

It's us against the world baby doll

By : StephandBrutusandIzzy

Imagine being an only child up until you're eleven and then you have a baby sister on the way. Your dad is a workaholic and your mom gets sick all the time so she's mostly in bed. Your little sister is the last attempt to save the marriage and it didn't work. So you begin raising your little sister at the age of twelve, things get worse as you get older. Your mother leaves you guys all the time. You end up getting pregnant at the age of sixteen, so it's you, your sister, and the baby. You finally end up getting custody of your sister when you turn 18. So you're on your own, in a new state to start all over. How will it turn out?



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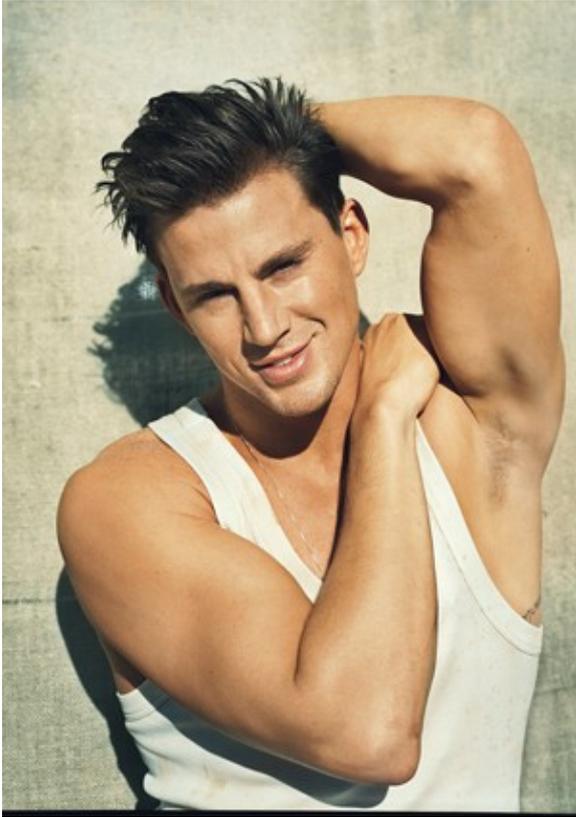


½This is Bella



This is Lexie's best friend

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Lexie



This is Austin

This is

It's us against the world baby doll



½This is Kelsey

Chapter 2

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"Do you have everything Bells?" I asked I was making sure we had our few belongings that we wanted to take with us. Kelsey had more than things than I had but she is also a baby. "I do. Are you sure?" Bella asked "Yes, I promised you. Now come on." I said we were getting out of this place and going somewhere new, I was going to protect my baby sister and my daughter. I closed my eyes for a second and I can remember it all. When I was really little, my dad was at work all the time so it was just my mom and I at home. When my mom didn't feel good which was most of the day I stayed in bed with her and curled up, I would always have my blanket and my teddy bear. My mom would pat my hair and look me in my icy blue eyes "It's just you and I baby girl." She said and I would nod, my mom was fifteen when she had me, my dad was sixteen he wasn't ready to be a dad but he stuck by my mom's side. When I was five I was in Kindergarten so I wasn't home and my mom stayed in her bed all the time. I focused on school and how things were going. When I was ten my dad was coming home more often and we would spend time together, he taught me how to drive and I loved it. My mom was evening feeling a little bit better. Then there was talk about a baby, and when I was 11 in 7th grade my mom got pregnant, the end of my 7th grade year Isabella Marie was born, my dad was a little disappointed he wanted a little boy. My birthday is August 7th, so on August 14th my dad left us. My mom stunk into her "sickness" more and more over the remaining days of the summer so I was forced to watch Bella. I ended up putting Bella in day care because I had school coming up. Eight grade I was in Algebra 2, I went to a middle school that in fifth grade you get tested and you could do Algebra 1 in 6th grade and I passed that with flying colors. I didn't really have any friends, I wasn't a nerd, I wasn't average looking, I was beautiful, but I stayed to myself because if I had friends they would want to come over and I didn't want them to see my mom. My dad would send child support, he would come see us every other weekend, my grandparents would help with money but my mom still got a job as a bar tender so she would work at night and then she slept all day but she would bring men into the home, and on the nights she had off she wouldn't come home. Bella didn't cry when my mom left the room, Bella threw a hissy fit if I left the room without her. I felt like I had to protect my little sister at the age of twelve. We would go over to my grandparents house who lived a block away and we would spend the weekends we weren't with our dad there so we wouldn't have to deal with all of the men she had in the house. But when she wasn't hooking up with a guy she would be in her bed room, in her pajamas, singing sad songs, I learned in sixth grade that my mom was sick, she had depression. I remember when Bella was ten months old my mom said to leave her home from day care she was going to spend time with Belly. "Are you sure mom?" I asked "I took care of you, Bella's my daughter Lex." My mom said "Don't remind me." I said "What?!" She asked and before I could answer she slapped me hard in the face. I looked up at her and saw the anger in her face.

That day at school I was worried about Bella and my best friend Allie was looking at me, "I ran into the door." I said "Yikes! Sounds painful!" Allie said and I giggled "it was. Bella was giggling at me." I said and she smiled at me, I knew she didn't buy it but I didn't push it and neither did Allie. The rest of eighth grade I would get pushed, slapped, I had marks on my arms but I didn't protest, I would stand in the way of Bella getting it. I was the big sister, I was supposed to protect Bella. On Bella's first birthday my dad showed up and we celebrated it, Bella was so happy to see all her family. My mom faked being happy and then she had to go to work so we went with my dad somewhere. "Daddy why can't Bella and I stay with you?" I asked "Your mother wants you. I honestly don't." He said "Why?" I asked "I didn't want kids so young, I didn't want you. Or Bella. I wanted a son but instead I have two daughters." He said "Okay." I said, I was almost 13 years old I knew what he meant. Bella was only one she had no clue. When we went home my mom hit me because how dare I leave her home alone for a night, even if she was working and she did have a drunken man in her room sleeping. I took Bella in my room and I made games to keep her quiet so she wouldn't make mommy mad and I didn't get hurt.

My 13th birthday my dad came and he gave me money and then he left. It was time to start potting training Bella and I did it, my mom had no part in it. Bella was a fast learner like her sissy, I was so proud of her. Ninth grade I would be fourteen the ending of the year. Allie and I stayed close friends, but she moved to

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Stuart, Florida and we had to talk by letters. So I was alone in high school, I met some friends that I would end up doing drugs with after school before going to pick Bella up. They thought I was so cool. I was finally starting to have friends, by Christmas break the letters with Allie stopped and I was forgetting about who Allie was. Bella was attached to me more and more and sometimes she would slip up and call me mommy. My mom also started spending the night at her boyfriends houses leaving me and Bella home alone, I would have friends over and we would get high while Bella was in my room sleeping, I would make sure she was safe before we started it. This guy in the tenth grade started liking me, and we started making out, at the time we only made out. He would supply me my needs of weed and I would make out with him. That was our relationship just fooling around. I didn't keep it around Bella, and I kept it away from my mother. I didn't want to get hit. Every time my mom would hurt me I would go up on the roof and I would smoke to forget all about it.

On Bella's 2nd birthday my dad didn't show up, it was just us and the family. My mom went to work afterwards and I made Bella a home made birthday cake and she loved it. "Lexie?" Bella asked "I'm here for you Bells. It's just you and I." I said and Bella would smile at me and giggle. On my 14th birthday neither parent showed up, Bella and I went out to McDonald's instead, I got a letter from Allie which was long saying she was so sorry we didn't talk anymore, she's such a bad friend and wanted to hear all about what'shappening. She's a cheerleader now and she loves it. I would still get high. My Sophomore year was harder, my mom left for weeks at a time leaving me and Bella, and I would high more often, and making out lead to more than that this time. Nothing happened though. I refused to touch the alcohol, even if I was high I still was a better mother figure to Bella. On Bella's 3rd birthday I took her to the park, my mom wasn't home again. On my 15th birthday I was taken to get my permit and I was beginning my Junior year. SAT times, I ended up getting a perfect score. And for my not so perfect life I messed it up even more, I got pregnant and I would be due in August. My mom flipped, she slapped me so hard. Saying I was ruining my life just like she ruined hers. My dad didn't know, I didn't tell him. We found out I was having a girl and Bella and I were so happy, my mom wasn't there. And my supplier left me and wasn't supportive, and I didn't smoke anymore. I gave up smoking the moment I found out I was pregnant. "Bells, I promise next year after graduation we're gone." I said and she smiled at me. I was seventeen, Bella was five and I gave birth to Kelsey Lynn Summerland on August 15th, my mom was no where. Kelsey has my icy blue eyes and my strawberry blonde hair.

During my senior year I was now raising Bella and Kelsey, my mom didn't show up until Thanksgiving and flipped "Who's baby?" My mom demanded "Mine." I said and of course I got hit. Bella was protecting Kelsey like I was protecting her. "You're ruining your life! After I tried to make your life better for you!" My mom said and then she went into her room with her new guy. Kelsey was crying, I picked her up and took Bella's hand and we went to our bedroom with the door shut. Allie and I were in contact more this year, I applied to Univeristy of Southern Florida, different colleges away from here. The end of the school year I got into all, I finally went to my grandmom's house and called Allie and broke down and told her everything and she said we could crash at their place after graduation and her step-dad who's a lawyer would make it where I had custody of Bella, I just needed a job which I was going to do my CNA course, and they would help get me a job and a place. Graduation day came and Bella, my dad and Kelsey were there cheering me on, my mom showed up during half of it drunk. After graduation my dad gave me a car for my graduation/birthday! Bella is now six years old and doesn't want anything to do with our mother. "Dad, I'm leaving here with Bells, I'm going to get custody." I said "I will give away my rights." He said and I nodded.

It's June 11th now and when my mom wasn't home I started putting our belongs in the suitcase and Bella was loading them in the car. Kelsey was napping "Do you have everything Bells?" I asked "I do." She said and I woke up Kelsey only to put her in her car seat and then we left. We left my mother like she left us. I had a GPS in my car and we went by that and arrived at Allie's on the 12th. Allie hugged me tight when she saw me, she wasn't a teen mom, she wasn't a former drug addict, her life was perfect and that is why Allie was my best friend. I began the summer course for my CNA, while working at McDonald's, Allie's parents were renting me out the guest house and on my 18th birthday I got custody of Bella.

Chapter 3

"I begin classes the 16th." I said it was later that day on my birthday, I was talking to Allie we were in her guest house which is my house. "I do too. Do you have the day care worked out?" Allie asked "I do. I appreciate your mom watching the girls while I'm at work." I said and Allie smiled at me "We love you. We wish we would have known." Allie said "You tried. You're doing what you can now." I said and Allie smiled "I should have old my mom in sixth grade." I said and Allie nodded "You didn't want to betray my trust." I said "I wish." Allie said "You're doing the right thing now. Bella and I are in one piece, I may have a cute little almost one year old." I said and Allie smiled at me "Has your mom tried contacting you?" Allie asked "Nope." I said and Allie nodded "We need to go school shopping then." Allie said and I nodded, Bella came in at that "Hey sissy!" Bella said "Bells, you ready for school shopping?" I asked "Yes!" She said "Let me see if Kels is up." I said and I got up and peeked in on my baby girl, "Mommy's girl!" I said and Kels smiled at me "Ready to go somewhere?" I asked and Kelsey smiled at me. I got her diaper bag ready and then got Kelsey up and she walked to Bella, she started walking in the end of July. I picked Kelsey up and put her in her car seat "College first?" I asked and Allie nodded, I have a fullscholarshipto the Keiser University for nursing and so does Allie. We pulled up to the student-parking lot and I got Kelsey and placed her on my hip and Bella walked between Allie and myself.

Inside the book store I see a cute muscular tan guy, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes, he had a name tame that said Austin "How may I help you?" Austin asked "We're looking for some books." I said balancing Kelsey on my hip "Do you have a list?" Austin asked me "We do. Same list." I said and Allie gave it to him "Right this way." He said and he found all the books we needed "Thank you." I said and he smiled at me "Your daughter is beautiful." He said "Thank you." I said "Say hi." I said and Kelsey waved at him and he smiled "You are so beautiful, just like your mommy." He said and I smiled "Thank you." I said and we gave him the money and he smiled, he wrote something on the recipet "Call me sometime?" He asked "Okay." I said "Good luck in school." He said "Thank you." I said and once we got in the call Allie smiled at me "You just got hit on." Allie said and I giggled "I did, didn't I?" I asked "Uh-oh Lex!" Bella said and I smiled at Bella. We went to wal*mart and I put Kelsey in the buggy and she was playing with her toy and we got the scubs, and then Bella some school clothes, and then we got the backpack for us, and school supplies Bella is going to need, she is in the first grade now. We paid the bill and then we went home and after we unloaded the car Allie smiled at her mom who took Kelsey and Bella into their house "Call." Allie said and I dialed on my phone. I make \$1200 every two weeks, rent is: \$500 which inclues all the bills, I owe day care \$200 a month and then my cell phone bill is \$75 a month. "Hello?" Austin's voice said "Hi, it's Lexie." I said "I didn't think you would call." He said "I did." I said and he laughed "Do you want to go out sometime?" Austin asked "I can't date that much. I take care of my sister and daughter." I said and Allie wrote down: Ask him for dinner tonight. "Would you like to come over here for dinner instead?" I asked "Sure." He said and I gave him my address.

"I need to take a shower and get ready." I said and Allie smiled "We can keep the girls here." Allie said "You don't mind?" I asked "Not at all." Allie said smiling at me, I went into the shower after Allie left and after I showered and dried off I put on my favorite bra and thong set and then I put on my sundress and then cowboy boots, I curled my knee length hair and then applied make up and then I cooked Shrimp Alfredo, and garlic bread. Austin arrived on time around six, he came in with flowers and chocolate "Thank you." I said and Austin smiled at me "Come in. Dinner is done actually." I said and I led him to the table after I put flowers in the vase. "How long have you been here?" Austin asked "Since June." I said "Where are you from?" Austin asked me "I'm from Raleigh, North Carolina." I said "Long ways." He said "It is." I said "How old are you?" I asked "nineteen, you?" Austin asked "Eighteen." I said "Are you into sports?" I asked "All kinds, you?" He asked "I am." I said and he smiled at me, I learned that he has four siblings two brothers and two sisters, his parents are together and his dad runs the book store so he works there, he's in school to be a history teacher. He loves that I'm in school to be a nurse. "I would love to meet Bella and Kelsey." Austin said "I can go get them." I said and he smiled I went over to Allie's and picked up Kelsey and Bella followed, "Bella and Kels this is Austin." I said "Hi,." Bella said holding Kelsey's hand, she's very protective over Kelsey.

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We ended up playing a movie for the girls and watching it together, Bella was asking him questions and he answered them. I walked Austin to the door and I kissed him on the cheek good-night. After he left Allie came over and helped me give Bella and Kelsey a bath and I tucked them in. "How was it?" Allie asked "Good. I like him so far, he likes me, Bella and Kelsey seem to like him and he's good with them." I said "That is all that should matter." Allie said and I smiled at her. When Allie left I looked at my schedule, I have five classes and they begin from 7 and ends at 3, and then I will work from 3:30-10:30 every day, Allie's mom will pick the girls up for me from school and day care and watch them until I get home or Allie will watch them over at my house. I crawled into my bed after checking on Bella and Kelsey and I let my thought wander, I don't have to worry about getting beaten, Bella doesn't have to worry about it. I slept until six and then I got up and got dressed in my scrubs and I pulled my hair up. Allie's mom came over and smiled at me "I get off at four." I said "Okay thank you." Karen said and I smiled "I appreciate you doing this." I said "The girls love me." Karen said and I smiled at her.

"Good morning Lexie!" The head nurse Anna said "Good morning." I said I have the not so good job, cleaning the bed pans, giving people baths, help escort them places. I went to my favorite person first "Good morning Alice. How can I assist you today?" I asked "Good morning darling. I need a bath." She said "Alright come on." I said walking to her and helped her to the little bathroom and then I washed her and changed her and then helped her back to her bed. "You are a kind woman." She said "Thank you." I said "How is your daughter and sister?" Alice asked me "They are good. Bella begins school in a few weeks." I said and she smiled at me "lovely." Alice said and I smiled at her and then I went back to doing my job. I took my break around noon and called Allie "Kelsey and Bella are good. Mom has them out in the pool." Allie said "Good, I'm glad they're having fun." I said and then we hung up and I took a breath and then I went back in and finished my work, today I had to do the vital checking of them and then at three I clocked out and went back to my car. My phone started buzzing and I checked it, Austin was calling me "Hey." I said "Hey, can I come by and pick up you and the girls around four thirty?" Austin asked me "Sure." I said and he we hung up. I got home and then I changed into my denim shorts and a tank top and I left my hair down, I got Kelsey dressed into something cute. "Where are we going?" Bella asked "Out with Austin." I said smiling at her, I was braiding her hair "oh." Bella said "Do you like him?" I asked "yeah." Bella said "Don't worry Bells. It won't be like it was with mom." I said and Bella hugged me and I smiled at her "I love you Bells." I said "I love you too." Bella said and we heard a knock I went to the door and Austin smiled, "I need Kelsey's car seat." I said and he nodded he got her diaper bag for me and lifted up Kelsey and she giggled, we went to the car and I got Kelsey's car seat out and he put it in and Bella slid in and smiled at me. "Where are we going?" I asked "A picnic on the beach." He said "Uh-oh." I said and he smiled, when we got there the girls were so excited "No!" Kelsey said when I tried to pick her up and she went to Austin instead. I giggled "Mommy's hurt." I said and Kelsey clung to Austin, Bella clung to Austin too and giggled. I helped with the picnic basket, and then Kelsey's diaper bag. We set up camp and he gave Bella a bucket and they went to working on a sand castle, Kelsey was just playing in the sand.

Once the food was all set up I washed their hands with baby wipes and we ate dinner, Kelsey had small food and baby food, Bella loved her sandwich "This is really good." I said and Austin smiled at me. After dinner we packed up and Austin ran it to the car and then came back, we walked in the water line and Austin let Kelsey down and he held her hand and she giggled at the water when it hit her. Bella was having fun in the water too, "Do you work tomorrow?" Austin asked "I do." I said "What time?" He asked "Same time as today." I said and he smiled at me. We walked a little bit more and then we loaded up the girls and Austin took us to the park and we let them play, Kelsey was playing with the small toy sets they had. "They really do like you." I said "I like them and I like their mommy." Austin said and I hugged him "I like you too." I said and Austin smiled at me. We went to get ice cream instead of home and they were enjoying it "You need to come around more often." Bella said "I plan on it. I plan on being here for awhile." Austin said "Promise? You can't break a promise to a little girl." Bella said "I promise." Austin said and I smiled at him. When we got back home I let the girls in and then actually kissed Austin good-night.

Chapter 4

I got the girls a bath and then I tucked them in bed and kissed them good-night and then I went into my room and took a bubble bath letting the music on my phone play and then went into my room and put on a baggy T-shirt and I braided my hair in two and curled up into my bed. My alarm clock went off at six and I changed into my scrubs and put my tennis shoes on and then I re-braided my hair and I went back over to Allie's "I'm on my way." Karen said and I smiled "I appreciate all of this." I said "I know and it's no problem. The girls love me. I love them and you." Karen said and I smiled at her. I went into work and did the same thing as yesterday and then got off at three and went straight home. I changed into my denim shorts and my UNC T-shirt and I picked up Kelsey and spun her around and Kelsey giggled at me. "What do you want to do today?" I asked "Au?" Kelsey asked "Not today I don't believe." I said and Bella looked at me "Please?" Bella asked "Fine." I said and I pulled out my phone and dialed Austin's "Hello?" He asked "Are you working?" I asked "Until six. I will come over." He said "thanks." I said and we hung up and I looked at the girls "He is working sweetie." I said "okay." Bella said sadly and I picked Kelsey up and we went next door Allie and her sister were cooking "Hey!" Allie said and Zoey smiled at Bella "They love Austin." I said "He's a good guy. He went to the same school as me." Allie said and I smiled at her.

I turned on my music, some songs that Kelsey likes "Dance baby girl!" I said and she wiggled her butt and giggled, Bella took her hands and showed her how to dance "Come on kiddos." I said and I spun each of them around and they were giggling. "Again!" Kelsey said and I spun her around and then Bella "You!" Kelsey said and I spun around and about fell over which caused them to giggle "Was that fun?" I asked and they nodded "I'm going to get you!" I asked and I chased after them and they giggled, I didn't hear the door bell but I did hear "hello?" And then "Au!" From Kelsey who ran to him and I rolled my eyes at her "I see how it is!" I said and Kelsey giggled at me "What are we doing today?" Austin asked and he winked his nose at my shirt "I'm a UNC fan, is that a problem?" I asked "Gator are way better! Just wait!" He said and I smiled at him "In your dreams." I said smiling "Okay girls what do you want to do baby?" I asked "Mall!" Bella said "Okay." I said and looked at Austin "Mall." I said and he smiled at me, we went to the mall and he held Kelsey the whole time and Bella stayed on the other side of him and I was on the other side. It went from Bella being my shadow to not even wanting to be by me when Austin is around.

After the mall we went to the park again and then out to McDonald's where they ended up playing on the jungle gym after dinner and Austin could finally look me in my eyes "I love your girls." He said "Good they love you too." I said and he smiled at me "Are we going steady?" He asked me "I hope so." I said and he smiled "No other people?" He asked "No other people." I said and he smiled at me "Deal." He said and I kissed his lips softly. I didn't feel like this over the dealer, we just had our own arrangement but this is different, an actual relationship. "Au?" Kelsey asked "I'm watching!" He yelled and she giggled "You better be there for her birthday party." I said "I wouldn't miss it for anything in the world." Austin said and I smiled "Au!" Kelsey said running to him and giggling, you would not think this girl is almost one. She's such a smart girl. We ended up going home and Austin helped me tuck the girls in who were asleep and then we walked to the living room and sat on the couch "We're alone." He said "Sorry, my life is crazy." I said "I love your life." Austin said and he kissed my lips softly "I really do like you." Austin said "I like you too." I said "I want you guys to meet my family." Austin said "Are you sure?" I asked "I'm sure." He said and I smiled at him "Tomorrow?" I asked it was Sunday so I was off for once "Yeah. I will come by around noon." He said "Okay." I said "Or you could come to Church with us?" He asked "What time?" I asked "I would come here at 8 it begins at nine thirty." He said "What do we need to wear?" I asked "It's a come as you are." He said "Alright." I said and I kissed him good-night.

Okay getting three girls ready for church by eight was hard to do. I wore my nice pair of jeans and my cute sandals and a cute shirt with my hair down, Bella had her cute jeans on and a sparkly purple shirt on with her hair down and I had Kelsey dressed up in a cute dress and bow she was the only one I had dressed up. "Church?" Bella asked when I woke her up "It's a strange place for us but we need to go." I said and she nodded "You will like it. It's a fresh start." I said and Bella nodded, Allie and them go to the same church as Austin does. Austin showed up and we got Kelsey's car seat in, and we pulled up there was a check in for the

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kids "Hello! Welcome! How old are you?" A nice woman asked Bella "Six." I said and she gave her a sticker with her name on the back and then Kelsey had one and Austin took me to Bella's room and then we dropped Kelsey off at the nursery. We went into the room and I saw Allie and her family and smiled. We sat down next to his family, they started so he couldn't introduced me. After service after we got the kids and were at his parent's house it was "Mom and dad this is Lexie, Bella, and Kelsey." He said "Mr and Mrs. Blevins it's nice to meet you." I said and they smiled at me. His brother Jake is sixteen, Noah is twenty-one, Katie is 12 and Ashley is 10. But Ashley and Katie took Bella and Kelsey into their room to play. "Kelsey and Bella are beautiful girls." Mrs. Blevins said "thank you." I said and she smiled "Where are you from dear?" She asked me "North Carolina ma'am." I said "Are your parents around here?" She asked "No ma'am, my mom is in North Carolina still and my dad is in Texas." I said "That's nice dear." She said and I nodded.

On the way back to my home "Did your family like me?" I asked "Oh yeah! My dad never talked to any of our girlfriends." Austin said "We talked about sports." I said "Exactly." He said and I smiled at him "It was really good talking to him about sports." I said "You two are the only two hockey fans." He said "You aren't?!" I asked "No." He said "You will be! Bells and I are crazy hockey fans!" I said and he rolled his eyes at me. "Yeah we are!" Bella said and I giggled Kelsey was sucking on her pacifer "she will be a major hockey fan!" I said and he smiled "not if I can help it." Austin said "you're going to love it!" I said and he rolled his eyes again. "Fine." He said and I smiled "I will watch wrestling with you." I said and Bella giggled and I gave her the ssh look and she smiled at me. "What aren't you into?" Austin asked "Nothing." I said and he smiled at me. I got the girls in and I kissed Austin good-bye he had to go to work and I smiled at the girls "Mommy/sissy is going to see what's on TV." I said and they giggled at me, I put music on again and Allie showed up "Hey!" She said and I smiled "Hey!" I said she ended up helping me dance with the girls.

It's now August 15th a Sunday, tomorrow we all begin school I'm nervous about my classes but I know it will be fine. Austin and his family are over, Allie's family of course, and then just us. "Happy birthday Kelsey!" We all sang and she smiled and giggled at us. I honestly have forgotten all about my life in Florida, I do think about my mom about if she has even gone home to noticed we aren't there or where she is, I haven't thought of my dad much since he has been gone for years. I thought of today looking at Kelsey, for the first time in a year Nick, her sperm donor came to my mind. The first time in school I saw him he smiled at me and then at a party I met him and he offered me a smoke and I took him up on it. Then he became my supplier, I didn't love him like I like Austin but I did like him. I mean I had sex with him, I was high that night but not that high. I regret that life style, doing drugs but looking at my little angel who is smiling over everybody I'm got I at least have her. Bella is loving Florida now I just know she is going to love school and hopefully she will make some friends too.

Chapter 5

Five o'clock came too early for me. I got up and took a shower and got dressed in my scrubs and then I got Kelsey and Bella up, Bella was getting herself dressed. I had the boxes of Poptarts at the table when we all sat down, Kelsey was in her high chair and I gave her the poptart and her sippy cup, Bella had her poptart and orange juice and I sat down for my poptart. "We're going to drop Kels off first." I said "Okay." Bella said, her school begins at 7:30 until 2:30, I had to drop her off earlier. We dropped Kelsey off at six, I dropped Bella off at six thirty for the before school care and then I went to the campus. Austin was waiting for me in the student book store he had to work until his first class. "Good luck today." Austin said "Thanks." I said kissing his lips softly and going to find the building I need. College is different than high school. I spotted Allie and smiled when she waved "Hey! We went over there this morning." Allie said "Sorry, I was already gone." I said "My mom said you can just bring Bells over and she can ride with everyone else." Allie said, she has five siblings, John is twenty-six with a six year old daughter, Nathan is sixteen, Zoey is fourteen, Hannah is twelve, and Emma is ten. "I will keep that in mind for tomorrow." I said and she smiled at me.

I'm in heaven, all science and math classes for my next four years or classes related to nursing. I'm taking Spanish and Sign language next semester so I could talk to most people. I have a ton of homework due for my next class, I only had three today, one was from 7-9, the other was 10-12, and then, 1-3. Tomorrow it will be 9-11, and then 12-2, so Tuesdays and Thursday won't be as bad. I went straight to work at three thirty and did the vital signs and then clean up until ten and then when I got home Bella and Kelsey were asleep and Allie was at my table doing homework. I sat next to her with my backpack, "Thanks." I said "no problem. Mom says just bring Bells over before you go tomorrow." She said and I nodded, I did homework until midnight and then I crawled into bed after putting on a T-shirt. I woke up at five and I got myself dressed in the scrubs, got Kelsey dressed for day care, and then got Bella up. We had breakfast and talked about our first day at school "Sorry about not being around." I said "Sissy, you're working." Bella said and I smiled, "Okay Kels you need to be there by seven." I said and I took Bella next door they were excited to see her and took Kelsey to day care and then went to the library until eight forty-five I was done with my homework which will be due tomorrow.

My first class was easy, I had an hour to work on my homework so I did so and then at two I went to the library and worked on the remaining homework until three and then I went by to Austin and kissed him good-bye for work. Work was good and I got home to Allie and Kelsey "She wouldn't go to bed." Allie said "Thank you." I said and Allie smiled "See you tomorrow." she said and I smiled I held Kelsey "Au?" She asked "Maybe Saturday." I said "no." She mumbled until she fell asleep and I tucked her in her bed, Bella came into my room "Can I sleep with you?" Bella asked "Sure." I said and she curled up with me "How was school?" I asked "Good. Is it the weekend yet?" Bella asked "nope, almost Wednesday though." I said and Bella did a smile at me and fell asleep. This time my alarm went off at five, too early for both of us.

It's finally Saturday "Do you work?" Bella asked me it was seven and we were both up, already used to the early schedule of the new school year, I was making eggs and I looked at her "Nope, I'm off all weekend." I said "Good, so is Austin coming over?" Bella asked "Geeze, you don't miss me. You miss Austin." I said and she giggled. In walks a sleepy Kelsey with her blanket and teddy bear in one hand and rubbing her eye in the other "Morning sleepy head." I said and she giggled at me but sat beside Bella "Au?" She asked "He's probably asleep." I said "No." Kelsey said and I smiled "Go watch TV with Bells, I'll change you after we eat." I said "Yes." Kelsey said and I smiled at her sometimes I wonder about her. Around nine after we were all dressed and about to go to Wal*Mart for groceries I get a phone call "Hey Lex, you guys doing anything?" Austin asked "We're about to go to Wal*Mart. Do you want to come and go?" I asked "Sure. I will be there in ten." He said and we hung up "Au will be here soon." I said and their faces lit up. When Austin arrived they hugged him "They missed you." I said and Austin smiled at them "I missed all of you too." He said and they giggled at him "Let's go." He said "My car?" I asked "Sure. I bought a car seat though." He said "Your car then." I said and he smiled at me.

At Wal*Mart after grocery shopping we went to the toy section and Austin told them to each pick out a toy and I smiled at him, he didn't know what he was getting into. After Wal*Mart we went home and then to the

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park so they could play. "Do you ever want more kids?" Austin asked me "One day. Do you want any kids?" I asked him "One day." He said and I smiled at him "Lexie, I love you." Austin said "I love you too." I said "Tonight can I steal Bella from you?" Austin asked me "Have her home by eight." I said and Austin smiled "Deal. Oh and Kels too." He said "Fine." I said smiling at him and he kissed my lips. He ran after the girls and I smiled. I really do love this man. After we got home he dropped me off and I went over to Allie's "You and Austin are getting serious." Karen said "I love him. The girls adore him. They want him around, not me." I said and Karen smiled "I have seen a huge improvement in both of you. Emmy says that Bella has a ton of friends at school, in day care Kelsey has a lot of little friends. You are dating, and have some work friends." Karen said "I just feel bad that I'm working all the time and I'm missing out." I said "Don't feel bad Lexie. You're doing better than what they had. What you had growing up." Karen said and I smiled. Allie came in "Sorry, Jake took me out on his boat." Allie said and I smiled "Where are the girls?" I asked "With their favorite person." I said "No they aren't, they aren't with me." Allie said and I smiled at her. They pulled up at seven and then went in the house and then around seven thirty Bella came over "We would like you to come home please." Bella said "Uh-oh." I said and Allie smiled at me "have fun!" She said and when I walked over dinner was made and it was a candle light dinner for two. "We're going to eat in my room and watch TV." Bella said and I nodded, when they left Austin took my hand "I love you Lexie. I love your girls. I'm starting to think of them as my own. I will admit I have a commitment issue, I would never stay with one girl for long. But you're different. When I'm not with you I catch myself thinking of you, smiling when I hear your name. MY parents approve of you and they adore the girls." Austin said "What are you getting at?" I asked "Kels come in please." Austin said and Kelsey walked in with Bella by her side with a bag "Give it to mommy." Austin said and it was a kind of big box and then a note "Mommy will you please make Austin my daddy?" "What?" I asked and Austin took the box and opened it, in front of me was a diamond ring "Marry me Lexie." Austin said "Make me the happiest man on earth. I know we haven't known each other for long but I'm in love with you. What do you say Lexie?" He asked me.

Chapter 6: Pictures of the Wedding clothes

Lexie's soon to be wedding gown:

Bridesmaid dresses:

Flower girl dresses:

Best man and Groomsmen's Tux:

Austin's Tux:

Chapter 7

I was just staring at him I didn't realize I didn't answer him, in my mind I was screaming YES!!!!!! But no words are coming out. Think Lexie?! I nodded because I couldn't speak and finally "Yes." I said and he Bella slid the ring on my finger and then Austin kissed my lips softly. After we had dinner we put the dishes in the dishwasher and sat on the swing out front so the girls could play before bed, I was staring at the ring "It's too much." I said "You are my princess Lexie, it's perfect." Austin said and I smiled at him and kissed his lips softly. "We can plan the wedding whenever you want no hurry." Austin said "I want a Christmas wedding." I said "That was fast." Austin said and I smiled "This year." I said and he smiled at me. We tucked the girls in bed and then sat at the table "My mom wants lunch tomorrow, so we could all plan the wedding. Is that okay?" He asked "It is. I'm not going to church." I said "I figured that baby." He said and I smiled at him and kissed his lips.

Allie came over first thing the next morning with Karen, it was before church "It's beautiful! When?!" Allie asked "Christmas Day." I said "We will be there!" Karen said and I smiled "You guys don't have to move out!" Karen said and I smiled, their guest house was huge five bedrooms their house has ten bedrooms, they live out away from people but still close to town. I took a shower and curled my hair and put my sundress on and cowboy boots and did the same for Bella and Kelsey, different color dresses, Kelsey has a cute bow on her hair and even she is in a good mood. "Pee." Kelsey said "You're ready." I said and she smiled, I put her on the potty training potty and she did pee. "You are mommy's bright little girl!" I said and she giggled at me. We went to Austin's house and Austin greeted us, greeted me with a kiss. His sisters Katie and Ashley took Kelsey and Bella again and we sat out in the Florida room, "We want to get your plans done mostly today." His mom Abby said "Yes ma'am." I said "When do you want to get married?" She asked, she had a list out. "December 25th." I said "Okay." She said not even looking up "Flowers?" she asked "Daisys." I said and Austin nodded "Okay." "Live band? DJ or what?" She asked "Live band." Austin and I both said "Colors?" She asked "Tan and cream" I said "Okay." She said "Theme?" She asked and I looked at Austin "Tropical." He said "good." She said "Place?" She asked and I looked at Austin "Beach." He said "Okay." "You get a maid of honor and three bridesmaids." She said "Allie as my maid of honor, Katie, Zoey, and Bella as my bridesmaids." I said "Best man?" She asked "Noah." He said "Jake, Connor, and Liam." Austin said and she nodded "Kelsey." We both said "Guests?" she asked "Our family." Austin said, "the Wakefield." I said "My grandparents the Summerlands and Woods" I said "My dad Jeff Summerland." I said "Your mom?" She asked "We can try." I said knowing deep down it won't happen. "All you need to do is pick out the cake and your wedding dress and tux, and their dresses." She said and I smiled.

Alexis's and Austin's Wedding

Wedding date:12/25/2013

Flowers: Daisy

Music: Live band.

Colors:an, cream

Theme:Tropical

Place:Beach

Maid of honor/bridesmaid: Allie, Katie, Zoey, Bella

Best man: Noah

groomsmen: Jake, Connor, and Liam

Flower girl: Kelsey

Guests: Austin's family, the Wakefield, Summerland, Woods, Lexie's dad and mom

Food:Have Holly's cater it.

After another week of classes and I worked Saturday 4 to noon and then I was made to go dress shopping, we already picked out the cake by his mom sending samples. Allie and Karen were going with us. "Have you called your dad?" Karen asked "Not yet. But if he can't walk me down, I want Kevin to." I said "He would love that." Karen said and I smiled, I found a beautiful wedding dress. After trying on en dresses, I found my perfect one, it was floor length, white, with beads on the chest, and then it was beautiful laid all around.

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Everybody else had their dresses too, now all we need is the guests to confirm and then our wedding is set. My homework was done until Monday so I was fine. There dresses were white, sleeveless, and short cut, but it was beautiful and Kelsey's flower girl dress was beautiful as well, floor length, with a cream bow on it, and beautiful studs all around it. "We're done!" I said after using her debit card and then we went home and I pulled out my phone "We're calling daddy/grandpa." I said and they nodded "Hello?" My dad asked "Hey daddy." I said "Hey Lexie. Congratulations are in order!" He said and I smiled "Yes daddy." I said "I will be there." He said "Do you want to walk me down the aisle?" I asked "I would love to, but Kevin is better fitted." He said and I smiled "Okay daddy. You can bring a date." I said "Okay." He said "Do you want to talk to Bells?" I asked "Okay." He said and they talked for a little bit, after I put Kelsey down for bed and Bella looked at me "Do you think mom will show?" Bella asked "I'm not sure Belly." I said and she nodded. Austin came over and kissed my lips "My dad is coming." I said and he kissed my lips softly "Any word from your mom?" He asked "None yet." I said and he smiled at me and I kissed his lips softly and we went to the porch "When do you work tomorrow?" Austin asked me "4 to noon again." I said "It's an early morning." Austin said "I know baby." I said and he smiled at me "Soon we will be married." He said and I smiled at him, we heard a knock on the door "Who could that be at this hour?" I asked "I'm not sure." I said and when I got to the door I saw who it was "No." I mumbled "Who is it baby?" Austin asked me "My mother." I said and Austin looked at me "Are you going to let me in?" She asked me.

Chapter 8

I slowly opened the door and there she was, the same icy blue eyes and strawberry blonde hair, she was sober as far as I could tell. "What are you doing here?" I asked "I'm here for my daughter's wedding. Where's the lucky guy?" She asked me "You shouldn't be here." I said "I wanted to come see my daughters and grandchild." She said "There's no place for you." I said "Come on, just let me come in for coffee. Meet your finace." She said and Austin looked at me "She isn't going to go." He said and I opened the door and my mom walked through the door "What you leave my small place for this huge house?" She asked "I don't want to start with you." I said "Don't start then." She said "Austin this is my mother." I said "Wow, you're a looker." She said "It's nice to meet you ma'am." He said "Where's Bella and what's her name?" She asked me "In bed asleep. Where they belong." I said and my mom looked at me "I don't need you to come back into Bella's life and ruin it mom." I said "I see." She said "Bella life is getting good, she doesn't have to worry about her safety." I said "I see." She said "I don't need you in my life. Bella doesn't need you. Kelsey sure doesn't need you." I said and Austin rubbed my shoulder "I think it's best that you go." Austin said and my mom didn't say anything but she turned around and left.

"Do you want me to stay tonight?" Austin asked he could tell I was stressed out, I wasn't speaking just staring out the door. "Yes please." I said and Austin held my hand, he got up and rubbed my shoulder "Your mom won't come back." He said "You don't know that. You don't know her." I said and he rubbed my shoulder "Let's try to get some sleep." He said "okay." I said and he led me to my room and he wrapped his arms around me. Within ten minutes I could tell he was asleep. My mind was racing, I couldn't handle my mom coming back in my life and I wasn't about to let my mom ruin Bella's life again. My alarm clock went off at three and I just blinked, I didn't sleep at all. Austin stirred "Can you stay here with the girls?" I asked "I will be here when you get home." He said and I smiled at him and I kissed his lips softly. I went to the bathroom and got dressed and then I pulled my hair into a pony-tail. I went to Starbucks and then to work. I checked in on Alice my favorite person and she was up "Can't sleep?" I asked and Alice smiled "Nope, they have you on the early shift?" Alice asked "Yes ma'am." I said and she smiled at me "What's wrong dear?" She asked me "My mother is trying to come back in my life." I said "Lexie you are a strong and beautiful woman. You're in control. Not your mother." Alice said and I smiled at her I checked her vital signs and then changed her bed pan "I need to go to someone else. But thank you Alice." I said and she smiled at me.

I got off at noon and then went home, Austin and the girls were watching TV "We woke up expecting Allie, and we saw Austin!" Bella said all excited "I'm glad. I will be right back." I said going into my room and changing into shorts and a T-shirt. It's September now, the first week in but it's still warm. "I'm in the mood for the beach." I said I had my bathing suit under my clothes "You sure?" Austin asked "Yes. Are you going to go?" I asked and he nodded, "Potty?" Kelsey said "Come on." I said and put her on her little potty and then changed her into her bathing suit and we went to the beach and spent all afternoon there and then we went to Lucky's Pizza for some pizza and I saw my mom in a waitress uniform "You have got to be kidding me." I said "What?" Austin asked "Nothing." I said and he smiled at me. But as soon as we got home and Austin took Kelsey to give her a bath Bella looked at me "Did I see mom at Lucky's?" Bella asked I didn't know if I should lie or not "Yes. But sissy it won't change anything." I said and Bella hugged me "Do you promise me?" Bella asked "I promised I said and I hugged her tight. After Kelsey got a bath and was all clean Bella went in for a bath and Austin held me in his arms "Bella saw my mom. That's what I was saying." I said "Oh Lex." He said "You're okay." I said and he kissed my lips "I need to go home." He said "No." I said "Yes." He said, it's amazing we have been together going on a month, engaged but we haven't had sex yet.

It's the end of September now and Kelsey is officially potty trained, in big girls panties. Bella has already forgotten about seeing our mother and is going to spend every weekend at a friend's house. But tonight she's having five of her friends spending the night. Allie is coming over to help me and Kelsey is staying with Austin and them tonight, she was so happy and my heart broke because she wasn't going to miss her mommy. We had pizza from Lucky's, soda, junk food, and movies for the girls, and plenty of sleeping bags. They spent the first two hours playing with Barbies and then dress up, then they finally ate their food and had some of their drink. Allie was painting my nails, I had just painted hers and she smiled at me. "Do you miss Kels?"

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She asked me "Yes, but she loves her dada." I said "I'm glad she's able to call him daddy." Allie said and I smiled at her "me too. I really do love Austin." I said "I would hope so since you're engaged to him and all." Allie said and I smiled, we have our mid-terms in the middle of October.

The next morning when everybody had gone home Bella hugged me "Thank you sissy." She said "You're welcome." I said and Allie looked at me "Come on you never spent the night at my house once." I said and Allie smiled "You're right." Allie said and I smiled at her. Austin came and brought Kelsey home who hugged me "Did you have fun?" I asked "Yes!" Kelsey said "Was she good?" I asked "Kelsey was perfect. Did you girls have fun?" Austin asked "We did. They all loved it." I said and Allie smiled at me "I'm going to go now, Jake and I are seeing a movie." She said "Thanks again." I said and she smiled at me. "What do you want to do?" I asked "Go to build a bear?" He asked "Yes!" Bella and Kelsey said "You heard them." I said and we went to build a bear, and they built two bears and then we went out for lunch and then we went home "Do you work tomorrow?" Austin asked me "I work 4-12." I said "Fun." Austin said and I smiled "I love you." I said "I love you too." Austin said kissing my lips softly.

Chapter 9

A couple weeks flew by and it's now my first mid-term and I'm getting ready for class. "You have everything you need?" I asked Bella "Yup." She said "Okay good." I said and I picked Kelsey up and we walked Bella over and then we went to day care and then I went to my first class. That was the same for the rest of the week with the four other mid-terms I had left. Now I'm relaxing this weekend, I'm off of work and we're going shopping to pick out what the girls are going to wear for Halloween. So far we haven't had any run ins with my mom, I'm not even sure if she is still in town or not. We had Kelsey in the buggy and Austin is pushing and Bella is beside him "Kels do you want to be a kitty?" I asked "Hello Kitty!" Kelsey said "Okay." I said "Bells?" Austin asked "Tinkerbell!" She said "Alright." I said and we found the right ones and they tried it on and then we got the groceries we needed for the two weeks.

On Halloween I got home from my last class, I wasn't going to work today, I called in and they understood. I got Kelsey in her Hello Kitty outfit and I brushed her hair and then I helped Bella in hers, Austin came over after work, we had pizza from Lucky's and then we went into town and walked around with the other kids. We went to a small Duplex that had the light on "Trick or treat!" Bella said and guess who opened the door. My mother. "Belly and you!" My mom said "We're good." I said taking Kelsey's hand and going to do a different house. "What just happened?" Austin asked "We are to never go to that house again." I said and he nodded "Your mother?" He asked me "Yes." I said and I didn't need to say more, he didn't push my mother object. So I now know she is still in the area, Bella was quiet and I didn't try to ask her. After we got home we went through all of the candy and they had a few pieces "Can you put Kelsey to bed?" I asked "Yes." Austin said and Bella curled up with me "Are you okay?" I asked "Why is mom around?" Bella asked finally "I'm not sure honey." I said "Do I have to spend time with her?" Bella asked "You don't. Not unless you want to." I said "I don't." Bella said and then she started crying. "Bells, you're safe. We're safe. Mom can't hurt us. Mom will never hurt you." I said and Austin came in and he held her, I never told him the whole story about my mom. After we calmed Bella down and Bella went to bed we went on the porch and I sat across from him with my knees brought up to my chest and I began from the beginning and told him everything. I felt the tears falling and Austin came up to me and he wrapped his arms around me and he wiped away my tears "I am so sorry Lexie." He said and then "I will never ever let anybody hurt you, Bella, or Kelsey. You are my life. They are my life." Austin said and I kissed his lips softly, I wrapped my arms around his neck and buried my face in his neck and cried, the first time I have ever cried in front of somebody. I have never shown any sign of weakness because I don't want to get walked all over or treated like crap. Austin lifted up my chin and wiped away my tears by kissing them and then he kissed my lips softly. "Lex you are okay." Austin said and I kissed his lips softly. He carried me to my bed and Austin kissed my lips softly and I returned his kiss with another kiss with more passion. We went to a little bit farther and then Austin pulled away "I should leave." He said "Yeah." I said kissing his lips softly again neither one of us wanting to pull away.

I was on edge until Thanksgiving, we had from the 21st that Wednesday to Monday off from class, and I had to work Wednesday, and Friday I was off the other days. I had to go back in for one last fitting before the wedding which was on the 21st. Everywhere we went I was paranoid I would run into my mother, Austin and I have maintained a non-sexual relationship even though it's really hard. We're getting married in a little over a month. We were having two Thanksgiving one with Allie's family and then one at Austin's family, we ate at Allie's and then we got changed and went over to Austin's family and had dinner with everybody. The following day after work we loaded up Kelsey and Bella and we got a tree, a live tree and then we all decorated it.

We took our finals the week of December 8th and now I'm off until January 7th, but I'm working 4-12 every day, I picked that schedule so I could still spend most of the day with the girls. Austin comes over to watch the girls until he has to go to work and then Allie takes over. After I got off of work I went Christmas shopping and got all the presents I would need and then that night after the girls were asleep I wrapped them all and put them under the tree and Austin came in and kissed my lips, it was the 15th. "In ten days we are going to be married." Austin said kissing my lips softly "I know." I said and he kissed my lips softly again "I love you." I said "I love you too." He said kissing my lips softly again. I sat on his lap and wrapped my arms

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around his neck and kissed his lips softly "I can't wait to be with you." I said "I can't wait either." Austin said kissing my lips softly and he smiled at me. We did a little bit more this time and I kept my arms around him and I pulled away because we said we were going to save ourselves for our wedding.

It's now Christmas Eve "Even though Santa is going to come tonight we're doing Christmas today since mommy and Austin are getting married." I said and Kelsey nodded, Austin was with us and we handed out the gifts we even had gifts for Austin. Kelsey got: Clothes, a teddy bear, a blanket, a new riding toy, a ton of toys for her age. Bella got: A barbie dream house, barbie car, barbie plane, barbie dolls, clothes, teddy bears, other dolls. Austin got a home made gift from them and a jacket from me. I got a home made gift from them, a diamond bracelet from Austin and an expensive but very good camera. They were having a blast, my dad flew in with his date Kelly who seems to be a nice woman she has two sons, they were staying with us "Daddy!" Bella said hugging him "I missed you girls." He said and I smiled, "We missed you." I said and Kelsey was playing with her toys "Come on Kels let's play with my dolls." Bella said and they went off and I smiled "I can't believe you're getting married tomorrow." My dad said "It's still unreal to me too." I said and he smiled, "I need to head on home. My mom is throwing a fit." Austin said "I understand. I will walk you out." I said and on the porch "I love you baby. Tomorrow we will be married." I said and he kissed my lips "I love you too." He said and we said good-night and I kissed him. Over the couple weeks he has been moving his stuff into the house. My dad is going to watch Kelsey and Bella for us tomorrow night.

I went to the beach while my dad watched the girls and I saw that the wedding stuff was already set up and I couldn't believe I was getting married in less than twenty-four hours. "Beautiful wedding stuff, huh?" A woman asked "Yes ma'am." I said "Whoever is getting married must be a lucky couple." She said "We are." I said "It's your wedding?" she asked "Yes ma'am." I said "Congratulations." She said and I smiled "Thank you." I said I went into work after that "Hey Lex! The soon to be bride!" Anna said "Hi." I said smiling and went to Alice's room, of course I wasn't working tonight "Lexie, my dear." Alice said "Hello Alice." I said "You're getting married soon aren't you?" She asked "Yes ma'am. I'm nervous." I said "I bet you are. But Lexie don't worry. You will be fine." She said "Thank you Alice." I said and she smiled "He's a lucky man to have you. You better hurry up on baby making. You aren't getting any younger!" Alice said "hey!" I said and she smiled at me "Take it from a woman my age." She said and I hugged her "Thank you Alice." I said and she smiled at me.

Chapter 10: The wedding day/night

I went home and my dad and Kelly were asleep in the guest bedroom so I went into my bedroom and sat on my bed, twirling my ring around. I couldn't sleep, I was excited, anxious, and nervous about tomorrow. I heard little foot steps and a knock on my door and then it cracked, Bella came walking in with her teddy bear my dad gave her when she was born, I had the same bear. "Come here sissy." I said and she sat in my lap "Do you like Austin?" I asked "Uh-huh." She said "If you don't tell me, if you don't feel safe around him tell me. I want you to feel safe and happy." I said and Bella hugged me "I love Austin, Austin makes you happy, Austin makes us all happy." Bella said "Why can't you sleep then?" I asked "mom." She said "What about mom?" I asked "What if mom crashes your wedding?" Bella asked I haven't thought about that, leave it to my little sister to think that up "Then we will have a wedding nobody will ever forget. Don't think for one minute mom is going to snatch you up. I have full custody of you." I said and Bella hugged me "Honey, you couldn't really point mom out if you had to." I said and she hugged me "Thanks sissy. Good-night." She said and she crawled in my bed and I didn't protest I crawled under it.

My alarm went off at five, my wedding wasn't until four but it takes all day to get ready. I went into the kitchen and my dad had breakfast made "Santa came while we were sleeping." He said winking at me "Are you sure you don't want to walk me down the aisle?" I asked "After what I said to you growing up I don't deserve it. But I'm going to make it up." He said "How?" I asked "I will bring it up after your wedding, okay?" He asked and I nodded. Everybody was up by six and we were eating and I got a pounding on my door "Hello?" I asked from behind "It's Abby let me in!" She said and I opened the door and Abby was in her track suit "Get in your jogging suit, get the girls in theirs. We have nail, hair, and make up appointments!" She said "Okay." I said and I got Kelsey in hers and then got in mine and Bella was in hers. "We will take my car, don't worry Austin gave me his carseat." He said and I got Kelsey in and then i got in. "Why are you doing this? I would have made it." I said "This way I know you aren't standing up Austin." Abby said "I would never." I said "I'm sure. But let's be honest I don't care for the whole teen mother, raising sister aspect, that could be just an act. You could be after Austin's money for all I know. And I don't want my little boy to get hurt." She said, Wow did she just say that to me?! I feel a cat fight coming! "Abby, I love Austin with all my heart, my girls love Austin, I wouldn't bring a guy into their life if it wasn't serious. I don't want them to get hurt, I don't want to hurt Austin, let's not worry about my feelings. You can hate on me for the rest of your life but at four o'clock I will become your daughter in-law if you like it or not." I said and that shut Abby up.

She was quiet until we pulled up to the nail salon anyways and all the women who were in the wedding were getting their nails done and Abby had to go around making sure the workers are doing it right. "So it's your big day?" The woman doing my nails asked "It doesn't seem like it." I said "Abby is a big paying customer. She was like this for Noah's wedding." She said "Does she like Noah's wife?" I asked "Couldn't stand her, she never had a backbone, she did when she got pregnant though and bit Abby's head off. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall. Nobody talks to Abby that way. Or hasn't yet." She said and I could feel my face turn red "Oh no! YOu did?" She asked and I nodded "Finally! Maybe she will have respect for you." She said and I had a small smile on my face. "Abby, relax! Get your nails done. We have plenty of time." I said I was sitting down letting my dry and Kelsey got placed on my lap "Aw! Your nails are beautiful!" I said and Kelsey giggled at me, Abby gave me a death glare because we were laughing, the workers had a smile on their face. "It's my wedding day." I said to Kelsey who giggled "To Au-Au!" She said "Yes to Au-Au!" I said and she kissed my cheek.

She was the same at the make up place, all quiet but barking orders and I just sat there doing as I was told to get my make up done. I was about ready to snap, but I wanted to remain calm as long as I could, it was only eleven I had five hours to go. It took an hour for the make up and then at the hair, when she started demaning how my hair would be I snapped "Abby I appreciate your concern. But this is my wedding, my wedding day. I think they're doing my hair perfectly. I love it. I love that you're the take charge kind of woman, I really do. But last I checked today was about me and Austin, not you." I said and it took Abby a minute for a response "Trailer trash these days, they don't appreciate all the work you're doing to make them beautiful." Abby said to the woman doing my hair "Excuse me. I appreciate it, I just don't appreciate the bad attitude. I'm not going

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to sit back and let you trash talk me. And if you start trash talking my girls it's on. You can go on about me but don't talk about them. We are not trailer trash. I would rather be a trailer trash and proud of where I came from than to be a stuck up snob like you are." I said and the place was quiet "I'm sorry." Abby said "I am too." I said and I sat back down. She had my hair super curly and then cute little things in it to keep it pinned up and let's not forget the can of hair spray.

We got to the church around three and everybody was getting into their dresses, and Abby came up and helped me zip my dress once it was on Abby smiled "You look like a Princess." She said "I feel like a princess. Thank you." I said and I turned to look at Kelsey and Bella who looked beautiful in their dresses. My dad knocked "Everybody dressed?" He asked "Yes come in." I said "You look beautiful. I wanted to give you the locket I gave your mother on our wedding day." He said and I smiled, it was beautiful, a golden heart shape with a diamond on it, I opened it up to see a picture of Kelsey and Bella on one side and then Austin on the other side, I remember my mom wearing it in the early years but not very often anyways. My dad put it on me "I'm proud of the woman you have turned into." He said and I hugged him and kissed his cheek "I love you daddy." I said "I love you too." He said and we went back to getting ready.

Abby took charge again "Places everybody! The preacher and groom are in place now!" She yelled and we all got in order, as the normal procedure went with the typical wedding line up everybody slowly walked up the aisle, the bridesmaid and groomsmen went up to their positions, then Allie slowly walked up in her beautiful dress, I was so happy to have her as my maid of honor. The party they threw for me last weekend was amazing, we were all under age but we went to a strip club and enjoyed that at least. Then it was Kelsey's turn who slowly walked up with the throwing of the flowers and I couldn't help but smile at Kelsey, she looked so grown walking up there in her cute dress. Kevin linked his arms in mine and we slowly began the walk. I could feel everybody's eyes on me, something that used to make me look down but today I'm the center of attention. We slowly walked up and I saw Austin standing there in his tux and I about melted. Kevin lifted up my veil and kissed my cheek and took his part.

We did the exchange of vows and when he got to his part of "If anybody should feel like Austin and Alexis should not get married, speak now or forever hold your peace. My mom walks up and everybody stares, you could tell she was beyond wasted and she made her way up "You shouldn't marry Lexie, because she's a slut. A druggie, she sleeps around just to get drugs." She said and everybody gasped, I grabbed my mother's hand and looked her in the eye "Get out. What are you doing here?" I asked "Making it where you don't ruin your life like I ruined mine with having you and marrying your father and then having Bella." She said "Stop it. You are not ruining my day!" I said and my dad came and grabbed her arm "Come on Brittany." He said and my mother stared at me "You can't keep me out of your life!" She said and after a few minutes of calmness when my dad came back "I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride." He said I wasn't myself right now but I kissed Austin and he whispered "I have you baby." And I smiled and gave in and kissed his lips softly.

At the reception when we all sat down at the table and people were coming up but when my dad came up I could tell my mom attacked him "Where is she?" I asked "The far end of the beach. I can call the cops." He asked "No need to." I said and for the father daughter dance my dad danced with me and then he danced with Bella, but Austin danced with Kelsey and I smiled at that. After our reception, my bag was in Austin's car ready to go. My dad was taking the girls tonight home, he took my hand and took me on a walk first "I know your groom is waiting but I need to tell you something." He said "Okay daddy," I said "I want to get custody back of Bells, I want to be the father she never had." He said "I'm the only person who has ever taken care of her. You can't do that." I said "I will at least ask her." He said "Okay." I said knowing that if Bella agrees I will cry. I was already starting to cry but I bit my lip. My dad and Austin traded places and we walked down the beach, my mom was still sitting on the wall drunk as a skunk "mom, you need help." I said and she looked up at me first with anger and then crying "I missed my oldest daughter's wedding, I ruined it." She said "We can take you to a rehab place." I said "That won't help." She said "Try, for us, for your granddaughter." I said and she nodded. We took her to the closest one and they took her in.

At the hotel I was still in my wedding dress on the bed with my knees brought up to my chest. Some wedding night, my make up is probably a mess. "What if Bella says yes?" I asked he was coming back with a bottle of water "She loves you, and she loves this place. Us." Austin said and I smiled at him wrapping my arms around

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him and he wiped away my tears "I don't want anything to do with my mom for awhile. She needs to remain sober." I said "Where you a druggie though?" He asked and I just looked at him this is now how I wanted to spend my wedding night. "To ease the pain of being abused, and being a mother to my own sister I escaped to drugs after Allie moved down here. In fact Kelsey's father was my dealer." I said and he nodded, "I just wanted to know. I hold nothing against the love of my life." He said kissing my lips softly. We all know where kissing leads to, especially when we have been waiting so long. It was a very fun and good night. To make up for all of the bad that happened that day. This is a day/night I will never forget.

Chapter 11

When we got home the next afternoon, both drained but loving each other. Bella was crying, Kelsey was crying my dad and Kelly didn't know what to do "Get Kels." I said and he nodded and I picked up Bella as if she was Kelsey's size again and I rubbed her hair "I don't want to go with daddy. This is my home sissy. I love you, Kels, and Austin." Bella said hugging me tight "Belly you don't have to do it. Only if you want to. But if you don't. I don't want to give you my opinion." I said "I don't want to go. I know you would cry." Bella said and I hugged her tight "I'm sorry." My dad said "it's okay." I said and Kelsey came in and clung to Bella "Bells no go!" She said and that broke my heart "I'm not." Bella said and we all hugged each other. Austin was an outsider at a moment like this and I felt bad for him. But Bella broke lose and hugged Austin tight and he lifted her up. And Bella was content "Let's open what Santa got us." I said and they did so and loved their gifts and hugged us again.

We spent the first two weeks as a married couple together was good, Bella and Kelsey were loving having Austin here all the time. When I worked 4-noon he was here when they woke up. The first morning they ran in here to check to make sure Austin or dada were still here. It's the 2nd now and Bella is back in school so it's just Kelsey and Austin when he isn't working. My new class schedule is now still five classes, my first one is 7-9, 10-12, 12:30-2:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays, then Tuesday and Thursday I have a 7-9 class and then 9:30-11:30 class and I won't go to work until 3:30 every day and then weekends when I do work 4-noon again. "I can't believe we're beginning our spring semester tomorrow." Austin said "I can't either." I said he has the same schedule I do but he works 2:30-7:30 every week day. "How's school going Bells?" I asked she was doing her homework "Great! This will be a good half of the year!" Bella said and I hugged her "Good I'm glad." I said and she smiled at me, "I love you." I said and Bella smiled at me "I love you too." She said and we put Kelsey in bed and Bella came in and we all read a bed time story to both of them and then Bella fell asleep so Austin lifted her up and carried her to bed and tucked her in and then we went to bed.

Our alarm clock went off at five, we took a shower together to save time, Austin wore his regular clothes and I put on my scrubs and I braided my hair. I got Kelsey up while he got Bella up, I got Kelsey dressed and she yawned and I smiled "Morning sleepyhead." I said and she giggled. We had breakfast and then we walked Bella over to Allie's "Have a good first day back!" Karen said and we smiled at her "Thank you." I said and she smiled, we dropped Kelsey off and then Austin walked me to class, we drove seperately since I have to leave campus for work and Austin doesn't. When I got to my first class Allie smiled at me "Haven't seen much of you lately." Allie said and I giggled "Jake and I are serious too!" Allie said and I smiled at her "Aww! You're in love!" I said and she smiled at me. The first class was good, and then the second one was good, and so was the third one. I went to the book store and I kissed Austin's lips "I'm going to work now." I said "See you when you get home." He said and I kissed his lips softly.

Alice smiled when I went in and I told her all about everything and then I went back to my regular duty. That was the schedule for the next six weeks, it's now February 5th, I'm not feeling so good and I'm three weeks late. Austin is busy preparing for a huge Valentine day for me. I'm off work tonight so I'm home at noon and Austin came here "Are you okay?" He asked me "I don't feel good." I said "Are you um late?" He asked me "Yes." I said "I will get a pregnancy test." He said "Okay." I said and he left and then he came home with Kelsey too because since I don't work tonight and neither does he I can tell his mind is elsewhere. After I followed the directions, I haven't done this in two years, but I was nervous. I didn't want Austin to get scared and run away and leave me with three kids. I crawled in bed with Austin, Kelsey was on the floor watching TV with a baby doll. "What are you feeling?" I asked "I'm nervous but excited. We could be having a baby!" Austin said "Are you sure?" I asked "Honey, I love you and I would love our baby. No matter the sex." He said and I smiled and kissed his lips. Kelsey was talking to the TV show and giggling. "Are you nervous?" Austin asked "I am. I mean another baby. And after my experience.." I started "Don't worry. Don't talk about that. I would not leave you Lex. You are my wife. Kelsey is my daughter, Bella is like my little sister/daughter." Austin said.

The timer beep and I slowly got up and went to the bathroom, I was nervous. All I could hear was my mother voice in my mind about how I'm ruining my life. And then remembering my father's face the day we found

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out my mom was having a girl. I don't want Austin to be like that. I still can't believe I have Kelsey, and Bella at only eighteen but I'm doing it. I don't care if I gave up partying and a better future, if I go to school and then work I don't care. Bella, Kelsey and Austin means everything to me. I still remember the 26th when Bella cried because my dad said he wanted custody of Bella. I know he can legally take her from me, but I know he won't do that. His voice in my head saying how he didn't want me or Bella still comes to mind every day. When I see Austin with Kelsey and Bella I realize he is nothing like my dad was. My biggest fear is I would be like my mother, but I don't stay in bed all day, I don't claim to be sick, I don't drink, I don't abuse my girls. When they get punished I talk to them telling them what they did wrong, I don't hit them. I know my mom was forced into the rehab and if she actually does get the help she needs I don't want her around me, the girls, Austin or the baby. It just isn't safe. I wanted a fresh start here and then my mom has to come and show up because of me getting married. "Lexie! What does the test say?" Austin asked and I looked down... It read....

Chapter 12

"We're having a baby!" I said and I slowly walked out and Austin lifted me up and spun me around, I kissed his lips softly. "I love you!" He said and then he kissed my stomach "I love you too." He said "When do we tell Kelsey?" He asked me "When Bella gets home. Tonight for dinner." I said and Austin kissed my lips softly and I returned his kiss. Austin smiled at me, we made an OBGYN appointment for today, we took Kelsey to Karen's and then we went to the appointment and sure enough we saw a baby on the screen and heard the heart beat "That's our child." I said to Austin who smiled at me, we made our next appointment for four weeks from now, I also called to my schedule my two month appointment for in two weeks. When we went back home, Bella was there and Austin took Bella and Kelsey home "Where did you two go?" Karen asked me and I pulled out the picture "Congratulations! And you have to tell Abby!" She said and I looked at her "No. No. No." I said and Karen giggled "You will be fine." She said and I smiled at her. "What do you want?" Karen asked "A boy. I know Austin would want a boy." I said and Karen smiled at me. "Let's go out tonight." I said and they were excited we went to Chuck E cheese for dinner and then after we ate dinner, I looked at both girls "I have some important news to tell you." I said and Bella looked at me all wide-eyed "I'm not going to live with daddy am I?" Bella asked me. "No Bells! No! Good news!" I said and she looked at me "Austin and I are going to have a baby." I said "Yay!" Bella said and I looked at Kelsey "It means you are going to have a little sister or brother." I said and Kelsey smiled at me "Yay!" Kelsey said and Austin squeezed my hand. "We have to tell my mother now." Austin said and I rolled my eyes "I don't want to." I said "We have to. We can stop by tonight." Austin said and I kissed his lips softly. "Fine." I said and Austin smiled at me. We let the girls play a little bit more and then we went to his parent's house "What a lovely surprise!" Abby said smiling at us and like always the girls were taken away into their bedroom "Is dad around?" Austin asked "Yes. Todd!" Abby yelled and he came in "Can we sit down and talk?" Austin asked "Sure." Todd said and we sat down on the couch "What's the news?" Abby asked "Lexie is expecting." Austin said "Expecting what? A letter?" Abby asked "A baby mom." Austin said "Congratulations!" Todd said and Abby just gave me the death glare like it was something I had planned with it. "That's good news!" Abby said and everybody could tell she was faking it "Well thanks for shopping by, see you around." She said "That's it." I said and I went into Katie's room and smiled "Girls, we're leaving. So sorry Katie and Ashley. Maybe you can spend the night sometime." I said and they smiled, I lifted up Kelsey and walked to the car not even saying bye to Abby. Austin came out once they were in their seats "I want to go home." I said "I'm sorry about my mom. But weren't you a bit rude?" Austin asked me "Me?! You're mother thinks I'm trash!" I said "No she doesn't!" Austin said "Did you see the way she was looking at me?! She hates me!" I said "no she doesn't. You're not being that friendly to my mother. Just because you never really had a mother it doesn't mean my mother is a jerk." He said and I stared at him "Let's go." I said and we rode in quiet, I couldn't believe he went there. When we got home I got Kelsey and Bella asleep and then I changed into my pajama bottoms and then a tank top and I wore my hair down and I went outside on the porch and let my hair get in my face. I couldn't believe he went there. I was still mad at him. I know his mother doesn't like me and I don't like her.

I stayed outside until Austin came in to change and got his pillow and then he went to the couch and then I went into the room and slept on the bed alone. I couldn't sleep though, I went into the living room and saw Austin who was still awake "Sorry." I said "I'm sorry too. I shouldn't have went there." Austin said "You're right." I said "I'm sorry." I said and he hugged me "We're going to be parents. We need to work together. We don't need to get upset." Austin said and I nodded. "My mother can be rude." Austin said "I can be not so good too." I said "Trust me, Becca, Noah's wife is relieved to have you in the family. She gave her a hard time from the moment they started dating until you can in the picture. She's jealous. I mean Becca and Noah have a six year old daughter Lindsay, and a four year old son Jacob and my mom still hasn't given her a break." Austin said and I kissed his lips. "I just have bad experience with parents." I said "And yet you're a great parent." Austin said.

That Saturday we're all around the house today after I got home at noon and we heard a knock, I have already told my dad the good news and he pushed the subject about taking Bella from my hand, he said "Lexie I don't

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mind taking Bella from you. You're going to have your hand full for Kelsey and the new baby, work, and school you don't have time for Bella." My dad said "Dad, I was twelve. You left us, mom was depressed. I raised Bella. I'm the only caregiver Bella knows. I don't care if I have five kids, Bella is not leaving me. I would find a good lawyer if I have to." I said and he just said he was sorry. But that day we heard a knock and I got up and it was my mother "Can I come in?" she asked "Okay." I said last we heard she was in rehab still since we left her there and all. "Hey Belly." My mom said and Bella clung to Austin "Girls, I'm sorry for how I was." She said and we nodded "Don't worry Bella I'm not taking you from Lexie. This is your home. I'm actually going to California." She said "I don't want to come in and mess up your family. I haven't been the greatest mom and I won't fix it easily." I said and we nodded "I'm going to do the smart thing and get myself out of the picture and go to a different rehab place that I know will help me." My mom said and we hugged her "I will write." She said and we nodded "Sissy is pregnant." Bella said "Congratulations!" My mom said and I smiled "I love you." She said "I love you too." We said and she smiled at me.

Chapter 13

Our valentine day was good, after school Austin gave me my gift, and then he took me out to dinner for a romantic night out on town. He is very big on the holidays and I loved it today. I kissed him good-night and I love my husband. It's the 19th now and we're at our second month appointment, and I'm dealing with morning sickness now. Any smell of food I end up puking, but Austin is being by my side. I got blood drawn and my blood pressure was done, and my weight. I began out being 105 and I now weigh 107. "You and the baby are healthy, I'm giving you the prescription you need." Doctor Woods said "How are you feeling?" He asked me "Good. Morning sickness is taking place." I said and he nodded. I kissed Austin good-bye and we went to work. I went to Alice's room first and she smiled at me "How did it good?" she asked "good. Baby and I are healthy." I said and Alice smiled "I'm glad. I love you." She said "I love you too Miss Alice." I said and she smiled at me.

I did what I had to do and right before I left work I went to check on Alice again before I went home for the night "Alice?" I asked no sound, I went up to her and she wasn't breathing, I pressed the panic button and the nurses and doctors came in. I was doing what I knew and Dr. Hamm looked at us "Time of death 9:50." He said and I just stared at him "Isn't there something we can do?" I asked "I'm sorry Lexie." He said and I nodded. I went home and sat on the couch and stared out the window, Austin came up and wrapped his arms around me "What happened?" He asked he could tell something was wrong "Miss Alice. My favorite patient, the woman I go to see even when I'm not working. She passed away tonight." I said "I'm sorry to hear that." He said and he held me in his arms "Alice was like my grandmother." I said and he held me close "I love you Lexie. He said "I love you too." I said and he held me while I cried that night. I knew it was going to happen, being a nurse but my first person dying me on, and somebody I came close to at work.

That Saturday I got dressed in my black pants and my cute black shirt and I had my hair down and I got the girls dressed, everybody met Miss Alice at least once. We went to her funeral and I went up to her family with Kelsey on my hip "I am so sorry for your loss." I said "Thank you. You must be Lexie?" Her daughter asked me "Yes ma'am." I said "My mom talked about you a lot. You were her favorite person there." She said "Thank you." I said and she smiled at me. We sat down and Kelsey sat on Austin's lap he was being supportive, he didn't know what to say to me. Afterwards we were going to lunch at his parents house, Noah and Becca were going to be there too. Austin held my hand and I kissed his lips "Starlet Alice if we're having a girl." I said "I agree." Austin said and he kissed my lips softly and I smiled at him. "You will like Becca." Austin said and I smiled at him.

When we arrived Abby's first comment was "Who died?" "A patient at work." I said "I'm sorry to hear that." She said "Noah and Becca this is Lexie, Kelsey, and Bella." Austin said "It's nice to meet you." I said and Becca smiled "Hi." Bella said to Lindsay "Hi!" She said "Do you like Barbies?" Lindsay asked "I do!" Bella said "Well come on!" Lindsay said and I smiled "Kels?" Kelsey asked and Jacob smiled "You're pretty. We can play with my leggos." He said "Okay?" Kelsey asked and followed him. "How cute." Abby said at them and then we all sat in the Florida room. "There's a football game on." Todd said "Can we?" Noah and Austin asked and as we nodded they left and it was just us women alone with Abby "I'm going to go get some tea for all of us." Abby said and we smiled "Okay." I said and when Abby left Becca looked at me "You have taken a major load off of me. But I'm sorry. Abby isn't that bad once they get to know you." Becca said and I smiled at her "Congratulations on the baby." Becca said and I smiled at her "Thank you." I said and we got to know each other until Abby came back. We had an amazing lunch, we invited Noah and them over for dinner the following weekend.

"I had a fun time today." I said kissing Austin, we were home and getting ready for bed. "I can't believe we have another appointment on the 5th." Austin said "We get to see our baby again." I said and Austin kissed my lips "What do you want?" I asked "I want a girl." He said and I kissed his lips softly and he kissed my lips. "Are you okay?" He asked me "Yeah, I am." I said and he kissed my lips again. "Mid-terms are March 10th-15th and then we're on spring break for a week!" I said and Austin kissed my lips, "We need to start studying for our mid-terms." Austin said and I kissed his lips softly. We curled up together that night and fell asleep. School seems to be going by so fast this semester, I'm due in September and I can't wait!

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Kelsey went with us to our appointment and she got to see her baby brother or sister on the screen and she giggled, the baby is developing properly and looks good on the camera. I'm showing a little bit and I love it, I'm not so pleased about the morning sickness. My back is starting to hurt a little bit, and my ankles are getting swollen but Austin is doing everything he can to make me happy. We started studying for our mid-terms that night and after our last mid-term we went baby shopping, we got the baby dresser, crib, changing table, a natural color playpen, a rocking chair, the things that doesn't matter the sex of the baby. On the 19th we went to the doctor's and the baby and I are healthy, my morning sickness is gone. I weigh 109 now and I love the feeling of being pregnant and having a supportive man here. "What do you want mommy to have?" I asked Kelsey "Sissy!" Kelsey said and I smiled at her "Bells?" I asked "A girl!" She said and I smiled "We are all going to be disappointed if we have a boy!" I said and Austin smiled at me and placed his hand on my stomach and kissed the stomach. "I love my baby no matter what." Austin said "Agree!" They said and I smiled at her.

We spent Spring break as a family and then with Allie and Jake, I was working 4-noon every day and then we would do different things for the girls. If we have a girl it will be Starlet Alice Blevins and if it's a boy then it will be Brayden Chance Blevins. "I love you Lexie." Austin said "I love you too." I said and he smiled at me "Girls, how about we make dinner for mommy?" Austin asked "Sure!" They said and they giggled. "Sissy can I have a friend over tonight?" Bella asked "Of course!" I said "Can you pick Stacy up?" Bella asked "How about we go now?" I asked "Sure." Bella said "Come on. Austin, baby do you mind keeping Kelsey?" I asked "We're going to go the grocery store." Austin said "Got it. You don't mind?" I asked talking about Stacy "Nope." He said kissing my lip and then kissing Bella's cheek. Bella sat in the back "How are you feeling about the baby?" I asked "I'm excited! I can't believe it!" Bella said and I smiled. When we arrived at Stacy's her mom smiled "I will pick her up tomorrow." Stacy's mom said "Okay, that's fine. Thank you for letting her spend the night." I said and she smiled at me. We got the girls settled on their sleeping bags and gave them their pizza and Kelsey wanted to be with the big girls but they didn't want her to, so Austin took her to our room for a daddy-daughter night.

Chapter 14

It's April 5th and we're at the OBGYN appointment again "Your baby is growing so good! She or he is healthy looking!" Doctor Walls said and we smiled at them. Taxes were due on the 15th and we had them filed and sent out already. And the 16th was our four month appointment, I now weigh 111, we are both healthy and we can find out the sex either at our next OBGYN appointment or the following one. Everything is going good, I'm not getting attached to people at work. It's weird at work not having Alice there to talk to. Bella is forming a relationship with Austin, it was cute when they would have brother-sister dates every week, he would have a daddy-daughter date with Kelsey every week too. I kissed Kelsey's good night and I tucked her in bed and then we tucked Bella in and then we went to bed, I was tired easily. I felt a kick and I looked at Austin and placed his hand on my stomach "That's either Brayden or Alice kicking." I said and Austin smiled at me and kissed my lips softly.

For my next OBGYN appointment I was nineteen weeks pregnant and the baby was being shy so we couldn't find out the sex of the baby. "Your baby is a healthy one!" Doctor Smith said and I nodded, next week is our final weeks and then we're out of school until August. Allie came over as soon as we got home "So?" Allie asked "We find out next month if the baby lets us." I said and Allie smiled "Jake asked me to marry him!" She said "You did say yes right?" I asked "I did." Allie said smiling at me "good!" I said and she smiled "I can't believe Bella is almost seven." Allie said "I know!" I said and she smiled at me. That night we sat Bella down "What do you want to do for your birthday?" I asked "Disney World!" Bella said and Austin looked at me "My appointment is next week and we can see." I said and he nodded "If I can't go then what?" I asked "A party at the beach is fine!" Bella said and I smiled at her and kissed her forehead.

At my appointment which was after my last final "I was wondering if it would be safe to go to Disney World?" I asked "It would be, make sure you drink plenty of water. And you don't stay on your feet too long." Doctor Wood said and I nodded. I worked 4-12 every day and spent the remaining of the day with Kelsey until Bella came home, she doesn't get out of school until June 6th and then her birthday is the 7th and we're taking Stacy with us for the few days we will be there. We're going to Bella's school award show on the 6th, we have our OBGYN appointment on the 5th and hopefully we can find out the sex. It's the second now and we're at the house and Allie and Jake are over here eating over. "I hope you find out the sex tomorrow!" Allie said and I smiled, I am now 23 weeks and I have my next appointment on the 11th and we will be home on time. We stayed up until eleven talking and then they went home and I curled up with Austin, "We find out the sex hopefully!" I said and he kissed my lips softly.

The next morning I checked the mail from the day before and saw a letter from my mom to me, I sat at the table and opened it:

Lexie,

I know you are probably finding out the sex of your baby any day now. I just wish I was being a good grandmom and being by your side right now. Kelsey is a beautiful little girl Lexie, and you can tell she loves her mommy. You are doing a great job with Bella as well and I appreciate all that you're doing for Bella. I'm doing good in rehab Lexie, you would be proud of me. I know I should be saying how much I love this rehab program, but it isn't a piece of cake. But I needed tough love like I thought you needed growing up. But don't worry I realize I was wrong and therapy has really helped. I can't believe our little Bella is going to be seven, but I don't deserve to call her mine. All I did was give birth to her, you raised Bella into the beautiful little girl she is today. When I get out of the program I won't come back and try to take her from you. This is her home Lex, with you and Austin. I am so sorry for hurting you, I'm sorry for not being a good mother. I want to make everything right with you and I will start when I get out. I'm going to stay in California Lexie and I'm going to do good. I'm going to change who I am. I love you baby girl, I truly do. I regret how bad of a mother I was and I know I can change that.

I put the letter away and hugged Kelsey "Mommy loves you baby girl." I said and she kissed my cheek "wuv yew too." she said and I smiled "You can talk clearly on some things and then not so clearly on others." I said and she giggled at me. I put her down and I got her dressed and then we walked around the house and then went outside so she could play with her toy, Austin was working and I was off today. "Mommy?" Kelsey

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asked "Yeah?" I asked "Baby?" She asked "We find out if you are having a little sister or brother today hopefully." I said and she giggled, "Do you want to go get Bella's birthday gift?" I asked "Yes!" Kelsey said and I giggled. I got her in the car seat and then I got in and we went to the mall and I put her in her stroller because I was getting too big to hold her, we went to the kid's store and found some Hello Kitty stuff, a Tinkerbell blanket, and then a build a bear gift card. We went to the book store and Kelsey told her daddy all about what we got her and how we went to MD for lunch and she enjoyed it. "Are you ready to find out?" I asked "I am." Austin said "Okay come on." I said and he kissed my lips softly and we followed behind him in my car.

We're at the doctor's office and Kelsey is playing with my necklace on my lap but she moves to Austin and he's playing with her and then we hear "Alexis Blevins?" I get up and he gets up and has Kelsey on his hip and bounced her. I laid down on the table and Doctor Walls put the blue gel on my stomach and it was cool and I looked at Austin who had Kelsey on his lap she was waiting patiently. Within a few seconds the baby was on the screen and we heard the heart beat "Steady heart beat. Good growth. And your baby isn't playing shy today." Doctor Walls said and I looked at Austin and squeezed his hand. I can't believe I'm going to find out what we're having which will mean shopping for baby stuff! She zoomed in and I smiled at the image "Congratulations you are having a baby....!!!"

Chapter 15

"Girl!" She said finishing her sentence and we smiled, on the way home I was looking back and smiling at Kelsey "You're going to have a baby sister!" I said and she giggled at me when we got home Bella was there "A girl!" I said and Bella smiled "Starry!" She said and Austin spun her around for me, I'm going to be due on September 30th, so the end of Septemeber. That night we told everybody the news and we had a blast celebrating it. We got up at six and got Kelsey dressed in a cute dress and then Austin was wearing a good outfit and I was dressed in the best oufit I had, Allie is getting married on August 1st so I will be huge by then but I love that my best friend is getting married! We went to her school and afterwards we went to Denny's to celebrate, Stacy was spending the night and we were leaving bright and early the next morning.

We were all up at two and the girls slept the way to Orlando "They're excited." He said "Beyond." I said and Austin smiled at me "My mom is throwing you a baby shower." Austin said "Alright." I said and Austin smiled at me and then he focused on the road and then we arrived "Time to get up girls! We're here!" I said and they smiled at me waking up. We spent the weekend at Disney World, I took a ton of pictures while Austin went on all the rides with the girls since I couldn't ride any rides. "It's time to say good-bye." We said and the girls waved good-bye to Disney World as we got on the high way "Thank you for the trip!" Stacy said "You're welcome! We glad you came!" I said and she smiled at me "Thank you sissy, it was amazing!" Bella said and I laughed at her. We unloaded all the gifts and I got a call "Hello?" I asked "Lexie, this is Abby." Abby said and I looked at Austin "How are you?" I asked "I'm good. I'm calling to confirm your baby shower tonight at six." She said "Six? Tonight? We just got home." I said "Okay good so you will be here." She said and "Okay." I said and we hung up "I have a baby shower tonight at six." I said and he smiled "You will need to get ready now." Austin said "Fine." I said "You fine with the girls tonight?" I asked "Yup." He said kissing my lips softly.

I was mumbling to myself the whole way to our room and to the shower and I turned the water on warm and then I got in and after I got out I put on a cute maternity dress I had and I crunched my hair so it would be a litle bit curlier. I put my sandals on and then I went into the living room "You look pretty." Austin said and I smiled "Thanks." I said and we sat down I still had plenty of time "Lexie I have been thinking." Austin said "Uh-oh." I said and he nodded "Allie is getting married." He said "Uh-huh." I said "I think it's time we find our own place." Austin said "Okay." I said and he looked at me weird "I've been here for a year, I don't want to over stay my welcome." I said and Austin looked at me "Okay." He said I could tell he was up to something but with going to this baby shower I didn't say anything about it. "I will see you tonight. I love you guys." I said and they smiled "We love you too." They said and I went to my car and went to Abby's house of course I was the first one there.

Abby let me in and smiled "You look beautiful! I can't believe you're twenty-four weeks! You're so small!" She said and I smiled who is this woman? And what has she done with the real Abby? "Come on in, you can help me set up." Abby said and I nodded "When are you due?" Abby asked "September 30th." I said "That's good, after your birthdays. How are you going to handle school?" Abby asked "I'm going to do the first semester online, I talked to my proffesors about the online program and they recommended that and then in January I will have Starry in with Kelsey at the day care and I will do my second semester then." I said and she nodded "How many years do you have to do school?" Abby asked "Well my CNA program knocked out a year, so just one more year." I said and she nodded. This is the most we have talked about me, "You make a good nurse." Abby said "Thank you." I said "Me personally I would rather be a stay at home mom. But I'm proud of you." Abby said and I smiled knowing that was a sort of compliant but I didn't feel like I should take it like that. I set out the food and Abby smiled at me "Pregnancy is a great thing isn't it?" She asked me "Yes ma'am, I love feeling Starry kick. It makes me feel connected." I said "You are connected. Bonding for forty months." She said and I smiled at her.

Becca and Allie showed up first "Hey!" Becca and Allie said smiling "Allie this is Becca, Becca this is Allie." I said and she smiled "It's nice to meet you." Allie said and more guests that I didn't know arrived. We had the snacks that Abby prepared and then we all sat around talking about pregnancy stories and Allie nodded "This is for you to be prepared since you're engaged." I said and Allie smiled at me. "Gift time!" Abby said and

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Allie finally lightened up, because she didn't know how to respond to all the pregnancy and who breast fed or bottle fed topic. I got a lot of cute gifts that I would need "Do you have a name picked out?" Becca asked me "Starlet Alice." I said "Lovely name!" Every said "It's so proper!" Abby said beaming about her name "We're going to call her Starry though." I said and they smiled at me. We stayed a little bit longer and then Allie and Becca helped me get the stuff into my car "I will help you when I get home, I'm leaving when you do." Allie said and I nodded.

When we got home Austin came out and he helped us carry the stuff into the room we had set up for Starry. Allie sat at the table "Let me guess you guys are planning on moving?" Allie asked "Austin wants to, since you're getting married." I said "I'm not going to kick you guys out. Mom is building a house for us, it's in the works." Allie said and I looked at Austin "I didn't want to overdo our stay." Austin asked "You would never over do it. My mother loves all of you. She thinks of Lexie as her other daughter along with Bella." Allie said and I smiled at her, "Now I'm going to go home to get some rest. Love you guys!" Bella said and I smiled at her. When she left I felt a sharp pain and winced "Lex you okay?" He asked "No." I said and he rushed to my side "Get Allie." I said and he rushed out and brought Allie and Karen back over "Take her to the hospital now. Sharp pains and pregnancy aren't a good mixture. We will be here for if the girls wake up. Go. Keep us updated." Karen said and Austin carried me to the car and then rushed to the hospital. I was in so much pain I was crying. When we got there they had us wait but they saw my face and his worried expression and I was seen sooner than I was told to begin with. Doctor Walls was working and ran some tests, my blood pressure was extremely high, my heart rate was high, "The baby is an anxious one. She wants to come out now. We're going to give you medicine to stop your labor. We don't want her to come out yet." He said and Austin called Karen to inform her and she said she would stay the night.

They had me hooked up to machines all night long and coming to check on me, Austin held my hand I couldn't sleep "What if she is born?" I asked "She is strong. She's your daughter. She will make it." Austin said kissing my lips softly "Austin I'm scared." I said "Me too." He admitted holding my hand, he called into work for me and they said to take my time coming back. That afternoon they finally stopped the labor and I was put on strict bed rest for the next two weeks to begin with and then make it to my appointment and see from there. I was able to go home the following day and when I got home I felt sick to my stomach and ran into the bathroom and puked, I had morning sickness all over again. I could barely keep any food or liquid down so we had to go to the doctor's and it wasn't morning sickness I had the flu so I was given medicine and I spent the first week just sleeping. Kelsey and Bella would curl up with me and sleep it off too, I felt so bad because this brought back memories from my earlier years but I was actually sick and not depressed.

Chapter 16

It's July 9th now and I have been in bedrest ever since, I'm getting ready for my 28th week appointment and Austin, Bella, and Kelsey went "You and baby are healthy. You're off of bed rest but Lexie take it easy." He said and I smiled "Yes sir." I said and we went home and sat out on the pool "What do you want to do for your birthday?" I asked Austin, his birthday was the 15th "Dinner with my lovely family and then my mother and them." Austin said and the girls giggled, we had Kelsey in her float and she was having a blast. "Okay fine." I said "How about you next month?" Austin asked me "I'm going to be huge. Too huge for fun." I said and Austin kissed my lips softly, Starry's room is all set up and decorated perfectly for her and now we're just waiting for her to come. "Kels, what do you want to do for your second birthday?" I asked "Minnie!" She said giggling "Okay!" I said and Bella swam under water and came back up "A minnie theme would be a good party for Kelsey." She said, she's still on heaven from her birthday last month. Allie and Jake came out "We're getting married in less than a month!" Allie said and I smiled "I know we still need to throw you your bridal shower." I said "tomorrow night." She said "I will be there." I said and she smiled at me, "man your party will be rocking." Austin said to Jake and we rolled our eyes, Karen is going to be watching the girls for all of us tomorrow night.

The next day I took a shower and changed into my party shorts that I can wear and a cute t-shirt, I had my hair down and it looked good, Austin good looked. We're calling Karen meme "Are you going to behave for Meme?" I asked Kelsey "Yes mommy." Kelsay said and I kissed her forehead "I know you will." I said to Bella who smiled, "Stacy is coming to pick me up tonight remember?" Bella asked and Austin nodded "We know, you had it planned all month but with Lexie being sick, it's happening tonight." Austin said and she smiled, I hate the sick excuse because my mom over did it. "I'm sorry Bells." I said "hey Starry wanted to come out early and you got sick. You werent using it as an excuse." She said and I hugged her. We took them over to Karen's and Austin grabbed Jake and I took Allie by the hand and me tell her some childhood memories my favorite: "We were twelve and it was snowing so we had this crazy idea to meet at Allie's house to go sledding down her hill, where we would run into our crushes and we did our hair and had it all pretty but we didn't want to wear a big bulky coat so we skipped out on the big coat and wore a light coat. Stupid us, the guys werent even there and we both ended up getting sick, we fell down the hill that we were sledding on and ended up rolling in the snow but we had a blast." I said and everybody was laughing.

We went home and Allie hugged me "Thank you Lex. You made this the best night ever!" Allie said hugging me tighter "I tried!" I said and she giggled at me "Who'd thought we would both be married by the time we were nineteen?" Allie asked and I smiled "I know." I said and we walked in and Allie carried Kelsey for me to the house and then I held Bella's hand leading her home. I tucked them both in and then I got in my own bed and curled up, Austin came home around mignight and curled up with me, I go to work tomorrow. I get up at three and I put my scrubs on and I brush my hair and I kissed Austin good-night and then I went to work. I worked 4-ten they cut my hours down to six since I was on bed rest because they want me to take it easy and not to over do everything. I get home and I change into more comfortable and I make breakfast, Austin walked in and kissed my lips "We could have had made breakfast for you. You're pregnant." He said and I kissed his lips softly "I don't need to be reminded." I said and he kissed my lips softly. We spent the day at the park and movie with the girls who were having a blast. We went home and Austin did hot dogs on the grill and then we ate outside, the girls and Austin were catching fireflies.

On July 15th I got Kelsey dressed in her cute dress with her sandals and then her bow in her hair and I wore a cute dress and Bella was all cute "Let's go." I said and we walked into our bedroom and Kelsey and Bella woke up Austin saying "Happy birthday!" I put the breakfast plate at his side and he gladly took it. "Thank you!" He said and we all ate off of his plate. He got dressed after breakfast and we gave him his birthday gifts and then we went to the beach like he wanted dressed like this and then we went to the mall like he wanted, and then we went to his parent's house for his birthday party. "Happy birthday Austin!" Everybody sang, today my husband is twenty and he doesn't want to act like it. I can't believe my husband is twenty, he's a year older than me.

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It's August 1st and we're at Allie's wedding, it was beautiful and perfect! Allie was beautiful and Jake was handsome! On the 6th we went school shopping for Austin and Bella, I had the books I would need already and the notebooks, since I would be doing it online. Allie and Jake returned on my birthday which is also my eight month appointment, I now weigh 120, I went from 105 to 120 I gained 15 pounds in eight months, I don't have to wear maternity clothes since I'm not that huge. "You and your baby are healthy." He said and I smiled we had an OBGYN appointment on the 14th, the day before Kelsey's birthday. "Happy birthday." Austin said kissing my lips softly "Thank you." I said kissing his lips softly. We had dinner with Allie's family and that was how I celebrated my birthday. I loved the gifts I got. The girls made me a gift. On the 14th we were happy to find out that Starry is a healthy baby girl, she will be estimated to be small, and I am 1cm dilated. I was to go back on the 3rd for one of my last appointment, my last appointment with them will be on the 18th.

We had the whole house and back yard decorated in Minnie Mouse for Kelsey's second birthday. My mom even called, she called on Bella's, mine and now Kelsey's birthday, my dad called. Kelsey was so beautiful, "You're two baby girl!" I said and she smiled, it's Sunday. I begin online classes tomorrow and Austin begins classes tomorrow as well. I have no fix schedule just to have my assignment for the week done by Sunday night. Bella begins second grade tomorrow as well, we had to celebrate her birthday on a Sunday because I worked on Saturday and her actual birthday was on Thursday. After a wonderful party Kelsey hugged both of us and I tucked her into bed, I would take her and pick her up from daycare until Starry arrives. "It was a great day. A great summer." Austin said "It was." I said and I kissed him good-night. "I love you." Austin said "I love you too." I said and we fell asleep with us curled up together.

My alarm clock went off at five and I got Austin up and then I got changed into comfortable clothes and I got Bella up and then I got Kelsey up and made breakfast. I kissed Austin on the lips good-bye he had to open up the book store today. I walked Bella over to Karen's, it was the same like last year they all loved it. Nathan, Hannah, Zoey, Emma, and John's daughter Sara who's Bella's friend were all excited to have Bella back this year "Thanks again." I said and she smiled, "Have a good first day Bells. I love you." I said and she smiled at me. I took Kelsey to day-care saying I would her pick her up when Bella is home. She nodded and then I went home and began working on my classes. I finished my one class for the week by the time Bella came through the door. "How was school?" I asked "Perfect. Second grade is amazing!" Bella said "Stacy and Sara are in the same class as me!" She said and I smiled at her "Let's go pick up Kels." I said and she smiled still going on about her first day and then Kelsey went on about her first day back in day care. I smiled. All week I finished my last class assignments on Thursday so I had Friday all to myself. Everybody is loving school/day care this year. Allie found out she is pregnant and will be due around June, so she won't be missing any school.

Chapter 17

The first Saturday since school started I had to go into work at four again, I'm not liking the four o'clock to ten or noon hours. The baby and I need or sleep. I got up at three and I got dressed in my scrubs and I pulled my hair into a sloppy ponytail, at this stage in my pregnancy being this huge I don't care about my appearance. I kissed Austin good-bye and I went to work. I clocked in and then began my duty of checking all the bed pans, I went into Alice's old room and all the memories came back, I smiled at the new person who stays there it's another woman but her name is Nicole, she's friendly. "Morning dear." She said "Good morning, can I get you anything?" I asked "No thank you dear. Have a good day." she said "You too ma'am." I said and I did what I had to in her room and then I left. I got a phone call around nine, I wasn't busy so I answered it "Hello?" I asked

"The cops came and took Bella from us something about your dad is suing for custody rights saying you are an unfit mother they took Kelsey too." Austin said it was in a big sentence "What?!" I asked "The cops came and took Bella from us something about your dad is suing for custody rights saying you are an unfit mother they took Kelsey too." Austin said "You have got to be kidding me." I said "No, can you get off?" He asked me "I will go check. I will call you back." I said and I hung up. My dad can't be doing this. I went up to Anna who smiled at me "Morning Lex, what can I do for you? What's wrong?" She asked "I need to take off, I know it's nine. But they took Bella and Kelsey." I said "Go. Go. Let me know what happens." She said and I looked "Clock me out?" I asked "Yes." She said and I dialed Austin "On my way." I said and hung up.

I went to the police station first Austin was going to meet me there first he was going to his dad to get him to come along as a lawyer. "Hello, how may I help you?" The person at the front desk ask "I'm Alexis Blevins. I came here because my husband said my daughter and sister were taken from me." I asked "They're with social services right now." She said, she looked me up and down judging me. I saw my dad he was coming my way "How could you? They took Kelsey away too." I said "I'm getting my daughter back one way or another." He said "You can't do this." I said "I have legal rights. You had temporary custody of Bella." He said and I glared at him, Austin and his dad came. The day was spent doing legal things and Kelsey was released to us where she clung to me. Bella was released but not to me, to my dad "We won't bother getting her stuff. We will replace it." He said "Lexie!" Bella cried but I couldn't reach out to her my dad took her away from me. I could tell she was crying, I was crying and Kelsey was scared to death clinging to Austin and Todd "We will take legal actions, we will get her back." Todd said and I couldn't even speak "I will drive her home, drive my car?" Austin asked and Todd nodded. He carried Kelsey and took my hand and led me to the car. "Bella?" Kelsey asked "Bella isn't here." I said and Kelsey started crying and I was looking out the window crying. I spent the rest of the night just staring at Bella's room, Allie was over trying to comfort me "He can't do this. I'm all Bella has. I'm all Bella knows." I said, Austin was in with Kelsey trying to calm her down but Kelsey ran in to my arms and I held her "Bring Bella back." Kelsey said and I held her tight "We're going to try." I said and when I put Kelsey down in her bed finally my cell phone rang it was my father "Don't start. You got what you wanted." I said as soon as I answered "Lexie?" I heard instead of my dad's line "Belly." I said fighting back the tears "What happened? I'm scared. I want to come home." Bella said "I'm trying my best to get you back." I said "I don't want to be here. I want to be with you." Bella said and I broke down "I know sissy. Look sissy, I'm going to do my best. Everything I have to get you back. I won't stop." I said "Dad is coming." Bella said and she hung up, I didn't get an I love you or nothing. I looked at Austin "Bella needs us." I said "Lexie, I know. Don't over do it." Austin said and I felt Stary kick she was upset too. "Eat something." He said and I slowly ate a slice of pizza and I curled up in bed and slowly fell asleep..

My dream was horrible: It's a cold and rainy night now I'm driving with a newborn in the back and Kelsey in her car seat looking out the window "Belly!" Kelsey called out and I looked "Where?" I asked "There?" she asked but there was nothing. "Bella isn't in our life no more." I said and Kelsey stared at me "Okay." She said softly "I'm sorry baby girl. I know I'm a failure." I said and in my dream there was a figure in front of the car and it was Bella, before I could stop I hit Bella going about 75 on the road. "You promised!" Bella yelled when she went flying in the air "You said you would protect me! That it was just us!" Bella said "NO! I'm trying to get you back Belly!" I yelled "Don't try! Do! I need you!" Bella screamed before she disappeared.

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Then that dream faded into me being in a maze yelling out "Bella!" And then "here!" and so on, trying to find her and when I finally do find her my dad is in the way and he wouldn't move. I was supposed to protect my sister! And I let her get taken away from me!

I wake up and I get out of bed and I just turn the TV on I couldn't go back to sleep and I was off today. Todd came over and we went over the paper work and he told me "We have a court hearing tomorrow. Do you have what he said in writing?" Todd asked "I have it in writing, on a voice recorder." I said and he nodded "Hopefully that is enough." Todd said and Kelsey walked up "Papa, bring Belly home." She said "I'm going to try." He said and she clung to Abby who also came to try to comfort us. "I always had a fear my mom would try to get custody of her, you know? But not my dad. I mean he has never been in Bella's life." I said "I know. You don't need to stress it too much. It's not good for you or Starry." Abby said, Abby was actually being nice to me. Because if she would have been her normal self I would have went off on her. Kelsey wasn't herself either "Kels it's nap time." I said "NO!" She said "Kelsey Lynn." I said and she took my hand and I led her to her room, I could hear Austin "I'm worried about Lex. She isn't eating enough." He said "She's going to be okay. Tomorrow will help." Abby said and Austin nodded I came back and they acted like they weren't talking about me.

Austin had to go to class the following day, but I was going to do my work later on in the week. I wore my only dress that fit and had on my proper shoes and Todd and Abby came over, we dropped Kelsey off at day care and then we went to the court house. I saw my dad and Bella, my dad tried stopping Bella but she ran to me "I want to stay with you. You and Austin. Dad tried saying you didn't want me, but I knew it wasn't true. Tell me it isn't." Bella sobbed "Belly I could have ten kids and I would still want you." I said holding Bella in my arms like I would Kelsey. "It doesn't have to be this way." I said and my dad looked the other way. "I missed you sissy. How's Kelsey?" Bella asked "Not good. She's being a brat because she misses her Bella." I said "I miss My Kelsey too. I miss Austin. I miss it." Bella said and I hugged Bella. "Where going to do our best for where you come home with us." I said and Bella smiled at me "The judge will see you now." He said and Bella was taken by Kelly so they could sit down.

They went through all the legal stuff that I didn't understand because I wasn't a lawyer but Todd pleaded his case and my dad's lawyer pleaded his. "I want to call Alexis to stand." He said and I went up "Do you treat Bella equally?" His lawyer asked "Yes sir I do." I said "Is it true you are pregnant with your second child?" He asked "Yes sir." I said "Are you able to give Bella the attention she needs?" He asked "Yes sir. I make sure to give Bella the attention she needs and deserves. She gets what she needs." I said and then "Is it true you work long hours?" He asked me "During the week, I work 3-9 but my husband is there." I said and then there was more and then Bella was called to the stand "Who would you rather be with?" Todd asked "Lexie." She said and then so on. "We will take a fifteen minute recess to decide. We will come back with our answer." The judge said and I glanced at Todd and he nodded. I was a nervous wreck, I was also hungry and had to use the bathroom but I knew I couldn't move without falling over because of being so nervous. The judge came back and looked at us "We as the court, we believe that it would be in the best interest of Isabella Summerland if she stays with.."

Chapter 18: The baby has arrived!

"Alexis Blevins." He finished and I looked at Todd "Alexis has full custody of Isabella Summerland." He finished and Bella ran up to me and hugged me. My dad didn't even bother looking at me, the judge wrote a note so I could give it to Bella's school. Todd took us home and then I hugged him "Thank you Todd." I said hugging her "Anything for my daughter in-law." He said and I hugged Bella again, I have hugged her non-stop, "let's go get Kels." I said and she smiled, we went to day care and Kelsey was playing with her friends but saw Bella and ran up to Bella and hugged her "I missed you!" She said hugging Bella tighter and crying "I'm taking Kelsey home." I said and she smiled at me "I can see that." She said smiling, we went to the school book store and Austin hugged Bella "Your dad did it!" I said and he hugged me and hugged Bella again. "We shall celebrate tonight!" Austin said and I nodded, I went home and called Anna "Anna, I will be back at work tomorrow. I got Bella back!" I said "That is good news! I am proud of you!" She said and I smiled, I knew if Alice was here I would have told her the whole thing.

Allie and Karen both came over and hugged Bella, Sara was excited to see Bella was back too. Everybody missed Bella the few days she wasn't here. We had a huge dinner, all the family was with us too, Allie, Jake, and Karen and them too. We then went home and I stayed with Bella until she fell asleep and then I kissed Austin, non stop. "I am so happy, I feel better so I know our daughter is feeling better." I said and he smiled and I got a call and answered "Hello?" I asked "Lexie." My mom said and I felt my stomach tighten "You aren't getting Bells." I said "Honey, I know she's happy there. I wouldn't do that to you guys. I wanted to see how you were doing." she said and so I filled her in about what my dad did. "I am so sorry to hear that Lex." She said "Me too." I said "I'm calling because I want to be there when my granddaughter is born, if you will have me?" My mom asked "I want you here. Austin wants you here. Bella wants you here." I said "When are you due?" My mom asked "They go back and forth between September 30th and October 1st." I said "I will come the 28th and stay til the 3rd." She said "Okay, we will talk about more details when it's closer." I said "Okay, love you dear." She said "love you too." I said

"What was that?" Austin asked me when we hung up "My mom is coming to visit, so she can be here when Starry is born." I said "Why the sudden change of heart?" Austin asked "I wanted to give my mom one more chance." I said and Austin smiled "I understand baby. Are we ready for this?" He asked "We are." I said "We better be, before long we will be holding our daughter." Austin said and I kissed his lips softly. "I go to work tomorrow and I have to work on my work." I said and he smiled "You can do it baby." He said and I kissed his lips softly he was right, I could do anything. I woke up at five and I made breakfast and I got Austin up and he helped me with the girls and then he took Kelsey to day care while I walked Bella over to Allie's "Remember to give the note to your teacher. I love you Bells." I said "I will and I love you too." Bella said and I walked back to the house and began my school work. I worked extra hard and stayed focus to where I finished for the week all five of my classes.

So after finishing around one I decided to take a well deserved nap, but instead I went into Starry's room and sat in the rocking chair rocking myself "Starry we're in your room. You will be here before we know it. I'm going to protect you from all of the evil in the world." I said and Starry kick "I promise. I'm going to protect you, Kelsey your big sister and Bella your big sister." I said and she kicked me again in agreement. I knew things would finally start to get back to normal, Bella is where she belongs and I'm with who I'm supposed to be with and we have three beautiful girls. Bella will always be welcome here, and I know she will never want to live with either parents but even if she wanted to I would let her because I don't believe in keeping her from her loved ones.

It was September 2nd now so I'm 36 weeks pregnant and I had my appointment today before work and Austin met me there "You and baby are healthy, we want to keep baby as comfortable as she can be so she can stay in for at least another three weeks." Doctor Walls said and I nodded, we had my last OBGYN appointment on the 16th, I now weigh 125, I have gained 20 pounds in the past nine months, it's normal to gain at the most 30 pounds. I know it was getting harder to focus on school and to work or sleep even. Austin feel bad for me trying to help me in any way he can. We went home and I sat on the couch and rubbed my stomach "Mommy loves you, but mommy wants the weeks to hurry up." I said and I didn't feel Starry kick, it was natural not to

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feel them kick anymore up until they're ready to come out. I'm lucky if I get four hours of sleep each night because I'm always moving to get comfortable or I'm having to use the bathroom or I'm hungry. Kelsey loves kissing my stomach to talk to her baby sister.

It's the 16th and I'm at my appointment, Austin was here and we looked at our baby on screen "Your baby is healthy, your baby is in the right position. You are dilated 2cm already." Doctor Wood said and we nodded and we went home. That week I was very uncomfortable, I weigh 130 now and I still have two weeks to go. My mom arrived on the 28th and I was huge and uncomfortable. My mom hugged me when she saw me, I was at home with the girls. "Mom!" Bella said hugging her and my mom smiled "You're sleeping in my room!" She said and my mom smiled I was happy Bella was excited to see my mom "Pregnancy looks good on you." My mom said and she sat down but then Bella and Kelsey wanted her to do tea party. After both girls were asleep Austin went to do his homework to give us some time "How are things with you mom?" I asked "I have been sober for eleven months now, I have a steady job, I'm going back to school actually, I do it online for this semester to make sure I like it. I have a steady decent boyfriend, he has kids of his own." My mom said and I smiled "California is doing you good. You look great." I said and she smiled I could see a major difference in my mom. She was tanner, healthier looking, her hair was cut perfectly and she looked like the mom I remembered seeing in pictures. We stayed up late talking but she told me I needed to go to bed. It's now the 29th and I begin feeling contractions around midnight, I make Austin go to class telling him it would be okay, Kelsey went to day care, Bella went to school. I went to doing school work while my mom and Karen talked getting to know each other. Around noon though they got worse and I waddled outside "It's time." I said wincing in pain and I was rushed to the hospital and I was only dilated 3cm so I had plenty of time. Austin arrived after school and I was still 3cm. I was feeling the contractions but I wanted it to be all natural for as long as I could handle it. It felt good having people in the room with me, when Kelsey was born I was by myself but I had Bella with me, this time Bella and Kelsey were staying with Allie until Starry is born. Around one in the morning I was 5cm, it was a long painful process, I ended up taking the pain medicine because I couldn't handle it anymore, my mom and Austin didn't leave my side. Around noon I was 8cm so the process was speeding up but my medicine was wearing off so I was feeling the contractions again but I didn't want anymore medicine.

Around six pm I was 10cm dilated so I could begin pushing and Austin held my hand. After some painful pushes, it was hard. "Congratulations it's a girl!" Doctor Woods said and we heard a baby cry, she was cleaned off and handed to Austin who then handed her to me, she was perfect. Looked just like us though, my icy blue eyes and curly blonde hair, Austin's eye shape, his nose, and ears. She was born September 30th weighing six pounds four ounces being fourteen inches, she was a small baby. My mom held her "Starry is perfect." My mom said "Starlet Alice Blevins." I said and my mom smiled, Kelsey and Bella and them came the morning after I was able to come home on the 2nd. The day before my mom leaves. "Kelsey this is your little sister. Bells, your niece/sister." I said and they smiled "She's so small." Kelsey said "Kels you were that little when you were born." I said and she looked at me "No way." Kelsey said "Yes way." I said and Kelsey smiled at me and smiled at her baby sister. My mom took my phone and took pictures and she had the nurse take pictures of all of us. Once Austin took the girls to the cafeteria "Are you breast feeding?" My mom asked "It's natural and seems to be the safest way." I said and my mom smiled at me. "I am so proud of you Lexie. I love you. I don't know how you ended up so amazing when I wasn't a great mother." My mom said "You're making up for what you missed." I said and she hugged me. I looked down at Starry "Here hold her." I said and she gently took her granddaughter and I took a picture of it, and then one of her and Kelsey and Starry.

Chapter 19

I was released from the hospital at six and I gently changed into some stretchy shorts and a tank top with my nursing bra on, I wasn't as sore as I thought I would be. I gently put Starry in her car seat and she had the little covers on her hands so she wouldn't scratch her face. She was sucking on her pacifier and we got to the car that Austin had pulled up, my mom was at home making sure everything was ready for Starry. I got in the back and I got Starry settled in and stayed in the back with her so I could calm her down. We pulled up to the house and I got out and then I got her car seat and we walked inside the house, it felt good just walking inside my own home. My mom smiled "Everything is ready for Starry. We even made a sign last night to welcome her home." My mom said pointing to the sign that said Welcome home Starry!!! I smiled and I set Starry's car seat on the coffee table and I got her out and held her in my arms, she was still asleep. "Would you like to hold her?" I asked my mom "Sure." She said and she gently took Starry from me "I can't believe you're going home tomorrow." I said "I need to get back to work. I will get a break around Christmas." She said "Please come back." I said "I will." She said smiling at me "How old are your boyfriend's kids?" I asked "Brent is two, Taylor is seven, Holly is five, Steven is eleven, and then Nick is sixteen." My mom said and I smiled so she was having a second chance with children "I'm not replacing you girls." She said "good, because that's impossible to do." I said and she smiled.

After giving Starry a grandtour we stopped in her room and she was fussy so I sat on the rocking chair and put the feeding cover over her and breast fed her, it felt different than when Kelsey did it. Afterwards I burped her and gave her the pacifier back and I put her in the bassinet we had in the living room, we had one in our room too. I sat down next to her and began my school work, I still had one more class left to do for the week. Starry the slept the whole time, as it is now she sleeps for four hours and then she wants fed and changed. Austin went out to go pick up Kelsey from daycare and to get something for dinner, I wasn't in the mood to cook. My mom smiled at me "You are such a great mom." She said and I smiled "Thank you." I said and the door open and Bella came in and smiled, she was quiet so not to wake up Starry "I'm doing my homework, mom want to help?" Bella asked and my mom nodded and went to help her. I closed my laptop and put it up and then I moved into the kitchen to get something to drink with the baby monitor on my hip even if I was just a room away from Starry. This is already so much better than when Kelsey came home from the hospital. I wasn't alone, I actually have my mom and my husband here for support and then my second family. Looking at Bella and then Starry I had a memory:

It was two years earlier, and I was at home with a new born the same age as Starry. But she looked exactly like me, Bella was doing her homework too. We lived in a not so good place, I was a senior in high school, had my own school work to do too. But this baby was being fussy "Ssh Kelsey. Mommy got you." I said and Bella walked up to me I was rocking Kelsey "Can I help?" She asked as a five year old aunt she was ready to be supportive and helpful "Get me a diaper." I said not really wanting to boss her around but I couldn't think of anything to do. Bella came back with a diaper and I laid Kelsey down who was fussy and Bella sat next to us "Don't worry Kels, your mommy is a good caregiver. She won't hurt you." Bella said trying to sooth Kelsey down, I changed Kelsey diaper and then picked her back up "maybe she's hungry?" Bella asked "Tried that." I said "Oh, maybe she doesn't like this place." Bella said "Maybe." I said rocking her again "Can I hold her and try?" Bella asked "Be very gently." I said gently putting Kelsey in Bella's arms and Bella rocked her "Your auntie got you. I'm not as good as your mommy. But I will protect you too." Bella said and I smiled at her, I had tears in my eyes because I was overwhelm with the stress but I noticed Kelsey quit crying and was finally falling asleep. I gently took Kelsey from Bella and put her in the little crib and then I hugged Bella "We got this. We don't need mom." Bella said and I hugged her.

"Lex?" My mom asked me and I got out of my trance "Is Starry crying?" I asked "No, I was wondering what you were thinking about." She said and I laughed at her "It's nothing." I said and Austin came in with groceries and a little girl who ran straight to her mommy's open arms "You're home!" She whispered not wanting to wake up the sleeping baby she passed by. "I missed you too." I said and she kissed my cheek and held her arms out for her grandma to take her. I laughed "I see how it is." I said and I heard a soft cry and Ausin gently picked her up and smelt her "I got this." He said and I smiled "Okay." I said and my mom

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laughed "Do you want me to cook?" She asked "You're our guest." I said "I don't mind." She said and I smiled, I remember one time she cooked that stuck out I was five years old and I felt another memory: "Okay my sweet Lexie-boo, we're going to make Chicken Alfredo and garlic bread tonight. Okay?" My mom asked me I was doing my homework "Yes mommy! Can I help?" I asked eagerly excited that my mom is cooking "Sure sweetie! Go get the pasta noddles." She said and I smiled leaving my homework and getting he pasta, and she turned the music on and she started singing softly to it and I giggled "Can we dance mommy?" I asked "Yes!" She said and she twirled me around and I was laughing and I heard her sweet laugh "Okay let's put the noodles in. " She said lifting me up and I put the noodles in and we did a high-five. "Stir the noodles!" She said and I did and then she cut up the chicken and had it cooking and I put the garlic bread in and then we danced some more listening to the music. "I love you mommy." I said "I love you too my Lexie-boo." She said and I smelt the food "it smells good mommy." I said and she laughed and the phone rang "That might be your daddy." She said "Can I?" I asked and she nodded "Hello?" I asked "Lexie! Can I speak to your mommy?" Daddy asked "Yeah! I love you daddy!" I said "I love you too!" He said and I handed it to my mom and her mood quickly turned into sadness and she changed it to a sad song "Your daddy won't make it so it's just us to Lexie-boo." She said "We can make it fun!" I said "Did you finish your homework?" she asked "no." I said going back to the homework.

"Mommy?" Kelsey asked she was holding her arms out for me "Sorry baby girl. " I said picking her up and saw that Austin got a healthy dinner for all of us and my mom started cooking "Can we play music?" I asked and I saw a twinkle in her eye "Sure." She said and I turned the music on. "Can I have this dance Kels?" I asked and she smiled and we danced, Austin returned with a sleeping Starry I knew she would be up within an hour to be fed. Austin and Bella ended up dancing and my mom was laughing but Kelsey wanted to dance with her grandma leaving me to dance with Bella and Austin. We were laughing and when dinner was ready we all sat at the table "When does your flight leave?" I asked "I have to be there at five." She said "I will take you." Austin said and I smiled "I'm sorry, I can't take you." I said "Don't be silly you just had a baby." She said and I smiled at her. After dinner I fed Starry and then I put her back in her bassinet and I gave Kelsey a bath and then we tucked her in, Bella went to bed. I put Starry in her bassinet in our room and I hugged my mom good-night.

Chapter 20

Starry woke me up at midnight crying softly and I got up and walked over to the bassinet and picked her up and went to her room and rocked her while I breast-fed her. I changed her diaper and this reminded me of my first night home with Kelsey who was hungry every five hours so it wasn't a big difference in waking up. But I love my little Star. I gently put a sleeping Starry in the bassinet and climbed back in bed and Austin wrapped his arms around me and kissed my cheek. Starry woke me up at four and I fed and changed her, and got my mom up and Bella and Kelsey who wanted to say good-bye to my mom. "Bye mom. Call when you get there. I love you." I said and she smiled at me "I love you too." she said and I kissed Austin good-bye. I put Starry in the bassinet in the living room and turned the TV on for the girls they had two more hours of sleep. I woke them up at six and changed Kelsey and then gave them their breakfast, Austin came home and sat down "I can miss today too." Austin said "No you can't, you missed enough." I said and Austin kissed my lips "Come on Kels." He said and I kissed Kelsey good-bye and then Austin's. When it was time I hugged Bella good-bye and watched as she walked over to Allie's Karen was outside waiting for her.

I took a shower and changed into a different pair of shorts and a tanktop and I braided my hair. By the time I was out it was time to feed Starry again, after I fed and changed her I put her back in her bassinet and then I looked at my grades "Mommy has all 100's still! Let's keep it that way!" I said, I have three more semesters and then I graduate next year, the same year as Austin all because of knocking a year out by doing my CNA. I heard a light knock and I got up and opened it to see Abby and Todd, they haven't seen Starry yet "She's sleeping but you can come in." I said and Abby smiled at Starry "I see a little bit of Ausin in her." Abby said "You can hold her." I said and Abby went to wash her hand and Todd smiled "Our third grandchild." He said and I smiled "Forth honey. Kelsey." Abby said and I smiled "How's school going?" Abby asked "Good, I have no more to do this week." I said and Abby smiled "What are her hours like?" Abby asked "Every four hours." I said "Not bad." She said and I smiled she handed Starry to Todd, she was still asleep. They stayed for a little bit and then they left because she had a spa meeting to go to and then Todd had to go to work, he's a lawyer but he doesn't have a firm or work for a firm so he works with the bookstore more and he had to go, he's covering Austin's shift.

Around noon after I fed Starry and I was rocking her since she was still awake Karen came in and I smiled at her "Can I hold Starry?" Karen asked "Sure. How is Allie?" I asked "morning sickness, eight week mark." She said "I feel for her." I said and Karen smiled "me too." She said and she had Starry asleep and she put her in her bassinet "Starry is beautiful, do you need anything from the store?" Karen asked "No thank you." I said and she smiled at me. Allie came around 2:30 and smiled "Next semester is not coming fast enough!" Allie said "Why?" I asked "I miss you!" She said and I smiled at her "I miss you too." I said and she smiled at Starry "You just get more beautiful." She said "What do you want?" I asked "A little girl." She said and I smiled "You will do good with either." I said and she giggled "Can I hold her?" Allie asked "Yeah, you need all the practice you can get." I said and Allie giggled. Austin and Kelsey came home and Kelsey ran straight to me "Were you good today?" I asked "Yes!" She said and I kissed her cheek and bounced her and she giggled "Hey Allie." Austin said "Hey, I'm just stopping by and I will leave." She said "no need to, you wanted to see our beautiful daughter and my beautiful wife." He said and she smiled "You're good." Allie said and I smiled.

I feel Starry at four and then Austin changed her and she was in her bassinet sleeping while Austin and Bella did their homework and Kelsey and I were watching TV, I got up and I made dinner and we all ate dinner. We all watched TV as a family afterwards, Starry was asleep but Austin picked her up so he could spend time with her. "Bath time." I said and they sighed "Starry gets her first bath when she's a week old." I said and they nodded, right now she is only four days old. So it's October 4th and mid-terms are October 15th-20th. We had Starry in her bassinet and I gave Kelsey a bath and then got her in her night clothes and Austin brushed her hair and Bella was taking her bath and Bella came in and I brushed her hair and Austin read them the bedtime story and then they walked off hand in hand to bed it was eight so Starry was hungry so I fed her and changed her and then tucked Kelsey in and she said good-night to Starry and I kissed her cheek and then I kissed Bella good-night and I put Starry in her bassinet in our room and sat on our bed "today has been long." I said and

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Austin smiled kissing my lips softly.

It's the 29th and I have my month appointment, the check up from after having Starry and everything is good, Starry has her month check up tomorrow and then we're taking her out on her first Halloween. During the mid-terms week when I had to have each one done each day by ten o'clock I made sure to take the mid-term when Starry was sleeping. We we went home and I put her in her seat and she fell asleep, I finished my week's work and laid on the couch with her. Austin, Kelsey, and Bella all came home at the same time "How did it go?" Austin asked "I'm healthy and everything looks good." I said and he smiled at me, he kissed my lips and then they began on their homework and Kelsey and I sat on the couch with Starry who was asleep. "Do you love your little sister?" I asked "Very much so." Kelsey said and I smiled at her "Good, I figured you would. She loves you too. Do you love me?" I asked and she kissed my cheek "Yes." She said and I smiled at her "Arthur is on!" I said and we both watched it and I saw Austin shaking his head at me "You stay young when you have little ones in the house." I said and Austin laughed "I know baby." He said he was now helping Bella with her homework.

The following morning at eight after I breast-fed Starry I got her in her little car seat which she was a little fussy about and then I got her diaper bag and we got in the car. I drove to her doctor's and then we waited the half hour to be seen and I got Starry out and she now weighs 7.4 ounces and is now sixteen inches long "She is healthy and growing at a steady pace." Doctor Sanders said and I smiled, Starry got her first shots and she didn't cry like Kelsey did when she got her shots or Bella. We went out to lunch with Abby and Becca today "Starry is so beautiful! How much does she weigh now?" Abby asked "7.4" I said "She gained a pound." Abby said and I nodded "She's beautiful." Becca said "Thank you." I said "Are you taking her out tomorrow?" Abby asked "She's going to be in the pouch we have all bundled up." I said and Abby nodded "The doctor said as long as she's bundled up she good to go." I said and Abby nodded I was not about to get lectured from her. But Abby didn't say anything so I didn't push it.

The next day I spent it getting ready for Halloween, I had all of my school work done, I was looking forward to December when we had that break although in a month I will begin working again, I took two months off from work and I could tell me taking off was affecting us and I wanted to help out again. Allie came over her last class was canceled due to a meeting so she was helping me set up, she's starting to glow, she isn't showing yet but she has that pregnancy glow. "YOU are beautiful!" I said and she smiled at me. "I feel fat." She said "You don't look it! You look good!" I said and Allie rolled her eyes at me and she picked up Starry who was up but wasn't fussy "Mommy is lying isn't she?" Allie asked but Starry stared at her "Are you taking her?" Allie asked "Yeah, Abby disagrees with it." I said and Allie smiled at me "It wouldn't be Abby." Allie said and I giggled Starry did her first attempt at a smile and we smiled at her. "You are an angel!" I said and Allie giggled "I will see you tonight." She said "Okay." I said and she smiled at me before she left Starry was still just staring at me and I kissed her cheek.

We got Kelsey and Bella in their outfits and I got the diaper bag and double stroller so Kelsey could sit in it and I put the baby wrap on and had Starry in it and she was warm and comfortable we went around the block as a family and then I went home with Starry and had trick or treaters with Starry in my arms all the mother would smile, she had on a My first Halloween outfit and she looked cute on it. I breast fed her a eight and put her in the bassinet and then they showed up at eight thirty and I carried her to our room and smiled at the girls "How was it?" I asked "Good! Papa and Meme missed you." Kelsey said, Austin took them to his old neighborhood "We didn't want the baby out too late." I said and she giggled at me, we read a quick bed-time story for them and then we tucked them in and then I didn't even stay up that much later I was exhausted. Being a new mom is really tiring, Austin snuggled up to me and I kissed him good-night.

Chapter 21

The following day I'm up at four feeding Starry and I yawn "Mommy can't wait for you to sleep in longer." I said rocking, I then slowly got up and laid Starry on the changing table and I changed her and cradled her in my arms we went back into the living room. I put Starry in her bassinet and I made breakfast and then I sat down on the couch I still had a little bit before they needed to be up. It's Friday so we have the weekend together as a family, only Bella is having Sara, Stacy, and Lindsay over for a sleepover tonight after school. I looked at the clock and I woke up Bella and Austin he looked at me "I think I want Kelsey home with me today." I said and Austin nodded kissing my lips softly. "I work 2:30-7:30." He said "We will be here." I said "Are you sure?" He asked "Yeah, if not I will get Allie or Karen to help." I said and he smiled at me. After Austin left Kelsey woke up "I'm late!" She said "No honey, you're staying with mommy and Starry." I said and she smiled "I have to make sure Bella is on her way." I said and Kelsey nodded "I will pick you guys up in Karen's van." I said "Okay!" Bella said and I smiled at her. She walked over to Karen's and then I shut the door and Kelsey sat at the table and ate.

Around ten Kelsey was watching TV snuggled up with me Starry was snuggled up on the other side using her baby pillow to support her but she was asleep and my cell phone vibrated "Hello?" I asked "Hey Lexie. How is everybody?" My mom asked "We're good." I said "How did yours and Starry's appointment go?" She asked me "It went really good. I'm healthy and Starry, our sweet Star is healthy she weighs 7.4 pounds now." I said "That is wonderful! What do you have planned this weekend?" My mom asked me "Bella is having a couple friends over." I said "I hope you guys have fun!" She said and I smiled "We will. I kept Kelsey today so I could bond with her." I said "That's good. I miss all of you. I just wanted to call and check u on you guys." She said "We miss you and we love you." I said "I love you too." She said and we hung up. I gave Kelsey her lunch and had my lunch waiting and I fed and changed Starry who was starting to get fussy a little. Kelsey giggled at me "You're busy mommy." She said "I'm a busy bee." I said and Kelsey giggled at me.

It was around two and I got Starry in her car seat and got her diaper bag and I took Kelsey's hand and we went to Karen's and she smiled "Here's the keys." She said "thank you, we need to go car shopping." I said and Karen smiled "Take your time." She said and I put Kelsey in it and she climbed in the extra car seat and I got Starry's car seat in and then I got in and we went to the Elementary school and picked up Bella, Sara, Lindsay, and Stacy. "Okay girls, we're going home." I said and they were all talking about what they are going to do and Kelsey was just staring out the window since she can't keep up with them. We pulled up and all the girls ran into the house and then I slowly got out and unbuckled Kelsey and got the car seat and Allie met me out and lifted up Kelsey "I will take her keys." She said and I smiled "come with me or me over there?" I asked "I come with you." Allie said and I smiled at her, Allie is now almost nine weeks pregnant, "how is morning sickness?" I asked "Horrible." Allie said and I smiled I took Starry out of her car seat and held her in my arms "I love when she's awake more." I said and Allie smiled. "What are you doing for dinner?" Allie asked "Austin said Pizza since they all like pizza, I'm calling in a take out from Lucky's. You and Jake wanna come over?" I asked "Sure." Allie said "Be over around six." I said and she smiled, I saw they had on Disney and Kelsey was sad that she wasn't included "Want to color with mommy?" I asked "What about Starry?" Kelsey asked, the middle child feeling has kicked in "She's asleep." I said and Kelsey smiled at me.

I had to feed her at four and Kelsey went to play with her dolls then and I changed Starry's diaper and went into Kelsey's room holding Starry "I'm sorry about sissy. But sissy is a helpless baby. We have to do things for her." I said and Kelsey nodded "Mommy loves you like I always have." I said and she smiled at me. I put Starry back in her bassinet where she was asleep in no time, I got my laptop out and had Kelsey sit next to me "We need a new car Kels. A seven seater, so we can sit more people." I said and Kelsey giggled at me. She picked out a 2013 Mazda CX-9 in red and I smiled at her "I will let daddy know." I said and she giggled at me, I left the page up and then I called and ordered the pizza. Allie and Jake came over with sodas and chips "Austin is getting off early." I said and Noah nodded "Are you ready to be a dad?" I asked "More than ever." Jake said "What do you want?" I asked him "Either a healthy boy or girl. As long as our baby is healthy I don't care." Jake said and I smiled "You are going to be a good dad." I said and he smiled he was playing tea with Kelsey who made him. Allie looked at the girls and then me "How is Kelsey handling this?" Allie asked

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"She isn't used to having to share Bella. But I know Kelsey is going to be like this in a few years and Starry will be just like her." I said and Allie nodded.

It's now November 21st, Thanksgiving. We looked at the car on the 2nd and Austin's parents bought us the car as a gift, we couldn't protest. So it was bought and pay for already. We're having Thanksgiving at his parent's house, Starry is now seven weeks and three days old, her second month appointment is on the 25th and I go back to work on the 26th, she's going into daycare. I don't like the idea of going back to work, I'm going to miss her but I only had two months off unless I want to quit my job. She's on breast feeding still, for the next month I will have to supply enough bottles but I work 4-noon so I will be able to pick her and Kelsey up each day at noon. I get Starry in her cute little dress although I know it won't last, I pack all the supplies we're going to need, breast-feeding cover, blankets, diapers, pacifier, and then Kelsey's sippy cup. I gently put the sleeping Starry in her car seat it was around one so she was fed an hour ago, Austin lifts Kelsey up and Bella gets in her spot and he puts Kelsey in her car seat and I put Starry in her spot and we get in and he holds my hand. On the 24th Allie will be twelve weeks pregnant, and she isn't showing yet but it took me until my 20th week to start showing with Kelsey. We pull up and I get the car seat and Austin gets Kelsey, and I get Starry and her diaper bag and we walk inside. Noah, Brayden and Todd are watching Football so Austin sets Kelsey down and joins, Katie and Ashley are in the game room with Lindsay so Bella and Kelsey follow and I walk into the kitchen with Starry and set her down on the chair. Becca and Abby were in here.

"Can I help?" I asked "We don't need your help." Abby quickly snapped and Becca looked at me "We're fine. Thank you." She said and then she looked at Starry "I love her dress." She said "Thank you." I said gently taking Starry out of her car seat and walking into the living room setting her car seat and diaper bag down and then I went into the game with "Can I hold Starry?" Katie asked "You better not!" Abby said and I gently handed Starry to Katie "Just be careful and gentle." I said and Katie smiled "I can't believe how big she has gotten." Katie said "Me too." I said and I picked up Kelsey who wanted my attention now and I smiled at her. Abby came in "You're too young to be holding a baby." Abby snapped "I think she is fine." I said and Abby glanced at me "Katie give Starry back." Abby said and Katie did so and I looked down at Starry who was asleep still not knowing the tension she was causing. "Katie is fifteen. She's old enough to baby-sit, old enough to hold MY daughter." I said and Abby glanced at me. And I thought we were getting along great I was wrong. "We can get along or we can stay like this the rest of our lives." I told Abby "Starry and Kelsey are my daughters. If I want their aunt to her hold then they will. I appreciate the advice you're giving me but I can handle it." I said "I'm sorry. I just assumed since your mother was never around for you that you wouldn't have a positive role model, so you wouldn't know how to be a good mother." Abby said "What?" I asked "Your mother left all the time didn't she? Or she was sick and in bed?" Abby asked "Who told you?" I asked "Austin, the night after we met all of you." She said and I looked at her.

I stormed off and went into the living room "Austin dear, can I see you in their Florida room?" I asked and he nodded getting up I still had Starry in my arms "You told your mother about my past?!" I asked "I did?" He asked "She threw it up in my face. That's why she has questioned my mothering since day one. How could you? That was personal." I said "I'm sorry." Austin said "Don't." I said "Lex.. Wait." He said but I stormed off and looked at Becca "Can I use your stroller you have?" I asked and she nodded I put Starry's car seat in it and then got Starry in it "Mommy?" Kelsey asked "I will be back. Stay with Bella." I said and I just got up and left not even worrying, I just knew I couldn't leave Starry and I had Starry all bundled up because today was a cool day. I walked into the neighborhood with Starry asleep sucking on her pacifier cooling off, Austin was calling over and over. I found a park bench and I sat down and just pushed the stroller with my foot. I don't really think I was mad about him telling his parents, it was the fact that she knew and she was holding it against me. I mean Bella is perfect in school and every where else. Kelsey isn't a spoiled little brat, she has manners. I'm a good mother, and I always have been. I don't need parenting tips. My mom called me "Happy Thanksgiving baby girl." She said "You too mom." I said "Everything okay?" She asked me "A fight with Austin over Abby throwing my past in my face saying I'm not a good mom." I said "You are a good mom. You don't need to listen to what she says. You need to make up with Austin though." She said and funny thing is Austin walked up to me "He's here. I love you." I said "I love you too sweetie." She said and Austin sat down and wrapped his arms around me "I know you needed to cool off, but we need to quit the walking away crap. We have been married for eleven months, and we need to settle our fights. I'm sorry I told my mom." He

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said "I'm not upset at you, I'm upset at her throwing it in my face and accusing me of not being a good mom." I said and Austin kissed my lips "You are a good mom. Just don't listen to her. I don't." He said and I smiled at her.

Chapter 22

We walked back in "I'm sorry for my childish attitude." I announced and Todd just hugged me. We had dinner and then we spent the afternoon just doing whatever, the men were watching Football the kids were playing with the girls and Becca and I were in the Florida room and Abby joined, I was holding a sleeping Starry "When do you go back to work?" Abby asked "I go back to work on the 1st." I said and they nodded. It's now the 30th and I'm at the doctor's for Starry's second month check up, where she now weighs 8.4, and she got her DTap shot, after her appointment I took her to Wal*Mart and we saw that they had Christmas decorations up "I need to get some trees." I said and Starry wasn't asleep but she was staring at me. "We will come back with the gang." I said and Starry stared at me. We went to lunch with Becca and she smiled at Starry "She's growing up so fast." Becca said "She is." I said and Becca smiled at me "It's about time for Christmas shopping." Becca said "We're going tree shopping tonight." I said "That should be fun." Becca said "I want Kelsey and Bella to have their own trees in their rooms, and for Starry to have a 12 inch one." I said and Becca smiled at me.

I went to the daycare and got Kelsey and then picked up Bella and Sara and Emma and then we went home and Karen smiled when we pulled up. "Thanks for picking them up for me." Karen said "No problem." I said and she smiled at me. Allie walked up "Lexie, my dear Lexie." She said smiling "Come on." I said and she smiled at me. "How do you feel about going back to work tomorrow?" Allie asked "Nervous, I'm switching Starry to formula on her 3rd month. But I'm nervous about leaving her for the eight hours." I said "She will only be up from 4, 8, and noon." Allie said and I smiled at her, she is now almost 14 weeks, and still isn't showing. "You will probably show around your 20th week." I said "Maybe. I feel fat." She said and she lifted up her shirt once I had put Starry down and smiled she doesn't have a bump yet but you can see the buldge she has. "Aww!" I said kissing her stomach and she smiled at me. She picked up Starry "I love you! I want a girl." Allie said "Why?" I asked "Because when my baby is born Starry will be out of her cute newborn clothes!" Allie said and I giggled at her.

When Austin got home we loaded up the girls and put them in the car and we went to Wal*Mart first "Pick out the color of your tree." I said and Austin held Kelsey's hand and led her to pick the gifts "You can pick whichever." I told Bella and she smiled and went off and I had Starry in her little pouch and got a white 12 inch tree and got everything we would need, tonight we're going to get all the custom made ones. "We got one!" Austin said "What color?" I asked "Pink!" Kelsey said and Bella came back with a Purple one, we got the stuff they would need and then we went to the tree lot and got a nice six footer one and together that night, we had Starry in her bassinet and we put up the trees and decorated it all. And then we all put in How The Grinch Stole Christmas, the cartoon version of it. The girls love it, Austin gets up and gets Starry and he holds her and I kiss her cheek. Kelsey was in my lap, loving her attention and Bella was in the middle of us. After the movie "Bath time!" I said "Daddy!" Kelsey said "Give Kels her bath and I will give Starry hers." I said and Austin nodded, I got the warm water going, where it was perfect and Bella was on the counter watching me "Are you ready for work?" Bella asked "Yes and no. I have missed it there, but I will miss all of you." I said and Bella smiled at me, I began giving Starry her bath and Bella smiled "I like Starry." Bella said and I smiled trying not to laugh "I would hope so. We're stuck with her." I said "Kelsey doesn't care much for her." Bella said "She's two. Not used to sharing her mommy's and daddy's and your attention with a baby." I said and Bella smiled "I tell her not to be jealous but she still is." Bella said "How about you have a sleep over with her tonight?" I asked "Like what we used to do?" Bella asked "Yes. But you stay in her room." I said and Bella had a huge smile "Okay!" She said and Austin came out with a clean Kelsey and set her on the counter and took Bella, he sat at the table and brushed her hair.

"Kelsey-boo, you and Bella are going to have a sleep over." I said finishing up on Starry who was crying now, she doesn't care much for baths, and the water was getting cool. I got her little towel on her and I carried her to her room and Kelsey followed "Sleepover?" She asked and Austin laughed "Yeah, Bella is going to spend time with you. Mommy use to do that to Bella when we were younger." I said "Was I there?" Kelsey asked "In the end you were." I said and Kelsey giggled "Will you be there tonight?" Kelsey asked me and I held a dressed baby now "No, mommy has to be up before you are. I have work." I said "You're never here for me."

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Kelsey said "You got daddy and Bella." I said "Daddy is busy with you and that thing, and Bella has her group." Kelsey said "Austin baby, take Starry." I said "Does she need to be fed?" He asked "not any time soon." I said and I picked up Kelsey after he took Starry and positioned her on my hip "Let's go baby." I said and I carried her into my room. I set her on the bed and I got up there with her and pushed her bangs out of her face "Mommy is so sorry that I haven't spent as much time with you as you would like. I now have to spend time with your little sister, you, Bella, and daddy." I said "I miss you." She said "I'm right here honey." I said "But soon you will be needed." Kelsey said "I'm always here for you." I said and Kelsey just nodded "Oh baby." I said hugging her and she looked up at me with those big icy blue eyes. "I love you." I said "I love you too." She said and Bella came in "Kelsey let's go." Bella said and I smiled at them.

Starry woke me up at midnight and I change her diaper and feed her and then I place her back in her crib, she has moved from the bassinet in our room to her own room. I walked back to our room and Austin stirred "Everything okay?" He asked "Yeah. Our angel is fed and changed." I said and I curled up in Austin's arms and fell asleep again. I woke up to my alarm clock at three and went into Starry's room with a flashlight and I got the breast pump and went into the kitchen, I fixed four bottles and put them in the fridge and left a note for the bottle to be in the bottle warmer before giving to Starry. I got changed into my scrubs and yawned, I pulled my hair into a pony-tail and I left at three thirty and still made it by four. The head nurse Anna was there "Good morning Lexie! Welcome back!" She said and I smiled "it feels good." I said and she smiled at me. I began working and I went into Nicole's room and she was watching TV "Hello there, can I get you anything?" I asked and her eyes widen when she saw it was me "How long has it been?" She asked me smiling "two months." I said "Welcome back." Nicole said and I smiled "Thanks. I miss my babies but I'm back." I said "Leaving them for the first time is always the hardest part." Nicole said "It is, I miss Star but I know she's asleep or being fed." I said and Nicole smiled "My bed pan could be changed." She said and I did so and then smiled at her "I will stop in before I leave." I said and she smiled at me.

I did check in with Nicole before I clocked out and then when I clocked out a male nurse smiled at me "Welcome back Lexie." He said "Thanks." I said getting ready to go home to my girls and husband. He came up to me and hugged me. And he tighten his grip on me "I missed you." He said softly in my ear "What are you doing?" I asked but he put a sock in my mouth and then duct taped it. I began wiggling my body trying to protest him but he was stronger than I was and his tight grip was hurting me. He shoved me into the employee bathroom and he had his way with me, it was easier to do since we both had scrubs on. "I have been wanting to do this for a long time now. Especially seeing you walk around being pregnant, that really made it worse on me." He said and then he looked at me "If you tell anyone I will hurt you. Got it?" He asked me and I was fighting back the tears. It was already twelve thirty I was normally home by now. After he cleaned us both up he went out first and then shoved me out. I didn't wait around I walked to Anna's desk "I want to give my two week notice." I said "What? Why?" She asked me "I realized I can't handle being away from my girls." I said "I understand. We're going to miss you. Nicole is going to miss you." Anna said looking at me weird, I have been here for over a year going on two, he's been here for four years who are they going to believe?

I went home and I just picked up Kelsey who was closer and held her tight in my arms "I was starting to get worried." Austin said smiling at me and then all it took was one look and he knew something was wrong. And he called somebody "Karen I hate to ask you this but can you come over and take the kids to your house for a bit? Something came up." Austin said and I was still holding Kelsey when Karen came "Go with Meme." Austin said she calles Karen Meme, Starry went with them. I took Austin's hand and led him into the bedroom and when I stripped off my clothes I made sure he was watching "Are those bruises and bite marks?" Austin asked and I looked at him and put on a t-shirt that was lose and my ripped jeans and I sat below him and brought my knees up to my chest, I haven't spoken since I told Anna I was giving in my two weeks notice. "I quit my job." I said "What? Why?" Austin asked me "I was raped by an empyloee he told me if I told anybody he would hurt me." I said "Lexie, we will file a claim against him, we will press charges." He said and I just stared at him "I don't want him to hurt the girls or you." I said and I finally sobbed, we had finals this upcoming week that I had to take online. This time Austin didn't know what to say or do.

Chapter 23

I had Starry with me because she would be due to be fed and Austin was going to talk to his dad, man-to-man and Karen is watching Bella and Kelsey is with Allie and Jake. I pull back up to the nursing home and I get Starry in her pouch and I got her diaper bag on my shoulder and I walk back into the nursing home and Anna is sitting at the front desk and she flashed me a smile "Here to get your job back? It's open for you." Anna said "I came here to talk to you. In private?" I asked "My office." She said and I see the co-worker and he is staring at me when I walk into the office. "What can I do for you?" She asked when I sat down and positioned the sleeping Starry better "I wanted to file a complaint on an employee." I said I have never done this "On who?" She asked "Thomas Johnson." I said and she didn't look shocked "What did he do?" Anna asked "He molested me." I said and she looked shocked on that one "I have pictures of what he did to me. He told me not to tell anyone or he would hurt me. I'm sure you could watch the security camera." I said "I believe you. Would you like to press charges?" She asked me "I would." I said and she began working on it. "Would you like your job back?" Anna asked me "I don't know if I can work here again." I said "I understand." Anna said "you're an excellent worker." She said and I smiled at her "Thank you. I'm taking the job back." I said and she smiled "Can I see Starry? And I promise you, you won't see him until your court hearing is made." She said and I smiled at her I gently took Starry out and she smiled at her "Nicole would love to meet her." Anna said and I smiled.

I went into Nicole's room and she was sitting up actually "Hey Miss Lexie. Is that Star?" She asked me "The one and only." I said and Nicole smiled at me "She's so tiny. So beautiful." Nicole said and I smiled, on my way home after leaving there I got a phone call "Hello?" I asked I had it on speaker "hey Lexie, is now a bad time?" My mom asked "I'm driving but no." I said "How would you like to meet Jason and his kids before Christmas or around?" My mom asked "I would love to meet them. How?" I asked "We want to take a trip to you guys." She said "When?" I asked "Over their Christmas break. December 18th." My mom said "I will ask Austin but I don't see why not." I said "We will have a hotel room." She said "Okay mom, we love you. I will call you back tonight." I said "I love you too." She said and when she hung up I pulled up to the driveway and I got Starry's car seat out and went to Allie's first "What happened?" she asked and I told her everything and Allie hugged me "It will be okay. What will happen if you're?" She asked me "Austin and I will cross that bridge when we get there." I said and Allie smiled at me "You are stronger than I will ever be." Allie said and I giggled "In June you will realize how strong you are." I said and Allie smiled at me.

I took Kelsey and then I went and got Bella and then we went home and Austin pulled up so Kelsey ran to him and he smiled "He's basically going to be put behind bars." Austin said and I smiled at him and kissed his lips "Let's go in." I said and when we got in I had to feed Starry and then I put her in her crib and I sat at the table and Kelsey got on my lap, Bella was coloring so Kelsey left me to go color. "I filed the report and he will be taken care of." I said and Austin looked me in the eye "I'm sorry it happened to you." He said "I'm sorry too. But it's another thing that makes me stronger. My mom and her gang wants to visit for Christmas." I said "Let them. We could use that." He said and I smiled at him "One more thing I want to discuss and then I want to leave this day behind me until it gets brought up again." I said and he looked at me "What if I'm you know?" I asked not wanting to say the word out loud to the girls "You can either keep it or do the other thing." He said "I'm pro life. 100%" I said I remember being told by my mom and Kelsey's father to abort Kelsey and I wouldn't do it, I thought about it when I was 16 weeks pregnant and then I felt Kelsey and I was in love. "Adoption." He said "That would be an option. But let's hope I'm not." I said and he smiled at me.

That night after all three girls were asleep I called my mom "You are more than welcome to come mom, you can stay here if you want." I said "I wouldn't do that to you. But we will come." She said "Great looking forward to it!" I said and she laughed "Good. I love you honey. Goodnight." She said "Good night." I said and we hung up. The following week I took my finals when Starry was asleep and then afterwards I would go and pick up Kelsey, now it's the 17th Austin is home, Kelsey is home, Bella's last day of school is tomorrow until the 2nd. "Starry is napping, time to clean! Kels come help mommy." I said and Kelsey walked over "Lexie, they aren't staying here." Austin said "Visiting here, dinner and stuff." I said "Honey, your mother and Henry both know we have three little girls." He said and I nodded "I don't care. My house will be clean." I said and

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he laughed "It's already clean anyways." Austin said "Not clean enough." I said and he kissed my lips "We haven't even planned what we're doing to celebrate." He said "One year together, on Christmas we're spending it with our daughters." I said and Austin smiled at me and rolled his eyes "mommy is crazy Kelsey." He said and she giggled at me. We had the house clean by the time Bella came home from school "Mommy is nuts." Kelsey said and Bella giggled "We're getting mom's favorite dinner." I said and Bella giggled at me. The following morning around eight I'm up and feeding Starry again and I heard a knock and Austin got up and got the door "Brittany!" He said and I looked a Starry who was still going to town "Grandma is here!" I said and she didn't pay me any attention. After I fed her and changed her I went downstairs and saw my mother, a man and then five kids, Starry was sucking on her pacifier and my smiled at me "Lexie!" She said and I smiled the girls were still asleep, Kelsey slept with Bella last night. "This is Brent, Taylor, Holly, Stephen, Nick, and Grayson." My mom said "it's nice to meet all of you. Bella and Kelsey will be up shortly. In fact Ausin can you go wake them up?" I asked "Sure." He said and I smiled at him. I sat down and motioned for them to sit down "Starry has grown! Can I hold her?" My mom asked and I handed Starry over, "how was your flight?" I asked "Good" They all said and then Bella and Kelsey walked down and Brent smiled at Kelsey "This is my daughter Kelsey and Bella." I said and they smiled. "Can we go play?" Kelsey asked "Yes." I said and then looked "Have you guys ate yet?" I asked "not yet." Grayson said "We can have breakfast here or we can go out." I said "Out would be good." My mom said "if you don't mind watching Starry I will go change." I said and my mom nodded, I hurried up and changed and then I changed Kelsey and Bella and Austin got dressed. We went out to breakfast and all got to know each other.

Chapter 24

After breakfast Jake, Austin, Grayson, Nick, and Stephen went to a basketball game that Austin had tickets for, leaving us with the girls and Brent who didn't want to go. Allie came over "Still not showing." My mom said and Allie giggled "She has a small bump." I said and Allie smiled "I find out the sex next month if the baby lets us." Allie said "How do you feel?" My mom asked "Good." She said and Karen came over along with the rest of the gang minus the males who were at the game. "Starry is crying." Kelsey said and I got up and picked up Starry and walked back to the couch, I was rocking her "How is Kelsey?" My mom asked "Still not handling Starry arrival just yet." I said and my mom smiled "It just takes time." She said "I know." I said and I looked at Starry who was staring at me "I can't believe she's almost three months old." I said "I know, before long she will be crawling." My mom said "Don't say that. I'm not ready for another active baby." I said and she smiled at me, "I have news for you and Bells." She said and I looked at her "You're pregnant aren't you?" I asked "Yes, and I'm engaged." She said "Congratulations." I said and she smiled at me. Bella came in "I just heard mom!" She said and I smiled at Bella.

Around noon we put Brent and Kelsey down for their nap along with Starry, the girls are in Bella's room. My mom and I are sitting out on the couch and I had my knees brought up to my chest and she looked at me "What are you and Austin going to do if you are pregnant?" She asked me "Put it up for adoption mom." I said "How are you going to explain to the girls that when you went to the hospital to have a baby but you come home empty handed?" She asked me "Mom, I didn't ask to be raped." I said "That baby didn't ask to be conceived that way." She said and then she stared at me "Lexie, if you are pregnant then this baby needs you just as much as you need it Lexie. Keep that in mind." My mom said and I nodded. "How far along are you?" I asked "I'm 15 weeks." She said "So you knew when you were here for Starry?" I asked "I didn't want to take away, it was your day." She said and I smiled at her and hugged her "I understand mom>" I said and she smiled at me.

That night Austin and I were in our room after dinner with my mom and then over here, Bella wanted Taylor and Holly to spend the night so they did and Kelsey wanted to spend it with her grandma so she's over at the hotel with them. Austin looked at me and he kissed my cheek "Are you okay?" He asked "Yeah, what if I am?" I asked and he got up on the bed and held my hand "then we will raise it. Kelsey isn't mine but I treat her as if she is 50% me, and this baby would be 50% you." He said and I looked at him "I better not be." I said and he just kissed my cheek. The next morning my stress was taken away from me, I have never been so happy to get my period before. "I'm not pregnant!" I said when Austin woke up and he rolled his eyes at me "Good." He said rolling back over. I walked into the kitchen and made breakfast for everyone and Holly was the first one up, she's the five year old "Do you like my daddy?" Holly asked me "I do, do you like my mommy?" I asked "I do. She's not my mommy but she's just as good." Holly said "I know you miss your mommy." I said "Yeah, but your mommy is more like my mommy." Holly said and I smiled "I know, she's a pretty cool mom." I said and Holly smiled at me "I always wanted another big sister." She said "Well you got two." I said "But Bella is Taylor's age so they're bonding more." Holly said "I can be your best sister." I said and she giggled at me. Grayson is tall, with brown hair and baby blue eyes, their mother had blonde hair, Taylor and Holly have blonde hair and baby blue eyes, the boys have Grayson's hair color and eyes.

It's now Christmas Eve and my mom and Grayson are still here, "it's your first Christmas Eve." I said to Starry who wasn't amused by any of this, she was more interested in sleeping but she loves the lights on the tree. "What was my first Christmas like?" Kelsey asked and I looked at Bella, honestly her first Christmas was with a small tree, little decorations on it, one little gift that Bella wrapped and gave her, one of her toys. "You had your mommy, Belly there. It was beautiful. You loved your Christmas." I said and Kelsey smiled and Bella looked up at me and I mouthed don't tell and Bella giggled. My mom even looked down, I know she told Grayson about her past and I know she feels bad. "What was Bella's first Christmas like?" Kelsey asked "It was beautiful like yours." I said hoping she would get off the topic and she did. "Our tradition is opening one gift on Christmas Eve." I said and Grayson nodded, we bought gifts for all of them. "How about Nick pick out one gift for everyone?" I asked "Sure." Nick said and he handed a gift to everyone and I had two because of Starry, Austin was video taping it. "Let's open it up Star." I said and she looked at it, it was a golden stuffed

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Star from my mom and Grayson "Starry is our fallen star. Because she's so beautiful and bright like a shining star." My mom said and I smiled "We love it." I said and I watched as Kelsey opened up a stuffed Minnie Mouse, Bella had a stuffed Hello Kitty, I opened up a golden heart shape necklace.

Chapter 25

They left around nine so Santa can come and I tucked Bella, Kelsey, and Starry in their beds/cribs and I sat on the couch. I had on my Christmas pajamas bottoms and a cute red tank top, "I love you." Austin said kissing my lips "I love you too." I said and when it turned midnight "Happy Anniversary baby." I said "happy Anniversary." Austin said holding me in his arms. What a year, losing Bella, getting Bella back, getting pregnant, a not so easy pregnancy, having Starry, getting raped, being relieved I'm not pregnant. The court hearing was on the 23rd and let's just say he is behind bars for a while. He wouldn't even look at me during court and I didn't want to look at him either. "We will exchange gifts in the morning." Austin said "I thought this was my gift." I said talking about my necklace "Christmas gift." He said "Oh Austin." I said but he took my hand and led me to bed. "You know we won't sleep much." I said "I know." He said and I closed my eye and I had another memory dream:

I was biting my lip hard, I was sitting on my bed with my knees kind of brought up to my chest. Bella was on the floor coloring, "What are you worried about?" Bella asked me looking up "I think I'm pregnant." I said "You think?" Bella asked "I did a stupid move. Okay?" I asked and she nodded "I'm sorry Bells. I'm just worried." I said "I know. But you have me, we have each other sissy. We will survive this." Bella said and I smiled at her, the timer beep and I slowly got up and walked to the bathroom. It was December 13th, school break would be in five days. I read the test, the little sign that would change my life forever. "Sissy?" Bella asked "I'm pregnant." I said "Oh sissy." She said hugging me tightly. On December 27th, I started my morning sickness and my mom came home "What are you doing throwing up? You sick?" She demanded not even being motherly "I'm um... pregnant." I said "How could you have been so stupid?! I told you not to ever have sex! They ruin your life! You were a mistake! Bella was an even bigger mistake! I would be in college!" She said and I just stared at her "Well I'm going to be a better mother to this baby!" I said and I knew that was a mistake when I said it, she slapped me hard in the face. "Get you'r a** to school!" She yelled at me and I went to school...

Another memory was Kelsey's first Christmas, it was Christmas Eve and we had a little nasty looking tree up, no decorations on it. "It's Kelsey's first Christmas, she needs a gift." Bella said "We don't have enough money to get her a gift." I said "I have one!" Bella said rushing into her side of the room and coming back with a teddy bear, her birthday present from my dad. "Are you sure?" I asked her "Yeah, Kelsey will use it more." Bella said and I hugged her "I'm sorry I can't get you anything." I said "Don't worry about sissy. It's about giving not getting." Bella said and I hugged her. Kelsey was four months old on Christmas, her face lit up at the sight of the bear and I smiled at Bella, "YYou are so strong." I said "I learned from you sissy." Bella said and I smiled, that day my mom came home drunk as a skunk with her newest guy "Merry Christmas." She said to us and I held Kelsey and Bella both. "We're going to Grandma's." I said "Stay out late." She said leading him to her room. I had to bundled up Kelsey and Bella and myself, we walked two blocks down into the better neighborhood and was given loads of gifts, Bella and Kelsey anyways. I was given gift cards, I knew my gifts would be use for money for drinks but I wasn't sure about theirs.

I was awoken by being shaken "baby wake up. Lexie wake up. Lex!" Austin said and I looked at him "You were mumbling in your sleep, and kicking." He said "Sorry." I said "What were you dreaming of?" He asked me and I just looked at him "my past." I said and he held me in his arms until "Mommy! Mommy! Daddy! Daddy!" I was called out and in runs Kelsey who jumps on our bed "It's Jesus's birthday!" Kelsey said "I'm up." I said hugging her "Did you wake Bella up?" I asked and my question was answered be a sleepy Bella walking in and sitting next to Austin on the bed "We're missing one." I said and Austin smiled "I will be back." He said but first he pulled out his I-phone and snapped a picture "I love you." Austin said and I rolled my eyes at him, but he came back with Starry who was awake but not fussy and then he snapped a picture of us four of us. "My four girls on Christmas. Starry's first, our first as a married couple." He said "Happy anniversary!" Bella and Kelsey said and we smiled at them.

We slowly made our way downstairs and the girls were surprised about the amount of gifts they had. I had to feed Starry so I did the cover over her and then after she got done I burped her and put her in her little swing. I put the Ipod on the Ipod dock and had the Christmas music playing. Austin handed out the gifts, one card

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addressed to both girls was taped to the tree. Kelsey opened up hers first Bella was watching her, a Baby Alive doll, Minnie Mouse clothes, a Princess doll, Minnie Mouse cover, a fake kitchen set for her, a Minnie Mouse tricycle, a Minnie Mouse coloring book set. A toy jeep she can ride in Bella got: A Hello Kitty pillow, a Hello Kitty comforter set, a Hello Kitty shirt, a Hello Kitty pen set, a Hello Kitty Necklace, a Hello Kitty coloring book, a Hello Kitty bike, scooter. Then they read the note "Outside?" Kelsey asked "Let's go." I said and they ran outside to see the swing set "Thank you! Thank you!" they said and we went back inside and opened up mine and Austin's gifts. A diamond bracelet with forever engraved on it.

Chapter 26

Starry had some few gifts under the tree as well. After the opening of the gifts Kelsey wanted to try out her jeep and Bella wanted to try out her scooter. "Come on." I said and I had Starry all bundled up and we went outside and I sat on the chair with Starry and Austin was running around the yard keeping up with both, I was video taping it, Kelsey learning had to drive was funny. I looked up and Allie was walking up to us "Merry Christmas! We wondered what the laughter was about." Allie said and I giggled, she sat down and smiled "Uh-oh is that a small bump?" I asked and Allie giggled "it's a very small bump but still." Allie said and I smiled at her, Allie was 17 weeks pregnant, her OBGYN appointment is on the 19th. My mom is even sixteen weeks pregnan now and she's showing a little bit. "I can't wait to find out what I'm having." Allie said and I smiled, Bella came up limping "What happened?" I asked "I fell." She said and I pulled out the first aid box "hello kitty?" Bella asked "of course." I said cleaning up her knee and putting a band aid on it. "Bike time!" Austin said "Why?" I asked "Her battery died." Austin said and I giggled, I put Starry in the playpen we had outside and I bundled her up.

I carried out both bikes and I put Kelsey on hers and had her knee pads and helmet on, Austin did the same for Bella. We were in the yard teaching them how to ride their bikes. Yes Bella doesn't know how to ride a bike and I feel bad about that. While we're riding, a car pulls up and I look up. "Oh no." I said and I heard Austin mumble something. Out walks my dad and his girlfriend I couldn't remember her name. Kelly showed up, and Kelly looked huge and then it hit me she was pregnant. "What are you doing here?" I asked "We moved to West Palm Beach." He said that was forty-five minutes away from us. "No." Bella said looking up at Austin "Kelly and I are having a baby." My dad said "We can see that." I said "What are you having?" Bella asked, when did this girl get so brave? "We're having a boy." Kelly said "Congratulations!" Bella said and I studied my dad "What is it Lex?" He asked "Why are you here?" I asked "It's Christmas and we have gifts." My dad said "We don't want your gifts." I said "Lexie, please? It's Christmas." Bella said "okay." I said not leaving my spot, and Austin came up with Kelsey on his hip "We can do it on the porch or in the house where it's warm." He said "house is fine." My dad said and I picked up Starry and we walked in, I put her back in her indoor playpen and she fell back to sleep.

Kelsey sat in my lap but Bella was brave and sat beside my dad "When are you due?" I asked Kelly trying to be brave like my seven year old sister "January 30th." Kelly said beaming "Do you have a name picked out?" I asked "Blake Noah Summerland." My dad said "That's a good name." I said "Starry is beautiful." Kelly said "thank you." I said and they handed us all our gifts, the girls tore into their gifts and I slowly opened mine, it was a name necklace that had Lexie on it, in diamonds, it was beautiful really. "Thank you." I said and they smiled at me "I was hoping we could put the past behind us and start fresh." My dad said and I knew that was impossible but Bella was nodding her head "Sure." I said and my dad smiled at us "We would love to stay for dinner but we have to go see Kelly's kids." My dad said "You have kids?" I asked "Two from another marriage." Kelly said "Savannah is sixteen and Jason is fourteen." Kelly said "You guys should all come over for dinner tomorrow, although mom is coming." I said and my dad nodded "We will be here." My dad said and I nodded.

We went over to Austin's parents house to do Christmas and I was already in a not so good mood, my dad. I can't stand him, I can't believe he would do that. I was looking out the window and Austin was talking to the girls and they were agreeing. "Forgive and forget." Austin said and I realized he was talking to me "Yeah I know." I said "You forgave your mother." Austin said and I nodded "I don't want it to ruin the rest of our Christmas." I said and Austin nodded. We pulled up and I got Starry's car seat out and we walked up the door and Austin let us in. "Lexie and Austin are here!" Katie said and I smiled, Ashley was excited to see us too, Noah and Becca smiled at us, Brayden giggled at Kelsey and Lindsay and Bella smiled. We exchanged gifts and then we had our dinner, Abby wasn't trying to control anything. "Are you ready to go back to school and work?" Abby asked "No I'm not. I'm going to miss being with the girls." I said and she smiled "it's always hard." Becca said "I know. At least I have one more year left." I said "And then you're going into Nursing." Abby said "Yes ma'am." I said and she smiled "We will have a Nurse in the family!" She said and I smiled at her. To my suprise it was a good time at their house.

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When we got home Austin took Kelsey and Starry into our room and I went into Bella's room and I hugged her "Sissy are you okay?" Bella asked me "Yeah. When did you get so brave? How did you get so brave?" I asked "I got so brave when daddy took me. I got so brave from watching you." Bella said and I hugged her "You are a mini-me." I said "I am, because Lexie you are the strongest woman I could ever know." Bella said "Thanks sissy. Are you ready to be a big sissy?" I asked "Yes I am and I will carry on the tradition that you did. But to me I have been a big sissy not an aunt." Bella said "Promise me something Belly." I said "What?" She asked "Promise me you won't want to leave me." I said I know it was selfish of me "Sissy, I promise no matter what. You, Austin, Kelsey, and Starry are my home." Bella said and I hugged her "You're a pretty good kid." I said "You're a pretty good sister." Bella said and I hugged her "Let's go in with the gang." I said and Bella smiled "Piggy back ride?" Bella asked "You're a little too big." I said and she gave me the pouty look so she hopped on and I hopped into our room "my turn!" Kelsey said "That I can do." I said and they traded places and I walked around the room and then spun her around and she was giggling, "Daddy catch me!" Kelsey said and she jumped before we could stop her "Ow!" She cried "Kelsey are you okay?" I asked "it hurts." Kelsey said "What does?" I asked bending down "my arm." She said and I bent down "I think it's broken." I said and she whimpered.

Chapter 27

We rush to the hospital and then we have to wait to be seen and Kelsey is whimpering in my arms and I'm holding her close to me and Austin is holding Starry, Bella is awake but I can tell she barely is. We finally got seen around nine and we walked in the back "we need to take some x-rays." The doctor said and we nodded "How did this happen?" He asked "We were goofing around, a piggy back ride and Kelsey said catch me daddy trying to get him to catch her when she was far away from him thinking she could make it. It was too late before we could stop her." I said "Kids will do things like that." The doctor said and I went in the back with her, only one was allowed because she was so little. We went back to the section and she was in the bed again waiting "Her arm is broken. We will give her a temporary cast and you can make an appointment tomorrow to put a permanent one on. We were finally able to leave around nine thirty.

We got home around ten and Austin put Starry down so I could put Kelsey down, I gave her the medicine the doctor gave and I propped her arm up "I am so sorry baby." I said and she just stared at me "it was my fault mommy." Kelsey said and I smiled "If you need anything come into our room and we will be here for you." I said and she nodded. That night Starry woke me up at midnight, Kelsey at two, Starry at four, Kelsey at six and I just stayed up holding Kelsey in my arms she was hurting, the pain medicine wasn't helping much. My mom showed up at eight when I was feeding Starry "We will be here today around three." She said "We will be here. Oh dad is coming." I said and she nodded "We will get along fine." She said and Kelsey came out "Poor baby." My mom said and Kelsey nodded "What color are you going to get?" She asked Kelsey "Pink!" Kelsey said and my mom giggled "last night was hard, it hurt her." I said and my mom nodded "I will bring you a treat. You have been such a brave little girl." She said "thank you grams." Kelsey said hugging her and I giggled. I got Starry dressed and slowly got Kelsey dressed, Bella was going with Austin to go grocery shopping for tonight.

I put Starry's car seat in Austin's car, he needed more space so I was taking the car, I gently put Kelsey in her car seat and then I got in and went to the right place and got Starry's car seat out and put it in the stroller and then I slowly lifted Kelsey up and put her in the stroller where her spot is. "Name please?" The nurse asked "Kelsey Blevins." I said "We will be with you shortly." She said and we sat down "Do you want to play?" I asked "I want in your lap." Kelsey said and I got her out and she happily sat in my lap. She was going to be milking this for the next 6-8 weeks, she would get a shorter cast in six weeks and then it would be taken off in four. "Kelsey Blevins." Was called and I gently placed Kelsey on my hip and wheeled the stroller into the back. "The cast will go from her hand to her elbow for now and then just her wrist. What color do you want?" They asked "Pink!" Kelsey said so they began working on it. And we walked out with Kelsey in her stroller wearing a pink cast, I had to sit in the car breast-feeding Starry because it was twelve thirty and she was throwing a fit. I put her back in her car seat and then we went home, Allie and Karen were outside "What happened?!" Allie asked rushing over and picking up Kelsey "I broke my arm." Kelsey said "Piggy back ride, and then catch me daddy! But she wasn't near him and she jumped." I said "Ouch." Allie said "I want to sign it!" Allie said and I handed her a marker and she signed it and kissed Kelsey. Karen smiled at her.

Austin and Bella came back at one and we began cooking, Bella was signing Kelsey's cast and Kelsey was giggling. "She's getting the attention she thought she lacked." I said and Austin smiled at me "She is." He said and he wrapped his arms around my waist "Yes my love?" I asked "The babies are growing up so fast." He said "No more kids right now. You're cut off. Let Starry be close to two." I said and he smiled at me "Geeze." He said and he went over to pick up Starry, and kissed her cheek. I began cooking until "Mommy?" Kelsey asked "take over." I told Austin who nodded and I picked Kelsey up "You okay baby?" I asked "It itches." she said "Don't worry honey." I said gently spinning her around keeping my grip on her and she giggled. I placed her on my hip and I went back to the dish I was working on. I set her down and then went back to cooking while she went to pick up her Minnie Mouse. My mom and them showed up at three and they all signed Kelsey's cast. Then my dad, Kelly, Savannah, and Jason showed up.

It actually went pretty good, Nick and Savannah got to talking and Jason talked with Stephen, and then the rest is normal. My mom and dad were civil, they're both in relationships anyways so it doesn't matter as much. "I feel bad for Kelsey." My dad said "She's loving the attention." I said and he nodded "You have to be careful

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with little kids." He said "I know that." I said and he nodded. All the kids moved outside to play a game so we were kind of keeping a close eye on them. We were all talking and Holly comes running out "Bella's hurt!" She yelled and we all ran out to see, Bella was on the ground holding her ankle "What happened?" I asked "We were all chasing each other and I tripped." Bella said "Austin?" I asked and he lifted her up and carried her inside "All of your kids are getting hurt." My dad said "Dad." I said and even Kelly gave him a look "Stop it." She said and I looked at Bella "Mom get some ice." I said and looked at her "I think it's sprained." I said "Uh-oh." Bella said "We should take you tonight." Mom said "Or let's see how you are in the morning." I said and when Bella could put no pressure on it "Okay, we're going. Mom can you guys stay with the girls?" I asked "Sure." She said and I quickly did a few bottles just in case.

At the hospital the nurse looked at me "You were here last night." She said "We're not abusers." I said and she smiled at me "We know." She said and we filled out the form, and I was wrong her ankle wasn't sprained it was broken and she ended up with a boot on her foot. We got home and my mom smiled "Both girls are asleep. How are you feeling Bells?" She asked "bad." Bella said "I hope you feel better. Our plane leaves tomorrow." She said "bye mom. I love you." She said hugging her "I will tuck you." I said following her and kissing her good-night and then I hugged my mom "I will miss you mom. I love you." I said "I love you too. I will call you with the good news." She said and I smiled at her "We will be waiting." I said and she smiled at me. When we finally went to bed "Nobody is doing anything tomorrow. We're not going to the hospital tomorrow." I said "You're working tomorrow." He said "Oh yeah." I said and he kissed my lips softly.

Chapter 28

I got up at three and I made sure Starry had enough bottles and I put my scrubs on and then I pulled my hair up and kissed Austin good-bye. I went to work and Anna saw me and smiled "Good morning my Lexie!" She said "morning." I said smiling at her "How was your few days off?" She asked "I went to the hospital on Christmas due to Kelsey's breaking her arm, Bella broke her ankle yesterday." I said "rough days." Anna said and I nodded, I went to do my work and Nicole smiled when she saw me and I told her everything, she isn't Alice nor will she ever replace Alice. Work was really busy until I clocked out at noon and then I went home, Austin was on the couch with Kelsey and Bella curled up with him and Starry was in her swing just hanging out. "Let me change." I said and then I heard "mommy!" "Sissy!" "Lexie" I changed quickly throwing on sweats and a t-shirt. "I'm here." I said and Kelsey climbed into my lap "How are you feeling?" I asked "horrible." Bella and Kelsey both said and I smiled "You will be okay." I said "I have to head into work." Austin said "I know. I love you." I said kissing him good-bye. "Okay girls, it's just me here. Can it be easy on me?" I asked and of course not, they both wanted things, both claiming they were hurting and then Starry started to cry.

After I finally had them settled in bed for the night around ten, Austin wasn't home yet. I paced around the house and my cell phone went off I quickly answered it "Hello?" I asked "Is this Alexis Blevins?" Somebody asked this was Austin's phone, who is this? I finally spoke "This is." I said "This is Officer Long, your husband was involved in a car crash. He is being rushed to the hospital." Officer Long said "Thank you." I said and I called Allie "Hello?" Allie asked "Did I wake you?" I asked it was ten thirty, "No. What's up?" She asked "I need you or your mom to baby-sit. Austin is hurt." I said "I'm on my way." She said I pumped enough bottles and as soon as Allie showed up I went out. I made it in time and the same nurse was there "I swear I didn't do it, I wasn't even with him." I said "He's in room 200." She said and I went to the room and all he had was a broken leg, a broken rib, a sprained wrist. "What happened?" I asked "Oh Lexie." He said and I hugged him "My light turn green, but some idiot didn't stop and slammed into my side. I'm fine, my car isn't, but the other one is worse off than I am." He said and I hugged him, "They did a cast tonight. Blue." He said and I rolled my eyes at him.

It's January 7th the first day of classes, I'm up at five and I fix Starry's bottle, she's on formula and a little bit of cereal now. I change her and get her diaper bag ready, I wake Kelsey up and I change her and she goes into the kitchen, Bella started school on the 3rd so she was up and walking. Austin came out in his crutches and I had to bite my lip, we're driving together since he can't drive and then Jake is going to bring him home. I loaded Starry, her diaper bag and her into the car when Bella was walking over, got Kelsey in the car, got my backpack and Austin's backpack into the car and then slowly helped him in the car. On the drive over to the day care Austin was talking "Look at it this way, we get to see what you do at work. We are preparing you to be a good nurse." Austin said and I smiled at him, I pulled up to the daycare and got Starry's car seat and diaper bag and had that on one arm and then carried Kelsey in the other "My poor baby." The worker said and Kelsey nodded. I handed both over and smiled "Her pain medicine is in her bag." I said "Thank you, have a good first day at school." She said and I smiled at her.

I pull up at school and I get his crutches from the back and I give him his backpack to even out his weight and then I walked with him to his first class and walked to my first class where I saw Allie. My schedule this semester: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:00-9:00, 9:30-11:30, 12:00-2:00, Tuesday and Wednesday: 7:00-9:00, 9:30-11:30. Around two I went and saw Austin and smiled "You look so cute." I said and he rolled his eyes at me. I went to work where I worked 2:30-7:30, went home gave everyone a bath and then began my homework. I finished around midnight, and then woke up at five again. This will be my weekly schedule for the next four to six weeks. I'm looking forward to it all. "I'm sorry Lex." Austin said Friday night, "It's okay baby." I said and he smiled at me, his accident ended up the news because the person was a drunk driver, the driver survived and is being pressed with charges for being a drunk driver, he has been charged with a DUI. I'm smiling at Starry who is sitting up in her baby pillow.

It's the following day and we're inside today since it's cold and nobody can really play. Starry is in her swing being happy about it, sucking on her fingers she learned how to do that. Austin, Bella, and Kelsey are on the

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couch. I had to work 4am-noon and when I got home they were there and I smiled. I changed into my ripped jeans and a cute baby tee. "Allie was supposed to stop by." I said "Allie and Karen both." Austin said and I smiled "It's just it's hard for you to handle three kids." I said "Because I'm broken?" He asked and I kissed his cheek. The door bell rang "I will get it. Nobody get up." I said and they stared at me, Bella had her boot off but she was propping her foot up. "Hello?" I asked seeing a beautiful woman in her early twenties, baby blue eyes and brown hair standing there "Um hi, does Austin Blevins live her?" She asked nervously "he does." I said "Please come in." I said and when she walked in and saw Austin she smiled but was still nervous. "Girls can you go watch TV in your room?" I asked and Bella put her boot on. The girl smiled at the baby and then Austin, it took a minute to register who she was "Sophia." Austin said, Sophia?

Chapter 29: Girl who? It's my life now.

Austin sat up a little bit better, and I looked at him "Sit Lexie please, I want you to stay." He said I was about to take Starry into the other room. "Sophia, how long has it been?" Austin asked "Going on four years." Sophia said "We dated back in high school." Austin said and I nodded "I saw you in the news, and at first I couldn't believe it." Sophia said "it's me. I may be broken but I'm here." He said and Sophia smiled at him "What brings you by?" I asked coolly "I have news to tell Austin." Sophia said and then she looked down "Remember when I moved our Senior year?" Sophia asked "Yeah, it was in a hurry. You never contacted me again." Austin said "I wasn't allowed to. I was pregnant with your child." Sophia said and Austin stared at her and I looked at her "Come again?" He asked "We have a set of twins, they're going on four March 14th." Sophia said and Austin was silent "Junior year, that night at your house." He said and she nodded. "What are their names?" He asked and I looked at him, is he seriously buying this? Who waits four years to tell the father they have a set of twins. "Stormy and Bryce." Sophia said "I'm going to see how the girls are." I said getting up and picking up Starry.

Austin was talking to her I could hear what he was saying "I would love to meet them, to help out, but first I need to do a DNA test to make sure they are mine." Austin said "Here's a clinic that they go to." She said "I will get tested today. I will have Jake take me." He said "Jake." Sophia said "Remember?" Austin asked "Yeah, I have to go. But here's my number. Call me when you believe me." Sophia said and she left and I came back out "Do you seriously believe her?" I asked the girls were smart enough to stay in Bella's room. "We dated from sixth grade to the summer of our Junior year and then right before our Senior year started she moved away. I believe her. I'm going to get the test done." He said and I nodded "I will support you." I said and he smiled. Jake did come to get him and Allie stayed "Do you know a Sophia?" I asked Allie "Oh yeah, Austin and Sophia were an item all right. From the time I moved here to before Senior year they were together. We all swore they would end up getting married." Allie said and I only nodded.

Austin came back "I should get the test results on Monday." He said "Invite her and the kids over tomorrow." I said and Austin nodded at me "Are you okay with this?" He asked "Hurt that you never brought up Sophia. I figured your mom would have." I said "It hurt to bring her up, I never got over her until I met you." He said "Why now though? They're almost four." I said and he nodded "I know." He said and I knew he was thinking about it so I fell asleep. I woke up at four and worked until noon, Sophia was coming over at two. I had lunch made and everything was set up. Starry was in her baby pillow sitting up with her daddy, Kelsey and Bella were both there too. At two the doorbell rang and I answered it, as soon as I opened the door there was no denying that Austin was their father.

I let her in and I stared Bryce looks just like Austin did at that age, he has his brown hair, his brown eyes, he has his eye shape, his nose, mouth, and then Stormy had his hair color, his brown eyes, his eye shape, his nose and mouth. She put had one on each hip and they were playing shy with me and I smiled. She sat down and Austin stared "The results will come back true." He said and they smiled at him, Kelsey saw two kids around her age. "How is she?" Sophia asked "Two!" Kelsey said and Sophia smiled at her "Hi Stormy and Bryce." Austin said "hi." Stormy said first and I smiled "I got a toy kitchen set, wanna play?" Kelsey asked "Sure." Stormy said and Bryce followed. "Bells keep an eye on them?" I asked "Yup." Bella said getting up and I smiled "They are beautiful kids." I said "Thank you." Sophia said "What brings you here?" Austin asked "I was told by my dad you wanted nothing to do with me or the kids. And then I heard you remarried a woman who had two kids, and then you had a kid and realized he was wrong. Also I had some tests done." Sophia said and I picked up Starry and took her into the kitchen to fix her bottle. "What kind of tests?" Austin asked "I have cancer, cancer that is too far off to be treated." Sophia said "You can't have it." Austin said "I had Luekmeia since I was little, it amazed me I was able to get pregnant, but they say I don't have longer. And I wanted you to know your kids. I wanted them to live with you when I go."

It's now the 19th and every weekend Austin has Bryce and Stormy over and we are all getting attached to them. Allie is at the door and I quickly let her in "It's a girl!!!!" Allie said and I hugged her, "my mom is having a girl as well!" I said and she smiled at me. "How is Sophia?" Allie asked "she's good. These past two weeks have been amazing. I loved getting to know her. We're looking into houses to move." I said "Noo!!!"

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Allie said "it's a six bedroom, five bath guesthouse." Allie said "Yeah but with five kids now." I said "No!" Allie said "Fine." I said and she smiled at me, Kelsey came down "Allie!" She said and I smiled, Allie is showing now and she's so excited to finally be showing. "It's been three weeks with all the casts." I said "How hard is it?" Allie asked "Hard managing three broken people, Starry and when they're here Stomry and Bryce but I love it." I said and Allie smiled "Where is Austin?" Allie asked "In bed with all the kids but Kelsey and Starry since I was about to fed her." I said "I just wanted to tell you the news!" Allie said and I smiled at her. I got a call "Kelly is in labor!" My dad said "Keep us posted." I said and then we hung up.

Chapter 30

It's the 30th now and after class I picked up Kelsey and Starry and we went to Starry's fourth month appointment where she got her next round of shots, she is healthy and a happy baby. I dropped them off at home and Austin was there this is week five and Bella is feeling better but she has to keep the boot on until next week, Kelsey's and Austin both have appointment next week on the same day. I pick Bella up from school and we drive to West Palm to my dad's house and Kelly answered the door "Come in. I need the company. Your dad is at work." Kelly said and we walked in "I would love to see the baby." Bella said "What did you name him?" I asked "Connor Matthew." She said and she came out with our little brother Connor, he had our blonde hair and baby blue eyes "He's handsome." I said and Bella smiled at him "Can I hold him?" I asked "Yes." She said and I smiled at Connor "my little one is already getting so big." I said and he stared at me "How is class?" Kelly asked "good" I said and she smiled at me.

When we got home I heard two kids crying and Austin saying "mommy is almost home." I went into our room and picked up Starry and rocked her and kissed Kelsey's tears away. "Mommy is home. Mommy is going anywhere." I said and then I looked at Austin "Starry just started it, she wouldn't stop. Kelsey just kept saying I want my mommy, I want mommy. Mommy, not daddy." Austin said and I laughed, once I had Starry quiet I put her in her swing and turned it on "She loves being in her swing now." I said and he nodded "That would be good information." Austin said and I smiled at him. I picked up Kelsey "In a few days you will have a shorter cast." I said "Not soon enough." Kelsey said and I smiled, Austin's wrist is good enough to where he only keeps the brace on when he needs to, he will move to wearing a boot next week, Bella has her appointment as well to get her boot off. I'm glad I don't have class or work on Friday.

It's the following Friday and it's nine am we're at Bella's appointment first "Your ankle is good. You don't need to keep your boot on, but prop it up if you feel it hurting." The doctor said and Bella nodded wiggling her toes and smiling. We had Kelsey's appointment at eleven, Starry was asleep in her stroller and she was given a new cast this time she wanted purple, in two weeks it would be off. Austin's appointment was at one and he is now down to the boot, and his wrist is good he doesn't need the splint unless he feels that it hurts. He got a call "It's my weekend for the kids." He said "We will pick them up." I said and we turned the GPS on and I led the way to her apartment building and then Austin went up and greeted her, she wasn't looking that good. "Sophia! How are you?" I yelled, and yes I was becoming friends with my husband's ex-girlfriend mother to his set of twins. "I'm okay. It's a bad day for pain but I'm okay." Sophia said and Stormy smiled "let's go daddy!" She said and Sophia laughed "We will drop them off at daycare. Call if you need anything." Austin said and she nodded. Yes I can tell he still loves her, and no I'm not worried at all.

We didn't go straight home we went to Petsmart "What are we doing here? We don't have a pet." Bella said, earlier that day I had asked Karen if we could get a cat/dog and she said that would be wonderful for the kids to have and they were thinking of getting one anyways. I got the stroller out and put Starry and Kelsey in it and then Austin got a double buggy and put Stormy and Bryce in it and Bella walked in the middle. We went in and got dogs supplies and cats supplies "Can we get a kitty here?" Bella asked "I prefer the pound." I said when we got all we needed and I loaded the back up. We went to the pound and I got the stroller out and got the carrying pouch and put Starry in her pouch and put Stormy in Starry's spot and Austin carried Bryce "Pick out a dog or cat?" I asked Bella "Dog." Bella said and I winked at her. We found a beautiful kitten "This one mommy!" Kelsey said "I agree!" Stormy said and Starry did her baby giggle and I smiled. I wrote down the case number and a worker came in so the girls could hold it, "She has a brother who needs a home." The worker said "Okay." I said and they smiled. We met up with Austin "A German Shepherd puppy and a Golden retriever." Austin said and I called Karen "Yes, save some for us. Allie even wants a cat." Karen said "We will thank you." I said.

When we got home I got the kids out and they walked in and I got the puppies out the German Shepherd is a female and the Golden retriever is a male, they are eight weeks old but the pound already had them fixed along with the kittens who turned out to be ragdolls. Austin helped the best he could with the stuff, Allie and Karen both came over "I'm making Jake go get a kitty and he wants a dog." Allie said and I smiled "Austin and Bryce claimed the Golden which is Sammy, Bella claimed the German Shepherd which is named Hope,

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Kelsey and Stormy claimed the kitten Sassy and I claimed the male kitten named Prince Charming but Prince loves Starry." I said and she smiled at me, that night Bella was outside with Hope and then she went to bed and Hope was curled up beside her. Stormy and Kelsey slept in the same bed so Sassy could sleep with them and Bryce had Sammy and then I had Prince Charming curled up at my head. I woke up at five to him attacking my hair and I giggled, I got up and fixed Starry's bottle and Prince played at my feet and Sassy came out and they started playing.

Chapter 31

It's the 2nd, a Sunday and I'm outside at seven, Sammy and Hope are outside using the bathroom, Karen stepped out to let their Lab out and she waved at me "Where's Starry?" Karen asked "She's back in her crib asleep." I said and Karen smiled at me. I took the dogs back in and I gave them their food and Stormy walked down and smiled at Sassy who was playing with Hope's tail. "Good morning Stormy." I said "morning, can I talk to my mommy?" Stormy asked "Yeah, I will call her now." I said getting my phone "Hello?" Sophia asked you could tell she was sleeping "Hi, it's Lexie. Stormy wanted to talk to you." I said "Hi, okay." She said and I handed the phone over and after the call Stormy handed it back "Mommy wants you." She said "How are you?" I asked "Hanging in there." She said and "is there anything I can do?" I asked "I wanted to get them a special gift. But I'm not up to the outing." Sophia said "What do you want to get them?" I asked "Bryce a remote control monster truck and for Stormy a Dream lite pillow pet." Sophia said "I'm on it." I said "thank you." Sophia said and I smiled. When Austin woke up "I'm going to take Starry with me." I said after telling him "Okay." He said and I got Starry ready "Allie you want to tag along?" I asked and Allie nodded.

It's March 16th and we're all outside in our backyard, including Sophia's family and Austin's family. In the past month Sophia's health has gone downhill dramatically, Starry has grown so much, Austin has gotten to know his kids so has his parents, my dad hasn't been bugging us. He has finally gotten the son he always wanted. Sophia is sitting down and Stormy runs up to her "Mommy!" She said and she smiled at her. Starry is almost six months old, Starry has began teething so it's an uncomfortable time for all of us. She loves rolling from her stomach to her back, I love watching her. She loves reaching for the dogs tails and smiling at them. She loves putting her right foot in her mouth, she giggles over it. Starry loves trying to put the kitten's tails in their mouth and giggles, the kittens don't mind at all. They loved opening their gifts, I held Starry most of the time. Everybody is cast free now so it's a lot easier to deal with. "Happy birthday Stormy and Bryce!!!" We all sang, at the end of the party Sophia held both kids for a long time, and she handed me two notes "You will know the right time to give it to them." Sophia said "You need to stay here tonight Sophia, you don't look well enough to drive." Austin said and Sophia agreed.

The following morning when I was getting ready for work and I went down I checked on Sophia "Austin." I said shaking him "What?" He asked sitting up "She isn't breathing." I said and he got out of bed faster than when I was in labor. He called 9-1-1, Sophia was pronounced dead on the scene. I had to go to work but I was worried about Stormy and Bryce the whole time. I got home and they were both crying Stormy ran into my arms "My mommy." She sobbed and I held her close. But Austin and I traded because Starry was crying, Allie and my mom are both in their last trimesters now, and Allie has gained more of a belly now, Allie is due around Bella's birthday and my mom is due around the 14th. Her funeral was a joyous moment, everybody were happy. Austin was letting it affect him deeply, he took two days off of school and work, he helped get their stuff into our house.

It's April 30th and I smiled at Starry, I was off tonight and it was after class, it's twelve thirty. Starry is now seven months old today, and she is still a mini-me, she is a momma's girl, Bella is a sissy's girl and Austin's girl, Bryce is daddy's buddy, Stormy is a daddy's girl, and Kelsey is a mommy's girl. Starry can scoots places a little bit, she's able to sit up without support, she loves playing with her sisters and brothers, Bryce and Stormy are in Pre-K, Kelsey is still in daycare, she will be in preschool next year. I can't believe how things have turned out but I love my life. My dad is finally coming around more because he wants a baby-sitter but we will baby-sit Connor so we can spend time with him. He made a joke that I was going to take Connor away too. My mom and them moved to Stuart last month, so we're closer to them and Bella goes over there a lot to spend time with them.

It's May 30th now, we are out of school and I go to work 4-noon everyday so I have all day with the kids, Bella is still in school. Starry is pulling herself up on the couch, she's at the stage where she hates if you change her diaper. She can hold her bottle when we give it to her, she's crawling now. I pick up Starry who wanted me, Allie is over "I can't wait to have her out." Allie said "Do you have a name picked out yet?" I asked Allie, "Hannah Nicole." Allie said and I smiled "What is your mom going to name your sister?" Allie asked "Bailey Erin" I said and Allie smiled at me. Kelsey came up and she hugged my knee "I love you girly."

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I said "I love you too." She said smiling at me, "I can't believe Bella is almost eight." I said "I know." Allie said smiling at me. "Nap time kiddo." I said putting a sleeping Starry in her playpen and putting Kelsey down in her room. "I can't wait to see miss Hannah." I said "Me either." Allie said and I smiled at her.

Chapter 32: The Final Chapter

It's June 6th now, Bella is out of school and she has all her friends over for a sleep-over and I get a call "I'm in labor." Allie said "Keep me posted." I said and I got a picture text on June 7th around five PM Hannah Nicole Wakefield six pounds five ounces, eighteen inches. She has Bella's blue eyes and curly brown hair, she was beautiful. "I'm going to see Hannah." I said and Austin nodded. I went to the hospital "Hannah you are gorgeous." I said holding her in my arms "How do you feel?" I asked Allie "Perfect.Sore. But good." Allie said smiling at me. The following week my mom went into labor and gave birth to Bailey on the 14th around eleven at night, icy blue eyes and strawberry blonde hair. We went to visit her the following day "Mom, Bailey is beautiful." I said and she smiled at me "Thank you." She said and I kissed Bailey.

It's the 30th now and Starry is nine months old, she likes to use her right hand more, crawls more, and she climbs stairs when she's around them, by crawling. I can't believe she will be a year old before I know it. "Mommy!" Kelsey said running to me "Mommy!" Stormy said and I smiled "Mommy!" Bryce said "sissy!!" Bella said and I giggled. This coming up year will be my senior year in college and I'm looking forward to it. This summer we have been on the go as much as we can, the twins are going to be in school, Kelsey will be in pre-school, Bella will be in the third grade, Starry will be a year old. It seems like it was just yesterday I moved in here and now my family has grown. A lot, but I don't regret it. I went from struggling to raise myself and my sister to being a mother of an eight year old, two four years old, a two year old, a nine month old, two dogs, and two cats and I love it. I keep waiting for Bella to want to move in with our mother but she hasn't done that yet. I have built up my relationship with my mom and I couldn't have been happier.

It's August 7th now and I am twenty years old! And I found out I am almost two months pregnant with Austin's and my second child, my third child. We begin school on the 16th, Allie is loving motherhood, my mom forgot what motherhood with a newborn was like, Connor has grown up so much. We are excited for this baby, and we both said this is our last child. I will be due in May, so I get to spend my whole school year pregnant, we both graduate from our different things in May. On Kelsey's third birthday it went good, she loved her gifts and she is excited about Pre-school. The first few days of school was hard getting back into the schedule, getting four kids ready for school and one little girl ready for day-care. She is already walking slowly and I'm worried to death about her walking.

It's September 30th and we're celebrating Starry's first birthday! She is walking after her sisters and brother, running after the dogs. I love seeing her active. School and work is doing really good now, I love the fact that I will be able to get a different job once I graduate. "Mommy!" Starry said reaching for me, "Mommy!" Kelsey said smiling at me "Mommy! Mommy! Sissy!" I heard and I giggled, Austin smiled at me. Allie, Jake, and Hannah came over Hannah is now three months old and she is beautiful. Connor is now eight months old and we love having him over here. Austin wants a little boy and I just want a healthy baby, honestly I want a boy for him so he would have two boys compared to four girls in the house. Not counting myself. "You have your hands full." Allie said and I smiled "I wouldn't give it up for anything in the world." I said and she smiled at me.

It's Halloween now and we're out trick or treating, I'm four months pregnant and I do have a bump. Everybody is enjoying trick or treating and when we got home to pass out our candy we had the dogs out with us too and they loved it. I was right Prince Charming is more of Starry's cat name. Bella loves third grade more and more, Bryce and Stormy loves Kindergarten, Kelsey loves pre-school, and Starry loves day-care. I just took the mid-terms for the first semester and it's a hard semester, hard at home to study but I'm loving it. It's November 23rd, Black Friday we had an OBGYN appointment and we found out it's a girl! Caylee Grace! I'm so excited, we had Thanksgiving at our house and had everybody over for dinner and it turned out good. It's now Christmas and Connor is 11 months old, Starry is now fourteen months old and is potty-trained so we will only have one baby in diapers. We took finals the beginning of the month and now we're waiting to begin our last semester in college! I can't believe I'm graduating college in a May and I will have another healthy little girl. This pregnancy is going great.

January went good, Connor's first birthday party was good. We all loved it, Connor is a walking terror now. February was a good month for all of us, things were good, school and work is still going smoothly and we all

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love it. March 14th Bryce and Stormy turned five! Their first birthday without Sophia and you can tell they miss her, their first holiday without her was hard but we did our best for it. We also took our last mid-terms and now we're on Spring break and so are they so we went to a beach for the week. April was a smooth and good month for us all, preparing for the arrival for Caylee, preparing for finals and graduation day. It's now May 15th, I'm due in a week and it's my graduation day, Austin's is tomorrow. Allie and I both walked up on stage for our diplomas, I could barely move. Hannah was cheering her mommy on, being 11 months old, my little sister Bailey was all happy. "Congratulations Lex! I'm proud of you!" My mom said and I smiled "I did this for you two and myself!" I said to Bella and Kelsey, I remembered when college was just a dream, and now I managed to graduate with the highest GPA the same for high school.. Our last addition was born on May 22th, weighing six pounds four ounces, icy blue eyes and strawberry blonde hair. "She's perfect." My mom said while she visited "Thank you mom." I said and I smiled. I went from having a sick mother in bed all the time, to a drunken mother, to a supportive mother. I now have an almost nine year old, twins five years old, an almost four year old, an almost two year old, a healthy baby-girl, and our pets. My life has turned out good finally, it went from being a struggle to survive to being an RN Nurse. What more could I ask for?

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