You guys should have taken advantage of staying here tonight Dad paid for a bunch of rooms"

"I didn't know and I think it was the last thing Beckett thought about with everything else that happened" I looked at him

"You have a point" Dane laughed "You doing okay?"

"Right now yes when the revelation sinks in ask me again" I shrugged. Dina walked over and took a seat "Amazing wedding"

"It was wasn't it" she smiled "first of my Babies to get married"

"Here we go" Dane shook his head

"Well maybe it would be good if you settled down like your brother and sister instead of trying to Sleep with everywoman you set your eyes on" she chastised him with a smirk on her face

"Oh talking about things like that" I pulled the ring from my finger "Thank you so much for letting me borrow this I held it out to her "I think My ex's jaw went through the table when Beckett said something about it" I laughed

"I'm happy it worked for you" she took the ring and slipped it on to the finger on her right hand "I'll give Marty his dues he knows how to pick jewelry"

"It's a beautiful ring" I nodded

"Maybe you'll get one" Dane picked up his drink. I looked at him "Whatâ If my brother is too slow off the mark then you have Seven million dollars sitting in your bank account that is all yours to spend as yu want" He got up "I'm going to go up to bed My feet are killing me in these damn dress shoes" he kissed my cheek as Beckett walked over "Good night Mom" she hugged him

"Night Dane" he hugged his brother as they passed each other

"Ready to go home Baby?" Beckett offered me my wrap I got up Dina squeezed my hand I looked at her

"Take no notice of Dane Honey When it happens it'll happen"



## Is the snow whiter?

"I'm not expecting or waiting for anything, I'm in a good place right now" I hugged her Beckett kissed his mom's cheeks

"I'll call you tomorrow Mom" Beckett put his arm round me and we made our way out to the valet "So what was all that about?" he asked taking off his tux jacket and putting it round my shoulders as I shivered against the winter chillâ !..

## Chapter 56: Anger got the better of me

"I think your mom just had a little too much champagne tonight" I shrugged as the car pulled up I walked round to the driver's door "And you've had too much to drive" I got in letting him get into the passenger seat.

"You had a drink as well"

"I had two glasses of Champagne because I knew we were coming home and it was only right you got to celebrate your sister's wedding properly" I looked over at him

"You rock you know that" he put his hand on my leg as I headed for the house.

"I gave your Mom the ring back by the way"

"You did?"

"Well it had done what was needed and pissed off Brett and it was after all her anniversary ring" I smiled as I turned into the drive of the house and opened the garage door and pulled inside

"I know it was, but you didn't have to give it back to her tonight" he pouted a little

"It's not mine" I got out and closed the door

"I know it's not but it looked"

"Beckett, I'm not going to wear a ring on that finger if it means nothing. I made that mistake once and it's not fun" He caught up to me

"I'm sorry you forgive me"

"Nothing to forgive" I kissed him "But I do want to get these shoes off" I wanted to get away from the subject of the ring and my previous mistake with Brett, he moved round me and opened the door to the house

"Well if it helps I've wanted to get the dress off you since before we left the house" he wiggled his eye brows making me laugh

"Well I think then you should do that" I put my hands on his chest and tugged his tie undone "I can think of a few things to do with this" I walked into the house away from him

I woke with a start, my eyes squinting at the light streaming through the windows Beckett muttered something and rolled over his arms over his head his snoring light. I eased out of bed and made my way into the bathroom I looked in the mirror and groaned. I reached for the wipes and started to remove the makeup that was still on from the night before. I started the shower and got in letting the water wash over me.

I started to go over the previous day and the meeting especially. The look on the faces of Brett and my Father stopped washing my hair. He wasn't my Father, after twenty five years of thinking this man hated me for not being the son he truly wanted I wasn't his anyway. It made more sense why he'd used me for setting up companies rather than my so called sisters, if things went bad then it was my head not theirs. I balled my fists and punched the wall the searing pain snapping my thoughts away from the meeting. I winced

## Is the snow whiter?

as I looked at my knuckles not looking like they should and cursed myself for being an ass and letting them get to me. I turned off the water and got out of the shower and struggled to get the towel round me I gave up and reached for Beckett's robe that was on the hook by the door and put it on. I walked out and went down to the kitchen trying to breathe through the pain in my hand; I put a pot of coffee on and made an ice pack from a Ziploc bag and a kitchen towel I moved round the kitchen trying to focus on other things. I put coffee in a cup and sat at the counter with the ice pack sitting on my hand I scrolled through my phone and worked out that everyone was still going to be sleeping other than Layton who I knew was at the mountain for a lesson as of twenty minutes ago.

"Gotta love the smell of coffee first thing in a morning" Beckett walked down the stairs "and the sight of a beautiful woman in your robe is just hot" he grinned

"Sorry I didn't mean to wake you" I looked up at him

"You didn't the smell of coffee is just to alluring" he walked round looking like a Greek god, well if Greek gods had pierced nipples I smiled to myself "Okay so that look is just naughty" he walked over to the coffee pot and poured a cup before coming over to me "What's this?" he moved the ice pack "Damn what did you do?" he frowned

"It's an ice pack and I punched the shower wall" I picked up my coffee with my other hand "and I think I busted a knuckle"

"I'll get dressed and take you to the ER" he got off the stool

"Finish your coffee first" I sighed

"You look in pain" he tipped his head and looked at me

"I am but I'm not looking forward to trying to get dressed" I smiled a little

"I'll help you get dressed you can put on one of my shirtsâ Please" he begged

"Fine" I got off the stool and followed him back upstairs to the bedroom Beckett was already in the closet pulling out a white button down shirt

"Why did you punch the wall?" he walked over to me and pulled the tie on the robe open and slipped it off my shoulders he licked his lips a little hungrily

"I was thinking about the meeting yesterday morning and I got mad" I chewed my lip "I'm hoping it's not to serious I'm back at work tomorrow behind the bar"

"True but its okay if you can't work you know remember what your bank account says" He said wearily

"I know but I love working there I might cut back on my hours so it's easier when I've got lessons on the mountain" I shrugged as I struggled to get into my tank top

"Hold on a minute" he walked over and helped pull it down over my head "Well whatever you decide I'm going to have your back" he smiled at me

"Thank you" I knew he wanted to tell me to stop working but after some of the conversations we had He knew betterâ lâ !.

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 57: Another blow

I walked out of the emergency room to where Beckett was sitting waiting he got up as I walked over I held up my casted arm

"What did they say?"

"I've broke my middle finger and two knuckles" I looked at the bright blue cast "I've got this for the next six weeks" He frowned at me "and the worst thing is it's my damn right hand"

"I never even realized that" he held out my jacket I put my arms into his and he put his arm round me

"I need to go into work and let them know I'm not going to be in for a while" I looked at him

"Can't you"

"I can't serve drinks one handed and it's not fair to slow Hadley down they can call in one of the other girls" I got in the car "Doc also told me to have the next week off of work" I looked at Beckett "I'm going to go out of my mind not doing anything"

"I'm sure we can find something for you to do" he glanced across at me "You still okay for moving in today?" I nodded "Because if you're not then say and we can put it off"

"Do you still want m.." he stopped the car and turned in his seat

"I know I want you with me I'm just not trying to push you into anything I've never been so sure of anything in my entire life well there is one more thing but I'm not going there right now" He ignored the sound of a car horn blaring behind us

"Well lets get to the house and go get my things then" I put my hand on the side of his face and kissed him

"Alright then" he turned back and put his foot down on the gas he took my right hand and put it in his lap. My phone started to ring I picked it up out of my bag

Me \* Hey I didn't think you'd be up this time on a Sunday morning

Niall \* I wish I wasn't there's been a fire

Me \* what?"

Niall \* Hads got a call about an hour ago

Me \* Niall what's going on

Niall \* there was a fire at your place

Beckett looked at me

Me \* the house?

Is the snow whiter?

Niall \* yesâ | Chelle I'm sorry the entire place was gutted

Me \* everythings gone

Niall \* everything

Me \* where are you?

Niall \* our place the fire chief is coming over in a short while, Hadley is a mess right now the doctor gave her something to sleep

Me \* we're coming over to you

Niall \* okay see you in a while

I hung up and looked at Beckett

"We could have been there, or Hadley could have gone there after work" I felt sick to my stomach

"You can't live on what if's" Beckett turned from where Hadley and I had lived toward the street the guys lived on

"Why can't things just be good?" I put my head back against the seat "I found you and then everything else went to hell"

"Well I'm here for you" he smiled and took my hand again squeezing it. We pulled up at the house Snowy walked out as I got out the car and just shook his head. He put his arms out and pulled me into a hug as Beckett offered him his hand to shake.

"Chelle I'm so sorry" I looked up at Snowy

"How did it start?"

"I don't know I'm just glad that we came back here" he let go of me and ran his hand through his hair "We got a call a little after six to say it was burning We all went there and it was alreadyâ |" he stopped "nothing was saved" I felt like the wind had been knocked out of me Beckett snaked his arm round my waist.

"Lets go inside" Niall was in the doorway he bent his head and kissed my cheek as I walked by him and shook Becketts hand "How did the wedding go?"

"It was really good" Beckett nodded watching me as I sat on the hearth of the fireplace "We had a good night"

"Looks like it" Niall frowned and lifted my arm in the cast "What the hell did you do fight for the bouquet that was tossed?"

"No but that would have been one hell of a story" Beckett laughed

"I punched a wall this morning" I looked at my cast

"What did you do?" Snowy looked at Beckett

Is the snow whiter?

"Hey I was sleeping" he held up his hands

"I was thinking about the meeting I had with my Dad and Brett and some of the things they said" Beckett sat next to me and stretched out his legs

"Did the meeting not go well?" Niall sat on the coffee table and frowned

"It was up and down and I found out that the people who I thought were my parents weren't" Niall looked at Beckett who was rubbing his hand across the five o'clock shadow on his face

"Damn" Snowy walked to the kitchen and came back with four shot glasses and a bottle of whiskey.

"Dude it's nine in the morning" Beckett laughed

"And I think we need one of these" Snowy opened the bottle and poured the shots

"Rough few weeks huh?" Niall rolled the glass in his hands, I nodded

"Some things were good" I linked my arm through Beckett's and rested my head on his arm "I'm glad the house was insured" they all looked at me "Well what's the point in worrying and crying over stuff when Hadley and I are both safe and well"

"She has a point" Niall shrugged "It doesn't even bear thinking about what could have been"

"I can help rebuild" Beckett offered "You were supposed to be moving in with Hadley weren't you?"

"I was" Snowy nodded she's going to move in here for now though

"Well just say and I'll help you guys out" she said.

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 58: Friends are my family

The door knocked and Niall got up and walked down the stairs to the door as Beckett's phone rang.

"It's my Dad" he sent it to voice mail

"You could have answered it" I got up and walked into the guys' kitchen and put the shot glass in the dishwasher and started to make a pot of coffee. Snowy walked into the kitchen behind me.

"Fire Marshall is here" I looked round at him "I'm going to get Hadley up" I nodded "Sorry about all the stuff you lost"

"Can't cry over it" I rubbed his arm "My favorite boards are still at the mountain and Hadley was here and I was with Beckett it's only things" I filled a cup with fresh coffee and walked back into the living room.

"Chelle this is William Addison" Niall introduced me to the Middle aged guy standing in the middle of their living room. I handed Beckett my coffee and offered my hand to the Fire Marshall.

"So you're Michelle Deering" He said shaking my hand "Is Miss Thomas around?"

"Her Boyfriend is just waking her up" I explained

"The doctor gave her something to help her sleep she was more than a little upset last night" Niall said a little defensively

"Understandable" William nodded I sat back down next to Beckett Snowy walked in with Hadley looking like utter hell she looked at me and tears welled in her eyes making me get back up and hug her to me. "Ladies" William coughed; Snowy led Hadley to the couch and sat her down "So you were both very lucky not to be home last night" he sat down "I need to make sure where you both were last night"

'Are you accusing them of having something to do with it? Beckett jumped in

"I have to rule out that they did have anything to do with it especially after it was arson" I stopped with my coffee halfway to my mouth.

"Arson" who'd set a fire in our house" I shook my head "It doesn't" I heard a groan from Beckett and we all looked at him "No they wouldn't" I frowned shaking my head "They" "

"Baby we fucked them over huge" He looked at me "It has to be a possibility"

'What has to be a possibility?" the Fire Marshall frowned as he opened his folder and took out a pen

"We pissed a couple of people off yesterday to the tune of a lot of money" I pinched the bridge of my nose "It's all legal and above board nothing underhand, but it's just" "

"It just seems a little odd that we had a meeting yesterday and really annoyed people and then a few hours later their house burns to the ground" Beckett rubbed his hand up and down my back

"Who are these people?" William asked

## Is the snow whiter?

"My Father and my ex husband" I looked round the room "I sold two companies that were in my name and they thought they should have the moneyâ they lost just over seven million dollars" Niall all but fell off the couch and Hadley's mouth fell open.

"Well money is always a good motive for revenge" He wrote it down "I need names and addresses, are they local?"

"No they live in Wisconsin I'll give you their names and addresses" I got up and walked to the kitchen grabbing the pad from next to the phone and went to pick up the pen "Shit" I put my hands on the counter and hung my head I couldn't pick up the pen.

"You need some help" Beckett put his hand in the small of my back

"Please" I reeled off the full names and addresses and let him write them down We walked back into the living room as his phone started to ring again

"It's Dad again" he looked at me

"Take it, it's okay" I touched his arm as I took the piece of paper from him and held it out to the Fire Marshall. "So what happened at the house" I sat next to Snowy and Hadley

"We found traces of Gasoline all through the house" he closed his file and looked at me and Hadley, his phone started to ring "Excuse me for a moment" Beckett walked back in as he walked out

"You guys all done?" Beckett held out his hands

"No he got a phone call" Hadley shook her head "Chelleâ!"

"I'm so sorry" I felt tears well up in my eyes "If it was them that did this it's my fault"

"If they did this then it's their fault not yours" Hadley put her arm round me "What the hell happened in the meeting you were going to tell us today anyway?"

"They had used me to put my name on a couple of businesses, but Dane found out they actually messed up and had no legal right to the companies so we sold them out from under them"

"Oh High five girl" Snowy Laughed offering me his hand I high fived him

"So that really didn't go down good then?" Hadley frowned

"Well she got hell of a lot of money that they were banking on" Beckett put his arm round me

"Well after everything they did to you it's called Karma" Hadley sighed

"She hasn't told you the best yet" I looked at Beckett

"Please tell me they didn't do something stupid" Niall scowled

"My Father told me that I wasn't his daughter"

"He disowned you?" Hadley got wide eyed



## Is the snow whiter?

"Not exactly" I found out that they aren't my parents" I looked down "My real mom was the junkie sister of the woman I've thought to be my mother" I ran my hand through my hair "I was born on the floor of a damn trailer" Beckett pulled me to him and pressed his lips to my temple " I have no idea who my father really is everything has been a total lie my entire life until moving here and meeting all of you"

"We're your family" Hadley hugged me tight "The brothers you never wanted in these and the dream sister in me" we both laughed a little " We lost everything in the fire but we're still here"

"And Beckett's offered to help rebuild if you want" Snowy butted in

"We need to sort out the insurance and all that sort of thing" But I promise whatever you need I'll pay for" Hadley and I stood in the middle of the room hugging each other as the Fire Marshall walked back into the house.

"Did you have a third roommate?" Hadley and I looked at him and both of us shook our heads

"It was just a two bed house" Hadley shrugged "Why?"

"Because they have just found a body in the bathroom of the house"â lâ lâ lâ lâ !..

## Chapter 59: Trying to make top and tail

It was as if the air had been sucked out of the room Hadley and I looked at him as if he'd suddenly grown three heads.

"Are you sure you weren't letting someone stay there the night?"

"There should have been no one there last night" I shook my head "I was at a wedding and I stayed at my boyfriend's house" I pointed to Beckett and Hadley was working until I looked at her

"I closed the bar a little after three and then came back here with my boyfriend and his roommates" she shrugged "We went in the hot tub and I think crashed a little after four then we got the call about the fire" Snowy reached up and squeezed her hand.

"So did anyone know you weren't home?"

"I don't know" I chewed my lip "I was moving out today but snowy was supposed to be moving in with Hadley at the house"

"We tend to keep things just between this group and that's it" Hadley added

"Well I need to get back and find out who this body is please don't leave town incase we need to talk to you I assume I can find you here Miss Thomas?" Hadley nodded "Miss Deering?"

"I'll give you the address of where she'll be" Beckett pulled out his business card and handed it to the Fire Marshall

"I'll see you out" Niall got up and walked him out

"Oh I feel sick" Hadley groaned and sat down

"This is weird" I chewed my lip "Someone died in our house" I shuddered

"I'm going to go back to bed" Hadley rubbed her temples

"I'll call you later" I hugged her "We're here"

"Lets go home" Beckett smiled at me "Call if you need anything okay?"

"We will" Hadley nodded. Beckett and I walked out he opened the door of the car for me

"You want to go right home or do you want to take a trip to my parents?"

"I don't know" I looked at him as he reached round me and fastened the seat belt for me and he dropped a kiss on my lips.

"I know Mom and Dad got home about an hour ago and they heard on the news about the fire" I raised an eye brow as he closed the door and walked round and got in the driver's side "My Mom is stressing about it, she wants to see you" I just closed my eyes and nodded. He set off heading for his parents' house his fingers linked with mine the entire ride.

## Is the snow whiter?

"It's one of those days where I shouldn't have gotten out of bed" I groaned "Between the house and my hand it's a pretty sucky day so far" I looked over at him

"I knowâ but you have me and you have your friends all in one pieceâ maybe not mentally because snowy is a little strange sometimes" he smiled trying to make me laugh

"A little strange you've never had to spend the night with him and the pranks he gets up to" I sighed "I'm guessing a shopping trip will need to be taken all I have is the clothes at your placeâ"

"Our" he corrected me

"Okay Our Place" I squeezed his hands

"So can I come to Victoria's secret with you and get to help pick out some things"

"Of course because I really don't think I'd be able to stop you anyway" he pulled into the driveway of his parent's house

"Well that's true" he turned off the engine and looked at me "You need to make a list of everything you lost" I nodded

"Oh the bear you brought me was there" I pouted

"And I'll replace it" he leant over and kissed me

"I'm tempted to call my momâ Sandra" I corrected myself the woman was no longer my Mother in my eyes "And make sureâ"

"Don't" he shook his head "I'm sorry if this sounds hard but I'm hoping they find another body and it's both of the fuckers" his tone was bitter and his eyes seemed to grow darker "After everything they said and did to you burning up is an easy get out" I looked down

"I know but it'sâ" he grabbed my face in his hands and kissed every thought from my mind

"It's not your fault" he rested his forehead against mine "Nothing is your fault" He kissed me again "I love you so damn much you have a whole new life now and you'll come out after all this shit blows over feeling better and free"

"I don't know what the hell I've done to get you in my life" I smiled at him

"Ditto girl" he winked at me "I wasn't looking for the woman I'm going to spendâ" the door to the car opened

"Will you both come inside" Dina was at the door I've been worrying about you" I pulled back from Beckett and got out the car and immediately got smothered in a huge Mom type of hug "Honey I'm so sorry about your houseâ How's Hadley doing? You were insured weren't you? Do you need help with anyâ"

"Mom let her breathe" Beckett laughed

"I have coffee on and some goodies in the kitchen" she linked my arm and pulled me to the house. I looked round at Beckett who was pulling his phone from his pocket; he just smiled at me and gave me a wink. Dina

## Is the snow whiter?

brought me into the kitchen Marty got off the stool he was sitting on and hugged me tightly before pulling back and holding my arms

"I'm so glad you and your friend weren't there last night"

"So are we" I tried to smile "They found a body in the house" I heard a sharp intake of breath from Dina as she poured coffee into cups

"Who?" Marty pulled out a stool for me I sat down "and you have a cast on your arm?"

"I punched a wall this morning I rubbed my hand over it "and we have no idea who was in the house" It could be my Father or Brett"

"Well wouldn't that be a slap with the Karma bat" Dina put a drink down in front of me "I'm sorry he is still your Daddy"

"No he's not" Beckett said walking in the house "Danes on his way here"

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 60: Tension release

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. The rest of the day was spent talking things through with Dane and sorting out Insurance documents, I'd spoken to Hadley a few times and we were both trying to get our heads round the fact someone had done what they had to the house and maybe paid with their lives. We wound up making our excuses and leaving Becketts Parents house and heading for home a little after lunchtime.

Beckett pushed open the door and moved back allowing me into the house first. He put down the food his Mom had sent back with us on the counter and turned to look at me.

"It feels like it should be close to bedtime rather than just after one in the afternoon" I nodded and shrugged out of my jacket

"I want to kick back and let go of some of this tension" I put my jacket over the back of a chair and rubbed my neck

"I have fingers that can work some awesome magic" He bit on his bottom lip, I felt my pulse speed up as he hunched his shoulders a little. "I'm thinking of stoking the fire locking the doors and getting you to lay on the rug" he walked over to me and took my hand

"On the rug?" I looked over into the living room as the grey sky outside signaled another winter snow storm moving in over the mountains

"Yup" he moved my hair over my shoulder and nipped at the skin below my ear "I'll go and get the lotion and give you a massage that'll have you lose as all heck when I'm done" He ran his tongue over his lips

"I'm taking it that I'm supposed to be naked?" I could feel the color rising in my cheeks He let go of my hand and reached for the throw from one of the couches and handed it to me

"You can wrap in this" he smiled before turning and putting more wood onto the fire and opening the flue more sucking the flames into the new wood "I won't be long" he took the stairs two at a time I ran my fingers through the fringe on the throw and then turned to the bathroom off the kitchen and closed the door after me stripping out of my clothes.

I looked in the mirror and ran my fingers over the tattoo on my side smiling at the words that meant a lot to me. 'Each day was a gift' and no matter what that was how I was going to really start living my life going for everything I wanted and never living with regrets everything thrown at you in life is what makes you who you are and you learn and grow from every step. I picked up the throw and wrapped it round myself and walked out in to the living room, and stopped and smiled there were candles on the mantle and on the console tables behind the couch Beckett was standing next to the fire in just a pair of gym shorts with a bottle of my moisturizer in his hand.

"Looking good in that throw Miss. Deering" He ran his tongue across his lips

"Thank you" I laughed walking over to him "Please tell me you locked the doors"

"I did" He nodded "now lay down on the rug" he's put down pillows from the couches "and let me get to work" I held my hand as I lowered myself to the floor I moved forward and caught the ring him his nipple between my teeth and tugged making him growl a little and putting a smile on my face as I let go and lay down on my stomach on the floor and looked over my shoulder at him.

## Is the snow whiter?

He took a deep breath before dropping down next to me he tugged the throw down to lay across my hips he squeezed the lotion into his hands and rubbed them together. I closed my eyes as his hands rubbed over my back considering he spent more time in the office and in meetings there were still hard calluses on his hands from working. I moaned as he kneaded the tension from my shoulders.

"Damn who taught you how to do this" I sighed "I should rent you out"

"Yeah right, there is only one person that these hands are touching and they are doing it right now" he moved so he was straddling the tops of my thighs and he worked on either side of my spine. His hands brushed up my sides catching the sides of my breasts sending the goose bumps running for the surface of my arms. "I think I need to do this all over" he murmured in my ear the hot breath had me pushing my ass up a little into him "Oh Really Miss. Deering" he playfully smack my right butt cheek "What are you wanting?" he teased

"You" Was all I could get out

"Oh I can tell that" he pressed his chest to my back sliding his hand in between us and slipping his fingers between my legs. I all but bit the pillow under me as his fingers slipped inside "Damn can I tell" he rained nips and kisses on the back of my neck. He slipped another finger inside of me and scissored them.

"Oh godâ Beckettâ I'mâ I can't" lights seemed to explode behind my eyes as the orgasm rocketed through my body. Beckett mouth sucked on my neck his fingers still moving rapidly pushing me over the edge in quick succession for a second time.

"See not so tense any more are you?" he chuckled removing his fingers and turning me over under him. My breathing still coming in ragged gasps as I watched him stand up and shed the shorts he was wearing. My eyes ran over the hard tight body in front of me more than ready for what the rest of the afternoon was going to bringâ lâ lâ lâ

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 61: Still no idea

\*Sorry it's a filler and it's short it's one of those insane days where i have too much going on\*

â lâ lâ lâ lâ !. We lay on the couch; Beckett had pulled his jeans back on and wrapped me in the throw. His fingers trailed up and down the exposed skin on my back the only light in the room was coming from the fire and the candles Beckett had lit.

"You getting hungry?" he murmured pressing his lips to the top of my head

"I hadn't thought about it" I moved and looked at him "It's bothering me who was in the house when it wasâ !"

"You still want to make that call don't you?" he pinched the bridge of his nose

"Well what do you think" I shook my head "Someone died in my house andâ !" he reached for his cell phone from the table and held it out to me

"Call whoever it is you want to call"

"You're mad at me"

"No I'm concerned for youâ ! I get what happened wasâ ! well I'm still trying to fathom out how it would feel" he gave me a warm smile "I love you and the fact that it could be that they tried to kill you is scary so if they died in there then good"

"I know" I ran my hand through my hair my cell phone rang making me jump. I got up and picked it up frowning at the number before I answered it

Me \* hello

William \* Miss Deering it's William Addison

Me \* oh hiâ ! did you find out anything?

I looked round at Beckett who was looking at me, I turned the phone on to speaker and sat on the coffee table in front of Beckett

William \* Yes Miss we didâ ! Brett Hutchins and Silas Deering were both on a flight to Chicago at eight pm last night. Chicago PD has checked out and they both have solid alibis.

Beckett \* so do we have any idea who was in the house

William \* No, the body has been taken to the medical examiner for Identification. I thought that you'd just like to know what'd found out for now.

Me \* thank you.

William \* as soon as we know anything else I'll let you know

Is the snow whiter?

He hung up and I put my phone on the table next to me

"Well that answers one thing" Beckett sat up and faced me

"I knowâ God this is like a crazy movie" I hung my head

"You can say that again" Beckett rubbed my arms "Look I have to go out for a little while, have a long soak in the tub with a bottle of wine"

"Where are you going?"

"I have to go pick something up" he kissed me "I'll be an hour topsâ!"

"Okay" I shrugged

"Baby I won't go out but the person I've got to see is only available tonight"

"It's okay" I got up "I don't feel like going out right now"

"No are you mad with me" he caught my hand and pulled me back to him

"A little" I looked down "But just go"

"Come with me then" He pulled me to the stairs "Let's go get dressed and you come with me"

"I'm being selfish" I shook my head "I like the sound of the bathtub and the bottle of wine" I put my hands on his shoulders "But if you're any longer than an hour you're sleeping on the couch" he flashed me the smile that melted my heart every time he did it

"Deal" He kissed me "I'll start the bath for you while you get the wine" he took the stairs two at a time while I went back into the kitchen. It would have been nice just to have him here for the evening it had been a rough couple of days apart from Kit's wedding, the drama was exhausting. I pulled a bottle of wine from the fridge and opened it as Beckett came back down dressed. "The bath is filling" he put his hands on my hips and pressed himself into me "I'm sorry this is lousy timing I know, I'm being a little sucky right now but I'll make it up to you" he kissed my neck "I promise I'm going to make it all up to you"

"Just come home as soon as you can" I turned round in his arms and faced him "I love you"

"I love you too" he dipped me as he kissed me "See you in a short while" I nodded and he grabbed the keys for his truck from the bowl. I took the wine bottle and a glass and headed for our roomâ!â!â!



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## Chapter 62: WHAT??????

I curled up on the couch relaxed and cozy my laptop open and some serious shopping happening with stuff there for Hadley as well. I heard the door open.

"I'm late I know I'm thirty five minutes late but the roads were bad and I got us pizza from the little place on tenth you love" he called out before walking into the room "And the cheesy garlic bread" he grinned at me

"I never even noticed the time" I smiled at him "and that food smells so good" my stomach took that moment to agree and rumble "See" he lent over the back off the couch and kissed me before walking into the kitchen and putting the food on the counter top I put my computer on the coffee table and got up. "So did you get your business all sorted?" I reached for plates from the cupboard.

"Yes I did and I need to talk to you before we eat" He took the plates and put them down next to the boxes

"You want me to leave?" I looked up at him and frowned

"Why would you ever think that?" he shook his head "Come on" he pulled me back to the couch and sat me down and sat facing me "Okay you know I love you" Oh crap here we go isn't that the break up line that everyone uses "Chelle" he squeezed my hand.

"What?"

"You zoned out for a minute" he smiled

"You're scaring me with the conversation beginning it honestly sounds like you want to break up"

"No way" he laughed "in fact this is the opposite of wanting to break up with you I want more" I felt my jaw slacken "I want a whole lot more commitment I want us to" he moved off the couch and dropped down in to one knee

"Beckett" I started to shake my head "I"

"Michelle Deering you're my dream woman I want you I mean us" My head was staring to spin a little with what I was thinking "I want us to become parents"

"What?" okay I was now freaking the hell out I gripped his hand "I we oh god" I hung my head this was mind fuck time I pulled my hand away from him. I felt him get up from the couch and heard him walk away. I went over to the windows. I was panicked enough with him going down on one knee... but kids kids were well I'd never pictured having kids at least not yet I was only just finding myself, it wouldn't be fair to either me or a kids right now to even think of the door from the garage opened.

"Go find Momma" I spun round in time to see Beckett stand up and put his hands on his hips and then look up at me and smile "Okay So I woke you and you're sleepy" I frowned at him as he bent down and then stood back up with a bundle of fluff in his arms a little head lolled to the side and made eye contact with me.

"OH MY GOD" I moved across the floor "What did you get?"

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"Well I've wanted a dog for a while and I think we could make awesome puppy parents. And Kizzy her is the perfect Snow dog. I can see her with you at the mountain when she's a little bigger and she's going to be an awesome guard dog"

"Kizzy" I smiled taking her fuzzy face in my hands and getting my face licked for it

"Well her names Kismet" he handed her to me "It's because things were meant to be as in us" he tucked a strand of hair back from my face "I just thought it was cute and suited her but if you don't like it we can think of something else"

"I think it's perfect" I smiled at him "and she is beautiful"

"So are you?" Beckett moved in to kiss me and Got kissed by Kizzy instead making him laugh "So you don't mind becoming a parent to her then" he rubbed her behind the ears

"Oh hell yeah" I smiled "You had me panicking for a while there"

"Let me get the rest of her things and then we can eat dinner" he pushed his tongue into his cheek.

I set Kizzy on the floor and walked in to the kitchen with her hot on my heels with her puppy waddle making herself fall over a couple of times trying to keep up before she saw the tassels on the throw rug on the kitchen floor and she went in to attack mode leaping on them. Beckett walked back in with a bed and other doggy things and went and put the bed next to the hearth in the living room. I held out his plate with his food on it.

"You really thought that I was talking about real kids" he asked reaching for a wine glass and filling it before we sat at the table

"I did but it begin with I thought you were well you were going to ask me to marry you and then you ask me if I want to be a parent" I picked up my glass and took a drink

"Would it be so bad?" He asked taking a bite from the pizza "I mean marrying me and having babies"

"One day it would be amazing but right now I think we have so many unknowns" I chewed my lip "I know I love you, god do I ever love you" I smiled at him "I like us as us right now but I did love having that ring on my finger" I admitted "It felt right"

"Well you never know what might happen in the future" he winked at me "OW" he jumped and scooped up a toe nipping Kizzy "But right now lets be good parents" he offered me his glass in a toast, so I picked up mine and clinked glasses with him

"Amazing Parents" I laughed

the link for Kizzy is below

Is the snow whiter?

## Chapter 63: Sorry guys

Okay you guys know I can't post comments on here anymore unless it's directly in reply to one of you so I have to put this like this

I'm starting to really struggle with how to work this one, I know what is going to happen but it's the getting there with a lot of the plot mapped out in my head at least sometimes it's a fight to get to where you need to be so I'm going to make you all mad at me and say this is going to be on hold for a while for me to get fresh head and perspective on it. I'm loving the story I really am but struggling with it will only make me unhappy with the entire outcome of it.

I am going to be starting another one or should we say revisiting old favorites at least

Love you guys and again I'm so sorry for ditching half way through

Kirstxo

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