



KAY SHANEE

Steady
LOVE

Kamden & Jaelynn

Steady Love

Kamden & Jaelynn

Kay Shanee

Kay Shanee



Copyright © 2022 Kay Shanee

All rights reserved

The characters and events portrayed in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

No part of this book may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher.

ISBN-13: 9781234567890

ISBN-10: 1477123456

Cover design by: Katrina Anderson

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018675309

Printed in the United States of America

Steady Love
Kamden & Jaelynn
by
Kay Shanee

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kay is a forty-something-year-old wife and mother of two who was born and raised in the Midwest. During the day, she is a high school teacher. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Her favorite pastime is reading and writing romance novels about the *Dopeness of Black Love*.

SYNOPSIS

*This story is an update on the lives of Kamden and Jaelynn, who were first introduced as a couple in [Heal My Heart](#). If you have not read the previously mentioned book, I would recommend that you do. This is a novelette and only meant to give you a small glimpse into the couple's life after marriage and children. *

Kamden was just the man to heal Jaelynn's heart, and he's taken excellent care of it for several years.

After giving birth for the fourth time, Jaelynn is having a hard time losing the baby weight and feeling insecure about her appearance. Being the man that he is, Kamden goes above and beyond to make sure his wife knows that his love for her will never change.

Someone from Kamden's past tries to disrupt their happy home, and he is determined to make sure their attempt is unsuccessful. Will he handle it before Jaelynn finds out? Or will he mishandle it and create an even bigger problem?

Prologue

“C’mon, baby. Push!” Kamden urged his wife.

“I can’t. I’m too tired,” Jaelynn cried.

“Come on, Mrs. Ross. I need you to give me a few more good pushes. You’re almost there,” Dr. Quincy encouraged.

Jaelynn took a few deep breaths, and when the next contraction started, she put her all into another push.

“Arrggh!” she groaned.

“That’s it, baby!” Kamden encouraged.

“Oh my God! I’m never doing this again!” Jaelynn complained.

“If you say so. C’mon, Jae. You’re almost there.”

“No, Kam. I’m serious. We’re done after this.”

“Whatever you say. Now give us another big one.”

Kamden and Jaelynn already had three children, so Kamden was used to his wife saying things she didn’t mean while in labor. After a few more grunts and groans, the newest addition to the Ross family made his entrance.

“It’s a boy!” Dr. Quincy announced.

Seconds later, the cries of Kaelen Isaiah Ross could be heard through the delivery room. However, Jaelynn’s moans caused Dr. Quincy to hand Kaelen off to one of the nurses.

“You got this, Jaelynn.”

It was hard for Kamden to take his eyes off his newborn son, but the work wasn’t done. Holding Jaelynn’s hand a little tighter, he kissed her temple.

“We’re almost there, baby,” he whispered next to his wife’s ear.

“We’re not anywhere, Kam. Promise me no more babies after this,” she cried.

“No more babies. Now push, Jae.”

A minute or so later, Kamden laid eyes on his baby girl. Jaeda McKinley Ross entered the world, screaming at the top of her little lungs two minutes and two seconds after her twin brother.

“You did it. They’re both here,” Kamden praised his wife while planting kisses all over her moist face. “Thank you for blessing me, Jae. I love you so much.”

Jaelynn gave her husband a weak smile before her eyes found the nurses as they checked the vitals of her babies. She was anxious to see them and hold them in her arms. Since she went into labor at only thirty-five weeks, she was a little worried about their development.

“Here are your angels, Mrs. Ross,” one of the nurses said as she held the babies in her arms.

Jaelynn couldn’t hold back the tears of joy as she admired the two beautiful beings she’d been carrying in her womb for nearly the past nine months. The nurse gently placed the babies in Jaelynn’s arms, and Jaelynn couldn’t imagine her heart being fuller.

“Hey, mama’s babies. You’re so perfect.”

She planted kisses on their little foreheads while Kamden looked on, smiling from ear to ear. If Jaelynn was serious about not having any more babies, he was cool with that. His life had never felt more complete than it had at that moment.

Chapter One

Three Months Later

Jaelynn had just stepped out of the shower and stood in the middle of the bathroom, drying off. Although steam filled the spacious en suite and caused the mirror to be covered in condensation, she could see her silhouette. After drying off to her satisfaction, she used the towel to wipe off a section of the mirror.

Releasing a deep, almost sorrowful breath, Jaelynn covered her breasts with her hands and pushed them up. A few seconds later, her hands traveled down to her stomach that was loose, filled with stretch marks, and sporting a pudge.

“Ugh!” she groaned, annoyed by the extra weight she couldn’t seem to get rid of.

She had always been a petite girl, and after having three babies, Jaelynn’s body bounced back in no time without having an exercise routine. However, the weight seemed to be very stubborn after having the twins.

Once Dr. Quinn gave her the okay, she began working out and even adjusted her diet a little bit. Unfortunately, none of that was helping, and she was beyond frustrated.

Her hands went to her sides, and she clutched the extra loose skin that was very noticeable to her, but practically invisible to everyone else. Just as she released another frustrated breath, the door to the bathroom flew open.

“Shit, Kam!” she shouted, grabbing her towel to cover herself. “Can I have some privacy?”

“Jaelynn, we haven’t given each other privacy since before you gave me the pussy. Why the fuck would we start now?”

Kamden stepped in front of his sink and grabbed his toothbrush. He eyed his wife in the mirror as he brushed his teeth, wondering what was up with her.

He hoped Jaelynn wasn't suffering from any postpartum issues and thought about suggesting she reach out to her former therapist, Dr. Femi. However, he didn't want to jump the gun and instead continued to speak words of encouragement and affirmation to her, supported her in any way she needed, and made sure she knew he loved her more than ever.

Kamden could see Jaelynn staring back at him through the mirror, looking as if she was on the verge of tears. Her sad expression made him feel bad for responding to her so harshly. Just as he finished brushing his teeth, Jaelynn went to leave the bathroom, but Kamden caught her by the arm.

"Jae, c'mere," he said, pulling her into his arms. "I'm sorry for snapping at you, baby."

"It's fine. Let me go so I can get dressed."

She tried to step out of his arms, but Kamden wasn't having it.

"Hold up. Look at me."

Jaelynn wanted to be stubborn and didn't give him her eyes. He dipped his index finger under her chin and lifted her head.

"You know I love you, right?" he asked, getting a nod in response. "Naw, baby. That's not good enough. Let me hear you say it."

"I know you love me, Kam."

"How much do I love you?"

"To infinity and beyond."

He pecked her lips. "That's right. There are no limits to my love for you, baby girl. You're walking around here with your lips poked out, trying to find something wrong with this beautiful ass body. The body that gave me five children and doesn't even look like it carried one."

"But—" she began.

“Naw, Jae. If you’re about to say something negative about the way you look, don’t do it.”

She snapped her mouth shut as her husband kissed her forehead, then her nose, and finally, lingering on her lips.

“I know it’s gonna take more than me just telling you how beautiful you are for you to feel confident again, but I’ll never stop. I just want you to always remember you’re perfect in my eyes. Okay?”

“Okay. Thank you, baby.”

They kissed again before they separated, and Kamden smacked her on the ass as she walked away.

“Kaamm!” she whined.

The couple had about thirty minutes before they would need to leave for Braelynn and Myla’s joint baby shower. The ladies were adamant about not having one, but Jaelynn refused to respect their wishes because they didn’t respect hers when she made the same request.

“What? That ass is sitting up real nice. I couldn’t resist.”

“Boy, go check on your kids so I can get dressed in peace,” she told her husband.

Kamden kept his eyes on her and licked his lips as he exited their bedroom. He had on a pair of black jeans and a Chicago Bulls hoodie, and Jaelynn had a hard time taking her eyes off him as well.

When Kamden finally made it to the other side of the door, Jaelynn released a breath she didn’t know she was holding. The sadness she felt a few minutes ago was gone, and she couldn’t stop smiling. She could always count on her husband to make her feel better.

Thirty minutes later, Jaelynn was dressed in black leggings, a black turtleneck, and a long red and black plaid shirt. Spring was still several weeks away, and Chicago winters were kind to no one.

“I’m ready,” she announced when she stepped into the family room.

“Ready for me to bend that—”

“Kam!” Jaelynn shouted. “Did you forget the kids are right here?”

“They know what’s up,” he said with a smirk.

Kamden had the twins already in their car seats while the other three sat on the couch. Jaelynn had to admit that she was blessed. Her and Kamden’s kids were very well-behaved and respectful. Their oldest child and first daughter, Jaeden, had just turned seven and had always been a great big sister to five-year-old Kamden Jr. and two-year-old Kameron.

As much as Jaelynn and Kamden were intentional about not giving her too much responsibility when it came to her younger siblings, Jaeden was always eager to help them.

“The truck should be warm,” Kamden said. “It’s already in the driveway, so let’s go.”

He picked up Kaelen and Jaeda’s car seats and headed to the door that exited to the garage. After putting his shoes and coat on, he covered the twins with blankets then headed out the door.

Once everyone else was bundled up, Jaelynn shuffled everyone out of the house. Kamden had already secured the twins, and after Jaeden and Kamden Jr. were fastened in the third row, he put Kameron in his car seat.

“We need to get a minivan,” he said as soon as he was settled behind the wheel.

Jaelynn laughed before saying, “I’m not stopping you from getting *you* a minivan, but I refuse.”

“Jae, baby, we got five kids. This Range is cool, but it ain’t conducive for seven people.”

She turned around and looked back at their children, then shrugged.

“Looks like we fit in here perfectly. If you want to get rid of your truck and get a minivan, I won’t stop you. But I’m keeping mine.”[MW1]

They’d had that conversation before the twins were born, and she hadn’t budged on her stance.

“Kolby and Myla went minivan shopping last week, and they’re narrowing down their choices. When you see how convenient they are, you’ll be begging to get one.”

Jaelynn replied with a huff and folded her arms across her chest. She didn’t have anything against the vehicles; she just couldn’t see herself owning one.

“Mommy, can you turn the radio up? I love this song,” Jaeden asked.

She turned around and gave her daughter a strange look, then looked at her husband.

“Jaeden, what the heck do you know about Teena Marie?”

“Grandma Stella said she was a Black woman in a white woman’s body and could sing her butt off.”

“She told you that?” Jaelynn questioned.

“She sure did. Can you turn it up before I miss the whole song?” Jaeden asked again.

“You heard her. Turn it up,” Kamden said with a smirk.

He could have turned the radio up with the controls on the steering wheel, but instead, she reached for the knob on the radio and turned it. The car filled with the sound of Teena Marie singing “Square Biz,” and Jaelynn was shocked that Jaeden knew most of the words.

About twenty minutes later, they arrived at the location where the joint baby shower was being held. Jaelynn hired an event planner to do almost everything. Her plate was too full to take on anything more, but the celebration had to happen.

Jaelynn was a bit nervous because the event planner they usually used had moved on to bigger and better opportunities.

However, from the looks of everything, she made the right choice; everything was decorated to perfection.

“Hey! This looks amazing,” Jaelynn told Kara, the event planner.

“Thank you. I’m glad you’re pleased.”

Since Braelynn was having a girl and Myla, a boy, Fresh Prince and Princess of Bel-Air was the theme. The guests of honor had no idea, and Jaelynn couldn’t wait for them to arrive.

Chapter Two

“I know we said we didn’t want a baby shower, but sis, you outdid yourself,” Braelynn told Jaelynn.

“You sure did,” Myla chimed in.

Pregnancy looked amazing on both women, and they were glowing. Braelynn’s due date was near, while Myla still had a month or so to go.

“I’m glad y’all enjoyed it, but I can’t take the credit. Kara and her crew came through, and when I say they did everything, I mean everything. I’m talking the décor, the food and desserts, the games, and the cleanup.”

“Well, they did an amazing job. I guess I can finally forgive you for not telling us you were having twins,” Myla said.

When Jaelynn and Kamden found out they were having twins, they decided to surprise their family with the news. After the babies were born, Kamden was tasked with sharing, and as expected, everyone was shocked but still excited for the couple. However, Myla and Braelynn still held a slight grudge that Jaelynn kept that information from them for five months.

“Seriously, My? Are you still mad about that?”

“We have a right to be mad, Jae,” Braelynn chimed in before Myla could reply. “We’re your sisters. I can’t believe you thought it was okay not to tell us.”

“Oh, my goodness. I’m not about to go back and forth with y’all about that again. Your niece and nephew are here, so get over it.”

The three of them stood there with frowns on their faces for several seconds before Braelynn and Myla broke into a fit of laughter.

“Get out your damn feelings, sis. We’re kidding,” Myla said through her laughter.

“Y’all play too, much.”

“We couldn’t let you off the hook that easily. But seriously, the shower was dope as hell, and we appreciate you for putting it together,” Braelynn told her.

“Facts,” Myla agreed. “Now, how are we gonna get all these gifts home?”

“Let the men worry about that,” Jaelynn suggested.

“Let the men worry about what?” Kamden inquired, approaching Jaelynn from behind, then wrapping his arms around her waist and kissing her cheek.

“Getting their gifts home,” she told her husband.

“Oh, Dad rented a small U-Haul. They’re loading it now,” Kamden informed them.

After talking for a few more minutes, they bid one another farewell and went their separate ways. When they made it home, Kamden got the big kids bathed and settled for the evening while Jaelynn did the same with the twins. By the time he made it to their bedroom, Jaelynn had finished nursing them, and Kaelen was asleep while Jaeda was wide awake smiling at her mother.

“These two couldn’t be more different. All Kaelen’s ass does is eat, sleep, and shit, and Jaeda act like she’s scared she’s gon’ miss something if she closes her eyes,” Kamden fussed as he took his newborn son and placed him in the bassinet they had in their bedroom.

“Don’t talk about my babies.”

“I ain’t saying nothing that’s not true,” he replied, taking Jaeda from her arms when he returned to the bed.

“What are the kids doing?”

“In the family room watching a movie Jaeden put on. Kameron will probably be asleep or find his way in here soon. Why don’t you shower while I entertain this little nosy ass?”

He planted kisses all over his daughter’s cheeks.

“Okay, I won’t be long.”

“Take your time, baby,” he encouraged.

With five kids, Jaelynn was used to rushing through her showers. Since all the kids were taken care of, she did exactly what her husband suggested, even washing her hair. Forty-five minutes later, she stood in the middle of the bathroom, drying off.

As she rubbed body butter over her body, she had to fight not to wipe the condensation from the mirror and examine her body. She wondered how long it would be before she felt comfortable with the extra fifteen pounds on her frame. If the weight didn’t start to fall off soon, she didn’t know what she would do.

After wrapping herself in her robe, she put some leave-in conditioner in her hair, squeezed some oil onto her scalp, and put her hair in a bun on the top of her head. When she reentered the bedroom, she had to pause and smile at the sight before her. Quietly, she retrieved her phone and took a picture of Kamden with Jaeda lying on his chest, both sound asleep.

After putting her phone down, she gently lifted Jaeda from Kamden’s chest, causing him to hold onto her a little tighter and his eyes to pop open.

“It’s just me. I’m gonna lay her down so you can shower.

He let her take their daughter, and she placed the baby in the bassinet with her brother. It was still early in the evening, and the twins would be up again in a couple of hours for their bath and another feeding.

While Kamden went to take a shower, Jaelynn went to the family room to check on the big kids. Just as her husband said, they were watching a movie.

“Y’all good?” she said lowly.

“Yes, Ma, but can you get Kameron? He fell asleep, and he’s heavy,” Jaeden told her mother.

As expected, Kameron was worn out after a full afternoon of playing with all his cousins. She lifted her son from her daughter's lap and took him to the bedroom that he and Kamden Jr. shared. After tucking him in, she went to the kitchen to get a bottle of water then returned to her bedroom just as Kamden was coming out of the bathroom.

She had to admit, her husband looked good as fuck. He had the towel wrapped around his waist, and his chest still glistened with drops of water. Over the years, Kamden had maintained his physique. He let his hair grow out on the top and wore a messy fade or braids. He still had a baby face, free of facial hair, except a mustache on occasion.

"Why you looking at me like I'm a snack? You know you can have me whenever you want?" he teased her with a smirk gracing his lips.

"Ain't nobody looking at you," she denied.

Kamden wasn't crazy and peeped how his wife was eyeing him.

"The kids good?" he asked, instead of forcing her to admit anything.

"Yeah. Jaeden and Kamden are still watching the movie, but Kameron conked out."

"How long you think we got before we're interrupted?" he asked as he sat on their bed.

She shrugged her shoulders before asking, "Why?"

"C'mere," he requested, instead of answering her question.

"What, Kam?"

"Jae, don't make me come get your pretty ass. C'mere," he repeated.

Huffing and rolling her eyes, she made her way to the bed where he was sitting. As soon as she was close enough, he pulled her between his legs.

"Gimme a kiss," he told her with his head tilted back.

She put her hands on his shoulders and leaned down until her lips met his. Kamden's hands moved up the back of her thighs until they made it underneath the short robe she wore and cupped her ass.

As he slipped his tongue into her mouth, his hands moved to the front of her body and caressed her stomach. Jaelynn's body suddenly became stiff, and she pulled away, breaking their connection.

"Baby, what's wrong?"

"Nothing, Kam. The kids are still awake."

He frowned, "And?"

"And, we don't have enough time to—"

"Jae, cut the bull. Damn near every time I touch you these days, you tense up or give me some excuse as to why I can't have no pussy. Wassup?"

"That's not true."

"Yes the fuck it is, baby. You act like you don't want a nigga to touch you. Tell me what I need to do for us to get back to us."

"We've had sex, Kam."

"Twice, Jae. We've made love *two* times in six weeks. I know it's exhausting being a mother to five kids, two of them newborns, and running a business. That's why I do everything I can to lighten your load, baby. We in this shit together, and I don't ever want you to feel like you don't have me."

Jaelynn sat on the bed next to him and thought about what he said. *Had they only made love twice since Dr. Quincy cleared her?* What Kamden said was true. He was a great partner, and she never felt like the responsibility of taking care of the household or their children was solely on her.

"Damn, baby. I'm sorry. I—"

"Jae, you don't have to apologize. Our marriage is about more than sex. But if there's something I'm doing that causes

you not to be sexually attracted to me, let me know.”

She shook her head. “It’s not you, Kam. I don’t know what it is, really. At the end of each day, I’m so damn tired. All I can think about is sleeping.”

“If we got a nanny, do—”

“Hell, no! We don’t need a nanny. It’s just been a challenge shifting from three kids to five kids and taking care of two newborns simultaneously. It’ll get better.”

“Are you sure that’s all it is?” he prodded.

She released a deep breath and looked down at her hands resting on her lap.

“All my life, I’ve been petite, so this extra weight makes me a little uncomfortable,” she admitted.

Kamden pulled her until she straddled his lap. Naturally, his arms went around her waist and hers around his neck.

“I’m a patient man, baby, but you not allowing me to love on you the way I’m used to is killing me. But this ain’t about sex, and if I have to tell you how beautiful you are every second of every day, I will.

“I know you will, and honestly, that helps a lot.”

“Tell me what else I can do to help you see how beautiful you are, baby. What can I say or do to remind you that you are every-fucking-thing to me?”

“You’re doing everything already, baby. It’s gonna take me some time, that’s all. When I look in the mirror, I see stretch marks—”

“They’re beautiful.”

“My gut—”

“Barely there, but still beautiful.”

“My boobs should be full since I’m nursing, but instead, they’re deflated—”

“But still enough to fill my hands and mouth. Jae, I hear you, but none of what you’re saying changes the way I feel about you or stops my dick from bricking up every time I lay eyes on you.”

She never doubted Kamden’s love for her and knew he was telling the truth. All she needed was more time to adjust, and she was grateful Kamden was who he was because many men wouldn’t handle her with so much care.

“I love you,” she told him.

“I love you,” he replied before kissing her.

Chapter Three

By the time Kamden and Jaelynn finished talking, the twins began to stir. Any chance they had to make love would have to wait until all the kids were in bed, a few hours later.

After securing the house and checking on the kids one last time, he went to his bedroom and found all the lights off, and Jaelynn looked to be asleep.

“Ain’t this a bitch,” he mumbled under his breath.

He went to the bathroom to relieve himself and brush his teeth before climbing into bed behind his wife. Wrapping his arm around her body, he pulled her close and nestled his face in her hair. A few minutes passed with them in that position, and his dick had become painfully hard.

I need some pussy, he thought.

It had been three weeks since the last time he’d had some pussy, and Kamden’s dick was on the verge of exploding. Taking his chances, he slipped his hand under the oversized t-shirt she wore, and when it brushed against her stomach, she tensed.

“Relax, baby.”

Kamden dipped his head under the comforter and was surprised when Jaelynn shifted onto her back. He found his way between her legs and wasted no time burying his face in her mound.

“Sss,” she hissed upon contact.

His tongue slithered between her folds until he found her nub. He toyed with it, flicking up and down before closing his mouth and sucking.

“Oh God, Kam,” she moaned.

Not even a full minute later, Jaelynn reached her peak, showering Kamden’s face with her essence. Quickly, he slipped on a condom and moved up her body. Like a magnet,

the head of his dick found her opening. As soon as he filled her honeypot, he breathed a sigh of relief and knew he wouldn't last very long.

“Damn, baby. I miss my pussy,” he whispered into her neck.

His strokes were slow and deliberate. He wasn't sure when he would have the pleasure of making love to his wife again, so he was sure to take his time. Kamden wanted Jaelynn to feel every inch of him going in and coming out. As he ground his hips in a circular motion, he felt her pussy tighten around his dick.

“Shit! I'm cummin', baby,” Jaelynn cried.

Kamden did his best to hold onto his nut until she got hers. As soon as her pussy stopped vibrating, he released his seeds into the condom.

“Argh!” he groaned.

Once he was able, he went to the bathroom to clean himself up, bringing a warm towel back to Jaelynn. Since she had already dozed off, he gently wiped between her legs, ignoring the temptation to dive back into his favorite place.

After hanging the towel on the side of the hamper, he crawled into bed behind his wife, pulling her back into his chest. Minutes later, he joined her in slumberland.

“Do you have to meet with your team today?” Jaelynn asked Kamden as he prepared to take the big kids to school.

Kamden's company, Ross Cleaning and Janitorial Services, had grown quite a bit over the past several years. He was a very hands-on employer, but nowadays, he spent his time seeking out new contracts and managing his employees. He only got his hands dirty when it was necessary.

“Not until Wednesday. What's up?”

“I’m meeting Myla at the boutique, and it’d be great if I didn’t have to take the twins and Kameron.”

“I got ‘em. I can go grocery shopping while you’re at the boutique if you want.”

She gave him a shocked expression before saying, “You’re gonna take the three of them to the grocery store with you?”

“Don’t act so surprised, baby. I can handle it. Gimme a kiss before I go.”

Jaelynn stood from the bed and moved toward her husband, who was standing at the bedroom door. She put her arms around his neck and stood on her toes, then connected her lips with his. Kamden’s hands went down to her ass, and he gave it a good squeeze before releasing her.

“I love you,” he told her.

“I love you more.”

“I’ll stop and get breakfast from our spot on the way back,” he offered.

“Okay. Make sure you place the order before you leave.”

“I got this, baby.”

He left her in the bed and went in search of his two oldest children. They were putting their cereal bowls in the dishwasher when he entered the kitchen.

“Y’all ready?” he asked.

“Yes, Daddy,” they chimed.

Kamden always made sure their backpacks were packed the night before, and the only thing they had to add to it in the morning was their lunch.

“Good. Grab your lunches from the fridge and put them in your bags.”

They did as they were told, and a few minutes later, they were in the truck and on their way.

“Daddy, can we have homemade pizza for dinner tonight?”
Jaeden asked.

He looked at her through the rearview mirror. “Homemade pizza? Tonight?”

“Yes.”

“Umm, we’ll have to ask Mommy about that. I’m sure if she doesn’t have time to make it tonight, she’ll make it for you this weekend.”

“Okay.”

Kamden was glad that answer seemed to satisfy his daughter. The rest of the ride was quiet except for the radio playing softly in the background.

The parent drop-off line moved quickly, and Jaeden and Kamden Jr. got out when it was their turn. Even though he always held up the line, he never drove off until his kids were inside the building. The staff reprimanded him numerous times, but he gave zero fucks and did the same thing every day.

As he neared his and Jaelynn’s favorite breakfast spot, he cursed because he’d forgotten to place their order ahead of time, even though Jaelynn reminded him. The parking lot was packed, so he knew the wait would be long. He walked toward the building and felt his phone vibrate in the pocket of his sweats. Once inside, he pulled it out and read the text from his wife.

My Baby: I ordered. It’s under your name.

A smile graced his lips as he replied.

Me: That’s why I love you.

Kamden was glad Jaelynn knew him so well. When he walked into the restaurant, he went to the pick-up line, which wasn’t nearly as long as the line where they were taking orders. Five minutes later, he’d gotten their food and was headed out the door.

“Kamden?” he heard from a vaguely familiar voice behind him.

He turned around and was surprised by who it was.

“Vida?”

“It’s me. Long time, no see.”

She stepped forward and wrapped her arms around him. Not wanting to be rude, he hugged her back.

“Yeah, it’s been a while. How have you been?” he asked when she released him.

“You mean since you broke my heart? I’ve been okay.”

There was some slight humor in her voice, but Kamden knew she wasn’t trying to be funny. He decided not to address her comment.

“That’s good. Glad to hear that. Well, it was good—”

“How have you been? You still with Jayla?”

Kamden frowned when Vida got Jaelynn’s name wrong. He knew damn well she knew his wife’s name.

“My wife’s name is *Jaelynn*.”

“So you did marry her, huh? I guess it’s true what they say about marrying your best friend,” she said.

He wasn’t sure what the saying was, but he knew he needed to end the conversation.

“It was good seeing you, Vida. Take care.”

Kamden turned and walked away, not even waiting to see if she had more to say. When he arrived home, he found Jaelynn in the kitchen with Kameron in his highchair and the twins in their car seats.

“Daddyyy!” Kameron sang as he clapped his hands.

“What’s up, son? Hey, baby,” he said before kissing Kameron’s forehead, then Jaelynn’s lips even though she was on the phone.

“I hungry,” the two-year-old told him.

“I gotchu, Kameron. Let me wash my hands, and I’ll make your plate.”

Before doing that, he peeked at the twins, who were content sucking on their hand and playing with their feet. He fixed Kameron’s plate, cutting the slices of French toast into smaller pieces before placing the plate on his tray.

“Tank you, Daddy.”

“You’re welcome, baby boy.”

After transferring his and Jaelynn’s food to plates, he warmed them in the microwave before bringing them back to the table.

“Okay, My. I’ll see you at about ten. Bye.”

Jaelynn ended her call with Myla and gave her attention to her family.

“Daddy, say gace,” Kameron demanded as he waited to eat his food.

Kamden did as his son told him and blessed the food.

“Guess who I just ran into,” he said after a few minutes of them eating in silence.

“Who?”

“Vida.”

Jaelynn frowned. Vida was the woman Kamden was dating when she finally built up enough courage to tell him she’d fallen in love with him. He wasted no time ending things with Vida, so, needless to say, they didn’t end on good terms.

“Did you talk to her?”

“For a minute. She asked if I was still with *Jayla*.”

“*Jayla*? She knows damn well she knows my name. You should have told her none of her business.”

Kamden chuckled. There was definitely no love lost between his wife and his ex.

“There was no need to be rude, Jae. I let her know we were married, and the conversation ended there.”

The couple continued to converse, and Kamden noticed Jaelynn picking at her food.

“You full?” he asked, knowing that couldn’t be the case because she’d barely eaten anything.

“No, but I was thinking...I can’t be complaining about my weight and turn around and eat like this.”

Kamden shook his head as he thought about how to respond. He knew that telling her she was perfect and beautiful wouldn’t help if that’s not how she felt about herself.

“Baby, eat your breakfast, and since you’re so concerned about what you eat, I’ll make sure I get a lot more fruits and veggies when I go grocery shopping. Just to show you how much I support you, I’ll even adjust my diet, too, and help you with your workouts.”

Jaelynn smiled. “Really? Aww, babe. You’re so sweet and supportive.”

“I always got you, Jae. Don’t take me doing all this the wrong way. I think you look fine just the way you are, but I want *you* to feel that way as well. I’m here to support you in any way that I can.”

“That’s why I love you.”

She leaned in his direction and kissed his syrupy lips.

“Me kiss too, Mommy,” Kameron said.

“You want some of Mommy’s kisses, too, baby boy?”

He nodded his head up and down. She leaned toward him and kissed his forehead before digging in and finishing her breakfast.

Chapter Four

A few hours later, Jaelynn met Myla at MyLynn's Bedroom Boutique. Every other Monday, they went in to update their inventory and place orders for the items that were out of stock. It was the only day of the week the boutique was closed.

After being an online-only business for several years, opening an actual store was one of the best business decisions they'd made. The one manager and two assistant managers they hired had been doing a fantastic job, and their workload had gotten significantly lower.

Along with the part-time employees they employed to work in the store, they also hired two people to help them with the online orders. MyLynn's Bedroom Boutique was thriving in all aspects.

"Guess who Kam said he ran into this morning?" Jaelynn said to Myla as they looked through some paperwork.

"Who?"

"Vida."

"Vida? Vida, his ex-girlfriend?"

"Yep."

"Really? Now that's a blast from the past. Has he been in touch with her since they broke up?"

Jaelynn looked at her best friend, who was more like a sister to her, with a deep frown on her face.

"Never mind," Myla replied when she realized how crazy the question was.

"He said she asked if he was still with *Jayla* like she doesn't remember my name."

Myla laughed before saying, "Maybe she doesn't. It's been a while."

“Who doesn’t remember the name of someone who stole your man? That girl knows who the hell I am.”

“Sis, Kam was never her man. She was simply a placeholder. Hell, if I was her, I’d do my best to forget your ass. After he left her ass to be with you in Seattle, I would’ve forgotten his ass, too.”

They laughed at the memory of how everything went down, although, at the time, it wasn’t funny. Time flew by as the ladies continued to converse while they worked.

Kamden had just gotten to the grocery store on the other side of town with the twins and Kameron. After strapping the twin’s carrier to his chest, he placed them inside then took Kameron out of his car seat. Inside the store, he wiped the cart down before securing the toddler on the front seat with the iPad.

He’d only been in the store for a minute, and already, women were fawning over him and his children. Two of them tried sliding him their number, stating they’d be happy to help him with the babies if he was ever in need. At first, he was flattered, but he became annoyed after the fifth woman stopped them.

“These women are vultures,” he commented under his breath as he shook his head.

He was grateful Kameron was on his best behavior, and the twins were sleeping as he finally took out the list he’d made and began shopping. When he took a moment to cross off some of the items he’d gotten, he felt someone staring at him. Lifting his head, he looked to his left, then his right, and the aisle appeared to be empty.

“Behind you,” someone said.

He turned around and laid eyes on Vida for the second time that day, and her presence confused him.

“Are you following me or something?” he asked, slightly annoyed to be running into her again.

“Seriously, Kam. Why would I be following you?”

“I haven’t seen you in *years*, and today I’ve seen you twice within a matter of hours. You don’t think that’s odd?”

She smiled. “No, I think it’s fate.”

“Fate? Why would the universe need us to be in the same space?” he questioned.

“I don’t know. Maybe we have some unfinished business.”

“Naw,” he disagreed, shaking his head. “I don’t have any unfinished business with you. I need to finish—”

“Three kids, huh?” she interrupted.

He looked down at his sleeping twins and then at Kameron, who was focused on the iPad.

“Five, actually. Our older kids are at school.”

“Five kids? Wow. You’re really out here living happily ever after,” she said as if she was hurt and in disbelief at the same time.

“Umm, isn’t that everyone’s goal? Look, I need to finish shopping before these two wake up and he gets cranky. Take care.”

Kamden moved out of the aisle quickly and finished shopping, glad he didn’t run into Vida again or any more aggressive women. He’d had enough unwanted attention for the day.

When he finally made it home, he barely had time to unpack the groceries before the twins began crying and Kameron had a mini tantrum. He couldn’t have been happier when Jaelynn walked through the door.

“Looks like you need some help,” Jaelynn observed.

The grocery bags were scattered all over the kitchen, Kamden had one infant in each arm and a toddler screaming at the top of his lungs while pulling on his sweats.

“Baby, everything was perfect up until we got in the house. It’s like something clicked, and all three of them starting crying,” a flustered Kamden confessed.

“Bring me the twins,” she told him as she headed to the twins’ bedroom and sat in the rocking chair. “Kameron probably needs a snack and a nap.”

Kaelen and Jaeda must have sensed their mother’s presence because as soon as Kamden put them in her arms, they turned their little faces toward her chest and opened their mouths. After helping her get them situated, Kamden picked up Kameron, who had trailed behind him still crying.

It took about thirty minutes to get the little ones fed and napping. By then, it was time for Kamden to pick the big kids up from school, so Jaelynn put away all the groceries. The couple didn’t have time to connect until homework was done, dinner had been eaten, baths were given, and bedtime stories were read. Unfortunately, exhaustion overwhelmed them, and they were asleep as soon as their heads hit their pillows.

Chapter Five

“I’m just about ready to evict y’all granddaughter. She’s acting like she doesn’t want to vacate the premises,” Braelynn complained to her mother, Lynn, and her mother-in-love, Stella, as she rubbed her protruding belly.

It was the third Sunday of the month, and the elder women were in the kitchen preparing dinner.

“This is your last baby. You should be enjoying the last few days—”

“But I was due a week ago,” Braelynn griped, interrupting her mother.

“Regardless, enjoy it. As I was saying, this is the last baby, and you must admit, she’s been good to you.”

Braelynn thought about what her mother said and had to agree. She had a difficult pregnancy with her third son, Kyrell, and had decided she didn’t want to try for a girl. Obviously, God had other plans, and here she was, ready to deliver her and Kyree’s final child and only girl. Kyree had gotten a vasectomy to prevent this from happening, but by the time the procedure was done, Braelynn was already pregnant.

“I guess you’re right. Baby girl has been good to me.”

“She sure has,” Stella chimed in. “Let my grandbaby bake as long as she sees fit.”

“I don’t have a choice, but I hope she’s ready to make her entrance soon.”

The kitchen was soon filled with all the ladies in the family while the men handled the kids in the family room and other areas of the house. Although the house was filled to capacity, having dinner every third Sunday was a tradition they all loved and planned to continue for years to come.

“You ready to be a girl dad?” Kamden asked his big brother as he watched him love on his infant niece, Jaeda.

“Man, I’m too ready,” Kyree replied. “I love my boys, but I already know baby girl will have me wrapped around all her fingers and toes.”

“I’ve always wanted a girl,” Isaac, the eldest Ross man, commented. “My granddaughters have filled a void in my heart I didn’t know needed to be filled. Little girls definitely hit different.”

Kyree, Kolby, and Kamden all looked at their father and broke out in laughter. Once they’d gathered themselves, Kamden asked, “What do you know about something ‘hitting different’? Who you been hanging with?”

Isaac shook his head as his sons made fun of him. “I know just as much slang as you do. My grandkids keep me hip.”

They busted out laughing again but couldn’t help but be grateful for Isaac’s relationship with his grandchildren.

“What the hell?” Kamden groaned when he looked at his vibrating phone.

“What’s up, bruh?” Kolby asked.

“Vida just followed me on Instagram.”

“Vida?” Kolby, Kyree, and Isaac said at once.

“Yes, my ex.”

“Is that the young lady that went at your car with a bat or something?” Isaac inquired.

“That’s her.”

“Well, that’s a flashback,” Kyree said.

“I didn’t tell y’all I ran into her recently. Actually, twice on the same day.”

“No, shit?” Kolby asked.

Kamden took a few minutes to tell his brothers and father about the interaction with Vida. It wasn’t a big deal, and he hadn’t thought about her since he left her standing in the aisle at the grocery store.

“You think she wants something?” Kyree asked.

“I ain’t got nothing for that girl. I’d honestly forgotten she existed until I ran into her.”

“Well, you might want to block her before baby sis finds out,” Kolby whispered.

“Dinner’s ready!” Stella shouted into the family room.

As usual, dinner was filled with good conversation, healthy debates, laughter, and of course, love. Everyone was having such a great time enjoying each other’s company, no one noticed the pained expression on Braelynn’s face until she groaned, and her hands went to her stomach.

“Baby, you good?” Kyree asked.

“I think it’s time,” she said.

Everything moved quickly from that point. Stella and Isaac agreed to keep all the kids while everyone else followed Kyree and Braelynn to the hospital. The night was long, but Kylynn Brae’Anna Ross entered the world before it was over. Kamden and his family were exhausted by the time they finally made it home.

“Jaeden, hurry up and get in the shower,” Kamden told his daughter. “Kamden Jr., go wait in our room. You can shower in there.”

“Why do we have to rush, Daddy? We don’t even have school tomorrow,” Jaeden told him as she hung up her coat.

“You don’t?”

“No. Tomorrow’s an Institute Day for the teachers,” she informed him.

“Hmm,” he thought. “Why didn’t I know that?”

“Because you never look at the calendar on the fridge,” Jaelynn chimed in. “And you two still don’t need to waste any time. It’s well past your bedtime.”

“Okay, Mommy,” Jaeden responded as she walked to her room.

“Let me go check on Kamden. He ain’t said a word since we walked in the door.”

“I got him, baby. Go take care of the twins,” Kamden offered.

Unfortunately, the two youngest of the bunch were wide awake and didn’t fall asleep until two hours later.

“Today was long as hell,” Kamden remarked when they returned to their bedroom after putting the twins in their cribs.

“Yeah, but Kylynn is so adorable. I’m so glad Brae and My got pregnant, so Jaeda and Kaelen will have some cousins their age.”

“Yeah. It’s dope watching all our kids grow up together.”

“It is,” Jaelynn agreed. “I wish Myles and Everleigh lived closer. That’s really the only thing missing.”

“Myles has his detailing shops, and Ev has her photography studio. They would be giving up a lot to move out this way.”

“True. We need to be more intentional about making sure our kids have a connection to their other cousins.”

“You know what else we need to be more intentional about?” Kamden asked.

“What?”

“Come shower with me, and I’ll show you.”

He began removing his clothes, letting each piece fall to the floor as he made his way to the bathroom. Jaelynn didn’t move from where she stood next to their bed, but her eyes followed her husband.

“If I have to come get you, you’ll have to pay me in orgasms.”

Jaelynn wasn't sure if she wanted to play hard to get or give in to his demand. Whatever she decided, she knew she'd be satisfied and spent when it was over. As she tiptoed toward the bathroom, she removed all her clothing.

When she entered the space, it was slowly filling with steam, but she could see Kamden's silhouette. He was leaning against the shower wall, stroking his erection.

"Come get this dick."

Jaelynn stepped into the shower and closed the door. Her mouth watered as she watched Kamden's hand slide up and down his dick. She licked her lips as she kneeled in front of him. He continued to stroke while her tongue gently grazed the tip.

"You know this dick ain't to be played with, Jae. Suck that shit if you gon' suck it."

Without further delay, she shoved his hand away, replacing it with hers, then slid her tongue up and down his length before finally taking him in her mouth.

"Shit, baby," he groaned.

After several years together, Jaelynn knew her husband. She knew just the right pressure to apply with her tongue, exactly how wet her mouth needed to be, precisely how firm to grip the base of his dick, and when to gently caress his balls. Jaelynn had mastered how to have him shooting his kids down her throat in no time.

"Damn, Jae. Just like—shit!"

Before he could finish praising her skills, his nut sack was empty.

"Bring your pretty ass up here," he demanded.

As soon as she was back on her feet, his hand went around her neck, and he flipped her around, putting her back against the wall. Their eyes locked, and Jaelynn damn near melted under his piercing gaze. When she tried to wrap her legs around his waist, he shook his head.

“Before you ride this dick, I need you to ride my face,” he whispered.

He covered her mouth with his before slipping his tongue inside. Jaelynn felt as if she was melting under his touch. The grip Kamden had on her neck loosened as his mouth moved down to her neck, then traveled to her breast.

“Mmm,” she moaned as his tongue tickled her nipple.

Kamden went to his knees and planted soft kisses on her stomach. Her body tensed as his lips grazed her soft skin, and she attempted to move his head.

“Don’t do that!” he snapped, looking up at her. “Look at me.”

He waited until her eyes met his before continuing.

“Don’t ever deny me the opportunity to show you how much I love you.”

“Okay,” she said just above a whisper.

Kamden needed Jaelynn to understand that he worshipped her—and not just her body. He worshipped her mind, soul, and the ground she walked on.

He continued his journey until he was face to face with her pussy. Placing his hands underneath her ass, he lifted her legs to his shoulders and began to demolish her sweet spot with his tongue.

“Shit, Kam!”

Jaelynn held on to his head, unsure if she wanted to push him away or bring him closer. The sensations that rippled through her body had her on the verge of becoming unhinged.

Kamden’s tongue touched every crevice in and around her lower set of lips, causing her to shower him in her essence. When he’d had enough, her legs went from his shoulders to his waist, and his dick found its way home.

“Damn, Jae. This pussy gets better with time, baby.”

He cupped her ass, squeezing as his strokes deepened.

“Wait, Kam—hold on, baby,” Jaelynn pleaded.

“Don’t you love when I go deep?” he questioned.

“Yes, I—wait—mmm, shit.”

Jaelynn’s pussy began to tighten around his shaft, forcing him to focus on something other than filling her with his seeds. When he was certain her juices had stopped flowing, he pulled out of his favorite place and jacked his seeds onto the shower floor.

“That was close,” he said, breathless.

“Yeah, don’t be playing Russian roulette with my eggs, Kam,” she warned.

The water was beginning to chill, so they quickly bathed and turned in for the night.

“I love you, Jae.”

“I know, and I love you.”

Chapter Six

“Mama Lynn, I need a favor,” Kamden said when his mother-in-love picked up the FaceTime call.

“What’s that, son?”

“Has Jaelynn complained to you at all about her weight?”

She sighed and rolled her eyes. “Yeah, she’s mentioned having a hard time getting rid of the baby weight this time around.”

As promised, Kamden had been dragging Jaelynn to the gym with him at least once a week over the past month. He noticed she wasn’t comfortable working out in front of others and had an idea on how to fix that. She also didn’t like leaving the little ones in the gym daycare.

“I’ve been encouraging her as much and as often as necessary, but I know my words don’t matter if she doesn’t believe them.”

“That’s true, son, but don’t stop.”

“Oh, never that. I have an idea that I think she would like, but I need your help.”

“What’s that?” Lynn asked, intrigued.

“I want to convert a small section of our basement into a workout area for her. Nothing too extreme, but I can tell she doesn’t like going to the gym.”

“That’s a great idea, Kam. I think she’d love that. What do you need from me?”

“To keep her occupied for most of the day next Wednesday. I’ve already asked my mom to watch the little ones.”

“I got it. I’ll see if I can make a spa appointment, and we can do some shopping.”

“I appreciate you, Mama Lynn. Hopefully, this will help my baby get her mojo back. I don’t like the way she’s been

down on herself.”

“You’re a good husband, Kam. Jaelynn is lucky to have you.”

“Naw, I’m lucky to have her. I’ll keep you posted with the details. Love you.”

“Love you, too, son.”

Now that he’d taken care of that, Kamden had about forty minutes before the meeting with his crew started. He typically met with them at his office once every seven to nine days. Most of their communication was done via text, email, or FaceTime calls.

While he waited, he returned some emails and phone calls. As he ended the final call, he saw his cell phone lighting up with notifications out of the corner of his eyes.

“Thank you, Mr. Goldberg. My crew will be there bright and early Monday morning. Enjoy the rest of your day.”

After hanging up his desk phone, he picked up his cell phone and viewed the notifications.

“Damn it! I forgot to block her ass,” he said to himself.

“You in here talking to yourself, boss man?” Eric, one of his employees, asked.

“What’s up, man?” They gave each other some dap. “Naw, just thinking out loud. You can head to the conference room, and I’ll be right there.”

“Cool,” Eric said before leaving his office.

Kamden went to his Instagram messages to see what Vida had sent him.

Iandonlyvida: We need to talk

Iandonlyvida: Face to face

Iandonlyvida: I have something very important to tell you

He frowned as he read the messages, trying to figure out what she would need to tell him after so many years.

killkamross: I haven't seen you in damn near a decade. What could you possibly have to say?

Iandonlyvida: It has to be face to face. When can we meet?

Instead of replying to her, he exited out of the app. He had to meet with his crew and didn't have time to waste going back and forth with Vida.

An hour later, Kamden went back to his office where he'd left his phone. When he saw the number of notifications, he groaned.

“What the fuck is wrong with this woman?”

He replied, not even bothering to read Vida's messages, asking her when and where she wanted to meet. After a day and time were solidified, he left his office with a nagging feeling in the pit of his stomach.

“I told your ass to block her,” Kolby reminded Kamden as he watched his younger brother pace back and forth.

When Kamden left his office, he needed to talk to someone, so he went straight to Kolby's accounting firm and hoped he wasn't busy.

“Bruh, I forgot all about her ass once that conversation was over.”

“Are you sure you don't have any idea what she has to tell you?”

“Whatever it is, she waited a long ass time to say something. It can't be that damn important.”

“Are you worried about what it might be?”

“No, because I cut all ties with her when I left her in that hotel room in Seattle. Maybe she needs a kidney transplant

and wants me to see if I'm a match."

Kolby busted out laughing. "Nigga, what?" he managed through his laughter.

"I'm just saying. It has to be life-threatening for her to disrupt my peace."

"Are you gonna tell Jae?"

"Nigga, are you crazy? If I tell Jaelynn, she might catch a case for beating Vida's ass. I can't have my wife and the mother of my children in these streets fighting."

"If she finds out you're meeting up with your ex behind her back, she might catch a case for beating your ass."

What Kolby said was true, but Kamden would make sure his wife didn't find out. He and Kolby talked a little more before Kamden went home with the meetup with Vida heavy on his mind.

Chapter Seven

A few days later, he dropped the big kids off at school and headed in the direction of the restaurant where he was meeting Vida. Admittedly, he was a little nervous, but more than anything, he was annoyed.

Once inside the restaurant, he spotted Vida sitting in the back corner. He quickly made his way to the booth and slid in across from her.

“What do you need to tell me?” Kamden questioned immediately.

“Damn. No, hello, good morning,” she replied, feigning offense, and lips turned up into a smirk.

“Vida, why the fuck am I here?”

Before she could reply, the server approached the table. Kamden didn't plan on eating, and he watched Vida as she gave her order, becoming more agitated by the second. As soon as the server walked away, Kamden leaned over the table and was in her face.

“I don't know what kinda game you playing, but you have one minute to say what the fuck you need to say.”

“Okay, Kam, chill out.”

He leaned away from her and put his elbows on the table, waiting for her to speak.

“I think it's time for you to meet our son.”

Kamden didn't react because he knew damn well he misunderstood her. When he didn't say anything, Vida continued.

“Did you hear me?”

He shook his head. “No, I don't think I did. Can you repeat that?”

“We have a son and—”

“Vida! Don’t fucking play with me,” he damn near growled between clenched teeth.

“I’m not playing with you. We have a son together, and it’s time for you to—”

“That’s not possible. I never fucked you raw and—”

“Condoms are not one hundred percent Kamden.”

“I ain’t never nut in you, *and* I had a rubber on, so you can miss me with this bullshit.”

He slid out of the booth and headed toward the door.

“He’s almost nine years old.” Kamden stopped in his tracks. “I didn’t realize I was pregnant until a few months after we’d broken up.”

Turning around, he returned to the booth.

“Why didn’t you contact me?”

“Because I was angry. You led me to believe that we were gonna build—”

“That’s not true, Vida. At no point did we ever talk about a future together.”

“We were in a relationship. Was I wrong to assume—”

“Yes, you were. Now you expect me to believe that you carried and gave birth to my seed but chose not to tell me because you were mad.” He shook his head in disbelief once again. “Naw, I don’t believe that shit.”

“Why would I lie?”

“Because you’re crazy as shit. Hell, I don’t fucking know. But if you think I’m about to let you fuck up my household with this bullshit, think again. I don’t believe for one second that your son is mine.”

This time when he got up to leave, he didn’t let the sound of her pleading voice stop him. When he got in his truck, he banged on the steering wheel and shouted loud enough to draw the attention of people passing by.

“Fuuuccckkk!”

After taking a few deep breaths, he started his truck and sped away, using the voice command to have Siri call Kolby.

“What’s up, Bruh,” he answered.

“I need to meet up ASAP. Can you call Kyree and have him come to your office?”

“Uh, yeah. What is it? Everything good?”

“I’m not in danger...yet. I’ll see you in a few.”

To add to Kamden’s level of frustration, the morning traffic extended his drive to Kolby’s office. Kyree arrived seconds after him, hopping out of his truck with a look of concern on his face.

“Kolby told me you were meeting with Vida today. Is it that bad?” Kyree asked cautiously.

“Worse.”

They walked to Kolby’s suite in silence. Inside, they greeted his secretary and went straight to his office. As soon as Kyree closed the door, Kamden released a groaned from deep within and began punching the air.

“Yo, bruh, what the fuck she say?” Kolby asked with concern.

“This bitch told me we have an eight-year-old son together.”

“The fuck!” his brother exclaimed simultaneously.

“I don’t believe her.”

He sat in one of the chairs in front of Kolby’s desk and leaned forward, resting his elbows on his knees and putting his head in his hands.

“What would she gain from lying?” Kyree questioned.

“I can’t see her keeping my child away from me all this time. Vida was pissed when I ended things and would’ve been

at my door with the pregnancy test and ultrasound as soon as she found out just to fuck shit up between me and Jae.”

“Why now, though?” Kolby wondered aloud.

“Because she saw me at the grocery store with Kameron and the twins and probably got all in her feelings.”

“I don’t know, Kam. That seems kinda petty,” Kyree said.

“And immature as hell,” Kolby added. “You don’t think there’s a possibility the child is yours.”

Kamden gave it some thought before answering. He knew for a fact that he always used condoms with Vida, and because he wanted to avoid having children with anyone he didn’t see a future with, he was sure to pull out.

“I strapped up and pulled out. She’s lying. She has to be.”

“Well, there’s only one way to find out. Get a DNA test,” Kolby suggested.

“And do it before baby sis finds out,” Kyree added.

Chapter Eight

Kamden pushed all thoughts of Vida and the possibility of them having a son together to the back of his mind. Over the next few days, he focused on getting the items needed to complete Jaelynn's workout area. As planned, Lynn had her out of the house by ten a.m. on Wednesday morning, and the delivery truck arrived at ten forty-five.

He worked non-stop for a few hours, putting a bench and some shelves together, before taking a break. On his way upstairs to get a bite to eat, he grabbed his phone and cringed when he saw all the notifications from Instagram. He knew they were from Vida, and all he wanted was for her to go away.

When he opened the app and went to Vida's messages, there were pictures of a little boy. He pressed on the first picture to enlarge it and studied the child's face. Nothing about him looked familiar because he was Vida's twin. He looked nothing like Kamden or any of his other children. His phone began to ring with a video call from Instagram, and he almost threw it across the room.

"What the fuck, Vida?"

"Don't what the fuck me! I told you days ago about your son and haven't heard from you since. I'm trying to go about this—"

"You ain't trying to do shit but disturb my peace and fuck up my household."

"That's not true. I was fine with never telling Kameel about you, but the older he gets, the more questions he asks about his father. He deserves to know you."

"Oh, but for the past eight years, he didn't? Man, you can miss me with this bullshit. I don't know what the fuck you trying to prove, but—"

"Maybe I should reach out to Jayla and see how she feels," Vida threatened. "I bet you didn't even tell her she's a

stepmama.”

“I don’t know who the hell Jayla is, but until we get the DNA results, don’t contact me again.”

“DNA results? You expect our son to take a paternity test? How dare you disrespect me like that!”

“If he is *our* son, how dare you disrespect me by keeping him a secret all these years? I know damn well you don’t expect me to just take your word for it. You must be out your rabid ass mind.”

“It’s bad enough you haven’t been a part of his life. Now you want me to—”

“Vida, I said what the fuck I said. I need proof, and until I get that, I ain’t got shit else to say.”

He ended the video call and closed out the app before Vida could reply.

“Hey, Siri. Where can I get a paternity test?”

Picking the first place Siri suggested, Kamden called and made an appointment, then sent the location, day, and time to Vida. He was ready to settle this once and for all.

“Kam, baby! Oh my God! You did all this for me?” Jaelynn said through tears.

She thought it was strange when her mother called her a few days ago and invited her out for a day of pampering. It wasn’t that she didn’t spend quality time with her mother. The timing just seemed so random.

“Why are you crying?” Kamden asked.

“Because this is probably the sweetest thing you’ve ever done for me. You’re so thoughtful, baby.”

She wrapped her arms around his neck and pulled him into a kiss. When she pulled away, she turned around to admire his work. Kamden had even put a small gate up to separate her

space from the rest of the basement and keep the little ones out of the area.

“It’s the least I can do, baby. I’ll do anything to help you feel comfortable in your skin again. Let me show you everything.”

Kamden hoped he thought of everything she might need. Aside from running, Jae didn’t know much else about exercise. Over the past month, he’d shown her some basic things and would continue to do so as needed.

He bought five, ten, fifteen, and twenty-pound dumbbells and kettlebells, a couple of jump ropes, elastic bands, two lightweight medicine balls, and a couple of mats, along with a bench, shelves, and storage containers.

“I love this so much, Kam.”

“More than you love me?” he teased, pulling her into his body and wrapping his arms around her.

“That’s impossible, baby. But I really do appreciate this. It means a lot that you would do this for me.”

He looked into her eyes, and she could see the love he had for her. However, she could also see something else.

“What’s wrong?” she asked him with concern.

Kamden shook his head. “Nothing’s wrong. I’m happy you’re happy, baby. I gotta go get the big kids from school and the little ones from Ma’s house.”

He planted a lingering kiss on her lips, attempting to kiss away her worries.

“Are you sure everything’s okay?” she asked when their mouths separated.

“Are you happy?”

“I am, but—”

“Then I’m good. I’ll be back in a little while.”

This time, he kissed her forehead, then the tip of her nose, before his lips met hers again.

“Okay. I think I’ll get a workout in and start dinner while you’re gone.”

Jaelynn knew her husband, and although there was a smile on his face, it didn’t reach his eyes.

“Good idea, baby. I love you.”

“I love you more.”

She watched Kamden as he walked away and headed up the stairs. It was evident to her something was bothering him, but instead of pressing him, she hoped he would open up when he was ready.

Chapter Nine

“What’s wrong with you, boy? Looks like you got the weight of the world on your shoulders,” Kamden’s father, Isaac, commented.

Kamden had been at his parents’ house for about ten minutes. Kameron had taken a late nap and he didn’t want to deal with a cranky toddler, so he decided to let him sleep a while longer.

“I got a lot on my mind, Dad,” he admitted.

“You wanna talk about it?”

Kamden sighed. He was hesitant to talk to his father about the possibility of him having a son with Vida. When he didn’t say anything, Isaac continued.

“Whatever it is, I can tell it’s weighing on you heavily. It might help to get it off your chest.”

Kamden was sitting on the couch, and he leaned forward, putting his elbows on his knees, and covering his face with his hands.

“Son, are you in danger?” Isaac was beginning to worry.

He chuckled, although there was nothing funny about his predicament.

“Not in the sense that you’re speaking, but my wife might harm me.”

“Is this about that Vida girl? Did you—”

“I’m gon’ stop you right there, Dad. I ain’t done nothing to jeopardize my marriage,” he assured his father.

“If your actions may cause Jaelynn to harm you, you must have done something. What’s going on?”

“Vida claims that I impregnated her before I ended things, and we have a son together.”

“Oh, damn,” Isaac cursed. “Is she telling the truth?”

Kamden went on to tell him everything about the situation, and the more he talked, the angrier he became.

“I know this is upsetting, son, but unless you’ve taken *permanent* precautions, every time you have sex with a woman, there is a possibility you can create a child together.”

“I know, Dad, but nothing in me believes Vida would keep our child a secret for this long. I almost feel like had I not run into her, none of this would be happening.”

“I take it you haven’t told Jaelynn.”

Kamden frowned at his father. “The fact that I’m sitting here talking to you should give you the answer. I don’t want to tell her unless I have to.”

“I can understand that, but this Vida seems like a loose cannon. She may find a way to tell Jaelynn herself. I think you’d be better off if this information came from you.”

The thought of telling his wife something like this gave Kamden a headache. In his heart, he knew Vida’s son wasn’t his, and he didn’t want to upset his household unnecessarily.

“I’ll figure something out. Thanks for listening.”

“I’m always here for you, son. Never feel you have to battle anything alone.”

He appreciated his father’s advice, but Kamden was no closer to a solution than when he arrived at his parents’ house.

I wonder if Ma knew about Kamden’s surprise, Jaelynn thought.

She’d just gotten out of the shower and was headed to the kitchen to start preparing dinner, but she made a detour to the basement to grab her phone. As she entered the kitchen, something buzzing gained her attention. Following the sound, she found Kamden’s phone on the counter.

“Somebody is blowing him up. I hope everything is okay.”

As she went to put his phone down, a notification came through. Her eyes caught a glimpse of the message, and her stomach sank.

“Why the fuck is this bitch blowing up his DM’s?” she spoke angrily.

Jaelynn knew the passcode to Kamden’s phone, but she rarely used it, and it was never to check his messages. Not once had she ever felt her husband was cheating on her or doing something dirty behind her back. As she unlocked his phone, she wondered if she’d been naïve all these years.

Going to Kamden’s Instagram page, she went directly to his messages and opened the thread from Vida, then scrolled to the beginning. The more she read, the more pissed off she became.

“This man been talking to the hoe behind my back, and they possibly have a child together.”

Before she could get through all the messages, Kamden came in with all the kids. As Jaeden and Kamden Jr. ran to her, singing her name and hugging her around her waist, her eyes never left her husband. He felt her gaze upon him, forcing him to look her in the eyes. When he saw her holding his phone in her hand, nothing needed to be said. He knew shit had hit the fan.

Shaking off the thoughts of killing Kamden, Jaelynn placed his phone on the counter and focused on her babies.

“Hey, how was school?” she asked, returning their affection, kissing their foreheads.

“Good, Mommy,” Kamden Jr. told her.

“It was fine,” Jaeden replied. “We saw Grandma Stella and Grampa Isaac when we picked up the babies. They said we can stay with them this weekend. Can we?”

“Yeah, Mommy, can we? They always let us stay up late and have junk food.”

Although she was in no mood for humor, Kamden Jr. snitching on his grandparents made her laugh.

“I don’t think that will be a problem. Dinner will be ready shortly. Go get out of your school clothes so we can start your homework.”

“Okay, Mommy,” they said in unison before running off to their rooms.

Kamden remained in the doorway, with the twins in their car seats on the floor next to him and Kameron in his arms. Approaching him, she saw the twins were asleep, so she took Kameron from him.

“Hey, baby. Mommy missed you today,” she told her son before planting kisses all over his cheeks.

“I miss Mommy,” Kameron said, hugging her neck.

“Did you have fun?” He nodded.

In the family room, she sat on the couch and took his coat off, then started his favorite movie for the moment, *Encanto*.

“Mommy’s gonna go make dinner, okay?”

“Okay, Mommy, I watch my movie,” he replied as he made himself comfortable in his chair.

In the kitchen, Kamden had closed the door where they’d entered through the garage but hadn’t moved otherwise. Jaelynn refused to acknowledge him and began to prepare dinner. She was making homemade chicken strips and fries for the family while she planned to have a grilled chicken salad.

She felt Kamden’s eyes on her as she peeled the potatoes. No matter how long he stood there looking stupid, she had no words for him.

“Baby, I can ex—”

She shook her head and put her hand up, causing him to stop talking.

“I will not have this conversation with you right now. You need to get outta my face because every time I look at you, I imagine my hands around your neck choking the shit outta you.”

“But—”

“Kamden! We’ll talk about this later,” she said between clenched teeth, slamming her fist on the counter.

Instead of replying, he nodded, then picked up the twins’ car seats and left the kitchen. A little while later, Jaelynn heard him helping the big kids with their homework. When dinner was ready, she called everyone to the table, Kamden blessed the food, and the kids filled them in on everything they’d done at school.

Kamden volunteered to clean the kitchen, which freed Jaelynn to spend some time with the kids before they prepared for bed. The silence between them was killing Kamden, and by the time they made it to bed that evening, he couldn’t take it anymore.

“I didn’t know how to tell you,” he admitted.

“There’s never a good way to tell your wife you’re cheating on her with your ex,” Jaelynn shouted.

Kamden frowned. “Cheating? What the fuck are you talking about? Ain’t nobody cheating on you!”

“Don’t lie to me, Kamden. If you ain’t cheating, then how the fuck is she trying to pin a baby on you?”

“First of all, lower your damn voice when you talking to me, Jae. I’m not yelling at you, so give me the same respect.”

“Oh, the same respect you gave me when you started fucking your ex-girlfriend,” she spat, folding her arms across her chest. “You must be cra—”

“You heard what I said. I didn’t cheat on you with Vida or anybody else. She’s not trying to pin a *baby* on me. The kid is almost nine years old, and she supposedly got pregnant before I ended things with her.”

“What?” Jaelynn was taken aback.

“Did you read all the messages?”

Jaelynn shook her head, feeling bad for jumping to conclusions without having all the information. Kamden grabbed his phone and tossed it on the bed, where it landed next to Jaelynn’s leg.

“I can’t believe you think I cheated on you. Read *all* the messages, Jae.”

“Baby, I’m—”

“Naw, save that shit ’cause I ain’t trying to hear it right now.”

He angrily walked out of their bedroom, grabbing his coat and keys on his way out the door. Getting into his car with no destination in mind, he drove around for about twenty minutes. Ultimately, he ended up at a bar and lounge he and his brothers visited occasionally. Before getting out of the car, he grabbed his work phone out of the glove compartment and called Kyree.

“What up, Kam? Why you calling from your work phone? You good?” Kyree answered.

“Naw, bruh. Meet me at the spot.”

“Right now?”

“Yeah, nigga. Right now.”

“Bet,” Kyree agreed before ending the call.

Kamden found Kolby’s contact, and when his brother answered the phone, the conversation went about the same as with Kyree. He agreed to meet them at the spot, and Kamden went inside to wait for them.

It was well past dinner time, but Kamden ordered some appetizers and a pitcher of beer. His brothers arrived at the same time, looking worried.

“This better be important,” Kolby fussed. “Do you know how hard it was leaving my eight months pregnant wife at home?”

“It wasn’t easy leaving Brae with a screaming newborn, either. What’s going on?”

“Vida,” Kamden stated.

“Shit! Is the boy yours?” Kyree asked.

Kamden shook his head. “I don’t know yet. I scheduled a paternity test, and right now, I’m just hoping Vida shows up with the kid.”

“When is it?” Kolby asked.

“Next week.”

“None of this is earth-shattering news, bruh. Why are we here?” Kyree pressed.

“Earlier today, when I went to pick up the kids, I forgot my phone at home. Jaelynn saw the messages from Vida...well, some of them. She accused me of cheating on her.”

“Damn,” came from Kyree.

“She didn’t read all the messages, and once I told her how old the kid was, she looked all stupid in the face.”

“Cut her some slack, Kam. She only got part of the story,” Kolby encouraged.

“She should know me well enough to know I wouldn’t cheat on her.”

“Yeah, but Jae probably wasn’t thinking. Now, you mad?”

“Hell yeah, I’m mad. That woman is my whole fucking heart. How can she accuse me of some shit like that without even giving me a chance to explain?”

“I get why you mad, bruh, but had you told her everything when Vida first came to you with it, she wouldn’t have had to accuse you of shit,” Kyree reminded him.

“Oh, so now it’s my fault.”

“You damn right, it’s your fault, nigga. For one, Kolby told your dumb ass to block her, and you failed to do that. Had you listened, there would’ve been no messages for baby sis to find. For two, as soon as Vida dropped that bomb on you, you should’ve told your wife,” Kyree preached.

“Y’all wasn’t saying that shit when I told y’all about the kid. All I heard was get the DNA test before baby sis finds out.”

“Shit, we can’t tell you everything to do. You a grown-ass man,” Kolby defended.

“Well, none of that shit matters now. I made the appointment for the damn test. If Vida don’t show, then I’m just gon’ leave this shit alone.”

“And forget about the possibility of having a seed out there? I don’t know if that’s the right move, bruh,” Kyree advised.

“What else can I do?”

“Cross that bridge when you get to it. For now, go home and fix shit with your wife.”

The brothers finished off the pitcher of beer and appetizers before going their separate ways. When Kamden arrived home, he was still in his feelings about Jaelynn’s accusation and was grateful she was pretending to be asleep. He’d talk to her about the situation in the morning...maybe.

Chapter Ten

A few days later, the tension between Kamden and Jaelynn was still thick. She hadn't apologized yet but tried to strike up conversations with him. Kamden remained in his feelings about her accusations and barely engage with her.

Myla and Jaelynn were at Braelynn's house, and while Jaelynn loved on her new niece, she updated her sisters about the situation between Kamden and Vida.

"He's been real short with me since I confronted him about it," Jaelynn told them.

"You mean since you accused him of having an affair," Braelynn reminded her sister. "I would be giving you my ass to kiss, too."

"It was an honest mistake. If you'd have seen the messages I saw, you would've done the same thing."

"Well, now that you've read all of them, have you apologized?" Myla asked.

"Umm, well, not really."

"What the hell are you waiting for, sis? You were wrong."

"I was," Jaelynn admitted. "But so was he. Had he told me when she first told him, none of this would've happened."

Myla and Braelynn thought about it for a moment before replying.

"You know, you do have a point," Braelynn admitted.

"Yeah, you do. I hadn't thought about it like that," Myla agreed.

"Based on the messages between them, the appointment for the DNA test is Monday. I'm sure it'll take at least a week for him to get the results back."

"Okay, then what?" Myla asked as she rubbed her very pregnant belly.

“I don’t know. This whole situation pisses me off.”

“What exactly are you upset about?” Braelynn prodded.

“Now that I know he didn’t cheat on me, I’m pissed he didn’t come to me right away and tried to do all this shit behind my back.”

“Are you sure you’re not mad that he might have a child that’s not yours?” Myla questioned.

“I’m positive that’s not it. Granted, I’m not looking forward to co-parenting with Vida’s crazy ass. But if they share a son, I’d welcome him into our family with open arms. What really pisses me off is her keeping him away from Kamden for so long. For the life of me, I don’t understand why she’d do that.”

“Because that ain’t Kam’s son, that’s why. Listen, that heffa saw Kam and was reminded of what she lost. She probably went on his Instagram page and saw his perfect little family and decided she wanted to shake some shit up. Then decided to pin that grown-ass child on my brother.”

Apparently, Braelynn had it all figured out. Jaelynn and Myla listened as she broke it down, and when she finished, they chuckled at the non-comical dilemma.

“What’s funny?” she asked.

“You got it all figured out, huh?” Jaelynn asked.

“Y’all laughing, but it makes perfect sense to me. Remember, Kyree’s ex was out here living a whole double life and tried to pin another man’s baby on him. You can’t put nothing past these trifling hoes.”

“True,” Myla agreed.

“It seems farfetched, but I wouldn’t put it past her messy ass,” Jaelynn added.

“You need to take your behind home and make things right with your husband. This is a lot to deal with, and he needs your support,” Braelynn advised.

Jaelynn thought about the advice from her sisters as she drove home. She hated when her and Kamden were at odds; being angry with him was exhausting. He took Kameron into the office with him, so she wasn't surprised that he was home already.

"I'll get the twins," he told her as he rushed into the garage.

"Where's Kameron?" she asked.

"Taking a nap."

While he got the twins, Jaelynn went inside and took her coat and boots off. The house smelled good, but Kamden couldn't cook, so she knew he hadn't made dinner. Plus, it was still early in the afternoon.

"What's going on?" she asked when he came in carrying a car seat in each hand.

"What do you mean?"

"It smells good in here."

"Oh, I thought maybe we could have lunch, so I ordered Lucca's."

"That was sweet of you. Let me feed the twins, and we can eat."

Kamden followed Jaelynn into the family room. Once she was situated, he handed her each baby.

"I'm gonna go get the food ready," he told her before kissing her forehead and disappearing into the kitchen.

After feeding the babies, Jaelynn put them in their cribs for their afternoon nap and went to the kitchen.

"I got you a Caesar salad and the Margherita pizza with the cauliflower crust."

She smiled. "Thank you for trying to keep things on the healthy side."

"You're welcome. Let's eat."

They sat down, and Kamden blessed the food before they began eating. After a few minutes of silence, they both began to speak at the same time.

“Baby, I—”

“Kam, I’m—”

“You go first,” Kamden offered.

“I want to apologize for jumping to conclusions and accusing you of something I know in my heart you would never do.”

“Yeah. That fucked me up. Are you sure that’s not how you really feel? Because I—”

“I know you, Kam. I know what kind of man you are. I just lost my head for a minute, and I’m sorry.”

“I forgive you, baby, and I appreciate that.”

“Why didn’t you tell me right away?”

“Because I think she’s lying.”

“Whether she is or not, this is something we should handle together. You don’t keep shit like this from your wife and *supposed* best friend.”

“I didn’t want to upset you for nothing, Jae.”

“It’s a whole kid, Kam. How did you expect to keep that a secret? Did you only plan to tell me if the child was yours?”

“I mean, yeah. I was trying to avoid upsetting you.”

“You got it all wrong, Kam. Am I a little shook because you might have a son out there that didn’t come from me? Of course, I am, but if he’s yours, he was conceived before we made things official. What I’m pissed about is you keeping this from me. That’s not how we operate, and you know it.”

“I know, baby, and apologize. I thought I was doing the right thing.”

“If that’s what you thought, then you don’t know me as well as I thought you did. Had you been upfront with me, there

would've been no accusations.”

“That’s true, Jae. Baby, I apologize for not telling you about everything right away. I didn’t keep it from you on no sneaky shit. I honestly wanted to keep any unnecessary drama away from you.”

“I know, and I understand and appreciate you for that, but we’re a team, Kam. We don’t fight our battles alone.”

“If I truly believed Vida’s son was mine, I would’ve told you right away. I never had sex with her without using protection, and I still pulled out. We kicked it for a while, but I knew she wasn’t my forever. I was just waiting for your indecisive ass to get your mind right. Ain’t no way I would jeopardize being connected to her for the rest of my life.”

They sat silently for several seconds as Jaelynn considered Kamden’s reasoning.

“Did you see the pictures of him she sent?” Jaelynn nodded. “He doesn’t even look like me.”

Jaelynn giggled. “Because he looks like his mother. That does happen, you know?”

“Not with my genes. I’m five for five over here, Jae,” he bragged. “You were just the incubator.”

Truer words had never been spoken. All five of their kids were the spitting image of their father. Kamden couldn’t deny them if he tried.

“Maybe her genes are stronger than yours. The bottom line is, y’all were fucking, so there’s always a slim chance, Kam. You need to prepare yourself for the possibility.”

“What I need is for us to get back to us, Jae. I can’t take the silent treatment and cold shoulder.”

“I don’t like it either.”

Scooting his chair back from the table, he patted his lap.

“C’mere.”

Jaelynn quickly got up and straddled her husband's lap, putting her arms around his neck.

"You know I love you more than life, and I would never do anything to intentionally hurt you, right?"

She nodded.

"I know we're a team, but I let my need to protect your feelings get in the way of my judgment, and I'm truly sorry."

"I believe you, and I forgive you."

"Thank you. Now, it's been days since the last time I felt my pussy. Can you help me out with that?"

"Is that all you think about?" she asked, pretending to be annoyed.

"No, but you knew exactly what you were doing when you straddled me. I can feel the heat from my pussy through our clothes. I think she missed me."

"She did."

Grabbing her ass, he stood to his feet and sat her on the nearest counter, sliding her leggings and panties down.

"Kaaamm," she whined.

"I'm still hungry, baby. Let me eat."

And eat he did. Although it had only been a few days since they were last intimate, it felt like it had been months. As soon as his tongue brushed against her lower set of lips, Jaelynn could have melted.

"Damn, baby," she moaned.

Kamden ate her pussy like he was a starved savage, causing her to fill the house with the sound of her voice singing his praises. When his fingers began to glide in and out of her while his tongue tickled her spot, she became completely unraveled.

"Shit, I'm cumming, baby!"

With her juices covering his face, he kissed up her body until he made it to her lips. He pushed his tongue into her mouth, allowing her to taste the flavor of her loins. Her hands went to the waistband of his sweats, and she pushed them down, freeing his dick.

“Rubber,” she said against his lips.

“I’ll pull out.”

“No, Kam—ahh,” she moaned as he entered her.

“Damn, I missed this,” Kamden confessed.

“Fuck me like you missed me then, baby.”

Nothing else needed to be said. Before it was all over, Jaelynn had cum multiple times and begged him to stop. After one more round in the shower, Kamden had just enough time to pick up the big kids from school while an exhausted Jaelynn sanitized the kitchen counters and floors, finishing right before Kameron woke up from his nap.

Chapter Eleven

“Call her,” Jaelynn said, out of the blue.

It was a few days after their reconciliation and the day before the paternity test. Vida had yet to agree to allow Kameel to have his DNA taken, and Kamden didn't know what could be done to convince her.

“Call who?”

“Vida. I want to talk to her.”

Kamden rolled over in bed to face his wife.

“Why?”

“Maybe I can convince her to show up tomorrow,” Jaelynn told him.

“If she doesn't show up, that proves she's lying. Why else wouldn't she want to get the test done?”

“It's impossible to figure out the mind of an idiot. Right now, she thinks she has the upper hand because she's the one that dropped the bomb.”

“True.”

“Her main goal, whether he's your son or not, is to disrupt our happy home. If she sees that we're a united front, she might get some act right.”

“Or she might act up even more.”

“Wishful thinking, baby. Gimme your phone before it gets too late.”

It was creeping up on ten at night, and even though Jaelynn didn't care for Vida, she didn't want to give her another reason to be a bitch. Kamden gave her his phone, and she went to his Instagram to make the call.

“Did you finally come to your senses?” Vida said to the camera.

“Clearly, you’re the one that’s lost your damn mind! Put some clothes on,” Jaelynn shouted into the camera.

“Bitch! Why the fu—”

“Calm all that shit down, Vida,” Kamden said with authority from the background.

“Yeah, you got *zero* more times to call me anything but my government name,” Jaelynn warned.

Vida put the phone down, and there was some fumbling around on her end. When she reappeared in front of the camera, the top half of her body was covered, unlike before.

“What do you want?”

“I heard I might have another son, but before I get too excited about it, we need to have it confirmed.”

“Excuse me! Kameel is me and Kamden’s son. You ain’t got shit to do with this.”

“I beg to differ, sweetheart. See, if Kameel is a part of Kamden, I will love him as if he came from my womb. When we get joint custody—”

“Joint custody? Nobody agreed to that. You have your own kids—”

“I do, and thanks to you, I might have one more to shower with love and attention. Once we get the paternity test back—”

“I didn’t agree to—”

“Look, Vida. You can’t expect Kamden to take your word for it. You’ve had damn near a decade to tell this man about his supposed son. All he wants to do is verify that the child is his. So, since you don’t want to agree to anything, shoot us the name and number of your lawyer, and I’ll have our lawyer contact him or her.”

On the other side of the screen, Vida looked nervous as hell. Her eyes were focused everywhere but on the phone. Something about her demeanor made Jaelynn feel as if she’d been lying.

“Fine! We’ll be there tomorrow.”

“Good. See you—that bitch hung up on me.”

“So what. At least she agreed to the test,” he resigned.

“Let’s hope she doesn’t fake out on us. Hopefully, by this time next week, you’ll know if you have another son.”

The heaviness of Jaelynn’s words hit Kamden in the chest. Even though she seemed to be handling the possibility of him fathering a child that didn’t come from her womb well, he knew it had to be hard for her. Pulling her into his arms, he pressed his forehead against hers.

“I’m sorry, Jae. I hate to put you through all this.”

“It’s fine—”

“It’s not fine, baby. You didn’t sign up for this, and it’s not fair to you.”

“Life ain’t fair sometimes. But me and you are one, so whatever happens, I’m not going anywhere.”

“You promise?”

“I promise.”

Kamden kissed her forehead, then the tip of her nose, before his lips landed on hers and remained there for a while. When he pulled away from her, Jaelynn thought his eyes looked a little watery, but no tears fell.

“I love you,” he whispered.

“I love you more.”

The next morning, Kamden’s nerves got the best of him. His hands were sweaty, and he felt sick to his stomach. He knew it would be several days before the paternity test results would be back, but he was still blown away by the fact that this was happening to him.

“You okay, baby?” Jaelynn asked him when she noticed the look on his face.

“I’m good,” he lied.

“I understand if you’re nervous. You won’t get the results back today, so you might as well calm down.”

“That’s easy for you to say. You’re not the one—”

“We’re in this together, Kam.”

He nodded. “You’re right.”

“How about I drop the big kids off today. Ma should be here shortly to watch the little ones.”

“Naw, I got it. I need to do something to keep my mind occupied.”

“Okay. I’ll be ready when you get back.”

A couple of hours later, they parked in the parking lot of a medical plaza. Jaelynn offered to drive, and once she turned the car off, she looked over at her husband.

“This isn’t the end of the world, Kam.”

“I know. It’s just...”

“Just what?”

“If this is my son, I’ve missed so much of his life.”

“You can’t blame yourself for that. This was all Vida’s doing.”

“But will he understand that? You know I don’t play about my kids, Jae. I would never have one of mine out here wondering if their daddy gives a fuck about them. That ain’t me.”

“I know that, and if Kameel is your son, he will grow to know that. Look, baby, if he’s yours, all you can do is love him. It may be rough in the beginning, but with time, everything will be okay. We got this.”

“Damn, I love you.”

“As you should. Now let’s get this over with.”

Leaning over the console, she kissed his lips, then waited for him to get out of the car and come around to open her door. Hand in hand, they headed for the entrance of the building but didn't get too far before they heard someone trying to get their attention.

“Aye, hold up,” the man shouted from several feet away.

Kamden immediately got in protective mode and moved Jaelynn behind him. The man was about his height with a solid build, looked about the same age, light-skinned with a curly fade. Something about him was familiar, but Kamden couldn't put his finger on it.

“Can I help you?” Kamden asked defensively.

“Are you Kamden?”

“Who's asking?”

“Jarod...Vida's my girl, well, ex-girl after this bullshit.”

Jaelynn stepped from behind her husband and stood next to him.

“What bullshit are you referring to?” she asked.

“I'm so fucking embarrassed; I don't even want to say the shit out loud, but...the little boy Vida's trying to pass off as yours is *our* son.”

Kamden could see the resemblance once Jarod said it. Inside, he was fuming. If Vida had been standing in front of him, he would've gone against everything he believed and put his hands on her.

“I'm sorry, can you repeat that for me?” Kamden asked.

“I know this is fucked up, and I don't know what possessed her to lie like that. Jaron just turned—”

“Jaron? Is that his name?” The man nodded. “She told me his name was—”

“Kameel. Yeah, I know. Everything she told you was a lie. Vida has been hung up on you since we started dating. When

she found out she was pregnant, I thought she'd finally let you go. Obviously, I was wrong."

"How old is your son?" Kamden pressed.

"He'll be eight next month. I know what you're doing. There is no possible way he's your son. Vida doesn't know it, but I got a paternity test when Jaron was born. We weren't exclusive, and I wanted to be sure he was mine before I made a long-term commitment."

"How did you find out what she was doing?" Jaelynn wanted to know.

"Vida's been acting funny for a few weeks. I ain't proud of my actions, but I go through her phone on occasion. This ain't the first time I've found some questionable shit, but it's the last straw."

"That's fucked up, but I appreciate you being real about this shit," Kamden told him.

"It's the only way I know how to be. I know it don't mean much coming from me, but I apologize. I hope this didn't cause any conflict in your household," Jarod offered.

Kamden looked at his wife and said, "Naw, my wife always got me."

He pulled her into his side and kissed her temple.

"You're a lucky nigga. Don't fuck that up. Y'all have a good day."

Jarod turned and walked to his car. Kamden and Jaelynn did the same seconds later. This time, he chose to drive, so he helped her into the passenger side.

"I can't believe that bitch," Jaelynn spat as soon as his butt hit the seat. "Did you even realize the level of crazy you were dealing with? You owe me because I saved you from dealing with a lifetime of her deranged behavior. I mean, who tries to pin a grown-ass child on someone, knowing he already got a daddy? Only a—"

“Baby, calm all that down. It’s crazy, and I’m glad it’s over.”

“Oh, no, baby. This is far from over. If I ever lay eyes on that hoe, it’s on sight. I don’t care if it’s today, tomorrow, or ten years from now. She deserves the ass whooping I’m gon’ give her.”

Kamden shook his head. “My wife ain’t about to be out in these streets fighting. That’s what you got me for.”

“You gon’ beat her ass for me?”

Kamden shook his head again before saying, “For a brief moment, after Jarod let us know what was up, I imagined my hands around Vida’s neck. But you know that ain’t how Stella and Isaac raised me, so I can’t do that.”

“That’s what I thought. No worries. I’m gon’ handle her ass.”

Nothing about the situation was funny, but Kamden chuckled at his wife’s promises. He knew there was nothing he could do to stop her if that’s what she wanted to do.

A couple of weeks later, the whole family gathered at the elder Ross’s house for Sunday dinner. All the siblings and Isaac were aware of the drama that Kamden and Jaelynn experienced at the hands of his ex, but the elder women of the family weren’t in the know.

“It’s good to see you in better spirits, son. I was worried about you for a minute,” Isaac said.

Kyree, Kolby, and Kamden all looked at their father.

“You do know you have three sons? Who you talking to?” Kyree joked because they knew exactly who Isaac’s comment was for.

“Kamden knows what I’m talking about.”

“You never have to worry about me, Dad. I always handle my responsibilities.”

“I know y’all better stop speaking in code,” Stella commented.

“Right!” Delilah added. “I know I’ve been out of town a lot, but I feel out of the loop.”

Delilah split her time between Seattle, where her son Myles and his wife Everleigh lived.

“You didn’t hear? Baby brother almost had kid number six,” Kolby told his mother-in-law.

Delilah, Stella, and Lynn all gasped and looked at Jaelynn.

“You had a pregnancy scare? It’s too soon for all that, Jaelynn,” Lynn scolded her younger daughter.

“No, Ma. Ain’t been no scares over here,” Jaelynn replied.

“Somebody better tell me what’s going on,” Stella demanded. “I know damn well my son ain’t do nothing stupid because he’s still alive, and Jaelynn is not in jail.”

“You see what you started, old man,” Kyree jabbed.

“I ain’t start nothing,” Isaac defended, feigning innocence.

After Kamden shared everything that happened with Vida with his mother, mother-in-law, and Delilah, they were stunned to silence. However, Jaelynn had something to add.

“It’s all good, though, because when I see her, I’m gon’ beat her ass. Excuse my French.”

“Baby, I already told you I don’t want my wife in these streets fighting. I—” Kamden reminded her.

“And I already told you, I’m throwing hands *on sight!*”

“I’ve never been one to condone violence,” Stella began. “But any grown woman who pulls a stunt like that needs a good ass-whooping.”

“Amen! I second that!” Lynn agreed.

“And I third it!” Delilah added.

Everyone at the table looked back and forth between the older women.

“We’re surrounded by savages,” Kamden said.

“As long as you know,” Myla said.

“Why are you commenting?” Kolby asked his wife. “You’re seconds away from giving birth and—”

“Exactly! I won’t be pregnant forever. If we see that hoe out after I have this baby, it’s on sight, like baby sis said.”

Kolby shook his head at his wife. Her and her sisters may have been born and raised in Seattle, but sometimes it felt like they found them on the south side of Chicago.

“You got that right!” Braelynn chimed in.

Dinner and conversation continued, and soon it was time for everyone to go home. As the children were gathered, a yelp was heard coming from the kitchen.

“You good, My?” Braelynn asked Myla.

“Umm, I think my water just broke,” she confessed as Kolby rushed to her side.

“Let’s get to the hospital,” he said, taking her by the hand and using his other to support her lower back.

Things moved quickly after that. Kamden and Kyree took their children home while Isaac and Stella volunteered to watch Kolby and Myla’s crew, freeing up Delilah, Lynn, Braelynn, and Jaelynn to head to the hospital. Six hours later, Myla gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy they named Mykol Isaac Ross.

Epilogue

Three Months Later

It was a Saturday night, and Kamden and Jaelynn had just put the kids to bed and were looking for a movie to watch on Netflix.

“I talked to Kyree,” Kamden said randomly as he scrolled through the movie options.

“Okay. Don’t you talk to him every day?”

“Yeah, but I asked him about the vasectomy.”

Jaelynn was lying on the couch with her legs on Kamden’s lap, and she sat up, giving him a bewildered look.

“Did I hear you correctly?”

He smiled because he knew this news would surprise his wife.

“I think our family is complete, and I don’t want to keep using rubbers and pulling out,” he confessed.

“Oh, so this is about you,” she teased.

“I can’t front, it is, for the most part. I also know it’s stressful for you wondering if one of my soldiers made it to the promise land.”

“It definitely is.”

“You’ve blessed me with five amazing kids, and I know the twins gave you hell damn near the whole pregnancy. I thought they were gonna be mean as hell because you were a force to be reckoned with while carrying them.”

“Well, I sure as hell ain’t gonna stop you from getting snipped. Have you decided?”

“I’m ninety percent sure I’m gonna do it. Kolby is considering it as well. I made an appointment for a consultation next week.”

She scooted forward so she could wrap her arms around his neck.

“Aww, baby. Even though it sounds like you’re doing this more for you than for me—”

“Don’t do that, Jae. You know I wouldn’t even consider the idea a year ago, but I’ve given this a lot of thought. I think it’s best for both of us.”

“I know, Kam. I was just teasing you. I appreciate you being so thoughtful.”

Once their lips connected, any thoughts of watching a movie were forgotten. Kamden’s hand found its way between Jaelynn’s legs and underneath the oversized T-shirt she wore. As always, her pussy was wet and ready to be pleased.

After using his fingers to bring her to her first climax of the night, her legs ended up on his shoulders and her pussy in his face.

“Ahh, Kam,” she moaned when his tongue brushed against her clit.

The nerves in her lower extremities were sensitive because he didn’t give her a chance to recover from the orgasm he’d just provided. It only took a few swipes of his tongue to bring her to the brink of another eruption.

“Gimme my juice, Jae,” Kamden demanded. “I want it all, baby.”

Her pussy had been a traitor since the first time she gave it to him, and he had complete control of her. Kamden lapped up every drop of her essence. Giving her a few seconds to gather herself, he sheathed himself with a condom that appeared out of nowhere.

“Get up and turn around.”

“Kam,” she whined. “What if one of the kids comes in here?”

“Then they gon’ see their mama getting her back blown out. Get up.”

Doing as her husband said, Jaelynn got up, turned around, and positioned herself on all fours.”

“Damn, that ass looks good. Don’t lose too much weight, baby. I love this shit.”

Jaelynn had lost some weight but still hadn’t reached her pre-baby weight. After seven months, she was finally starting to embrace her new body. Kamden let her know often how much he loved her new physique.

He entered her in one swift movement, causing her to whimper. Kamden showed her pussy no mercy as he gripped her newly formed hips and banged her from the back. He admired the tattoo she’d gotten on her lower back a few years prior that read *Kam & Jae Forever*.

He knew she was close when he felt her pussy tightening around his dick. His climax wasn’t far behind her, so to hurry her along, Kamden reached around and found her spot with his middle and index finger, massaging it until he felt the tremors of her pussy snatching his nut.

Marriage was full of ups and downs, but Kamden and Jaelynn were blessed to have experienced more ups than downs. Regardless of the obstacles thrown their way, it would be Kamden and Jaelynn forever.

THE END

HOLD ON...ONE MORE THING

“It feels so good to be kid-free for a few hours,” Myla expressed.

Four months had passed since she’d given birth to her son, and it was due time for a break.

“Tell me about it,” Braelynn agreed. “I love my kids, but I can’t tell you how happy I am that I don’t have to worry about having any more. I wish I could find the person who invented the vasectomy to thank them because it has changed my life for the better.”

“Hell, yes!” Jaelynn exclaimed. “I need to buy my brother-in-love a gift because had it not been for him, there is no way Kamden would’ve gotten one.”

“Ain’t that the truth. Kolby wouldn’t even consider it until he was sure it worked for Kyree. We definitely have big brother to thank for that,” Myla added.

The sisters had just left the spa after receiving facials, massages, manicures, and pedicures and were on their way to the mall for a late lunch and some shopping. At the restaurant, they’d been seated for a few minutes when a familiar face caught Jaelynn’s eye.

“Well, well, well. Y’all may want to call Kamden and tell him to meet us at the police station because I’m about to go to jail.”

Before Braelynn and Myla figured out what Jaelynn was talking about, Jaelynn had slid out of the booth and snatched Vida by the back of her shirt.

“Oh shit!” Braelynn shouted. “My, call Kam.”

Myla called her brother-in-love and told what was going on. While he shouted into the phone demanding that her and Braelynn stop Jaelynn from fighting, Myla pretended like she was listening. When her and Braelynn made it over to the two women, no punches had been thrown yet.

“I’ve been praying for months to run into you,” Jaelynn said.

Vida rolled her eyes. “Oh, really? Are you that obsessed —”

Jaelynn fist hit her dead in her mouth before she could finish her snide remark.

“Naw, bitch, so I could beat your ass!”

Vida was stunned by the blow but recovered quickly. She began swinging wildly, not hitting anything but air, and was no match for Jaelynn. Every jab Jaelynn threw landed, and it got so bad, Braelynn and Myla decided to take Vida out of her misery.

The manager of the restaurant approached them, threatening to call the police. Leaving Vida on the floor, the sisters quickly pushed Jaelynn out the door before the manager followed through with her threats.

Braelynn hopped behind the wheel of her truck while Myla shoved Jaelynn into the back seat, getting in behind her. Before Myla could close the door, Braelynn drove off through the parking lot and sped down the street.

“That felt good as fuck! Why y’all pull me off that hoe?” Jaelynn said between deep breaths.

“Because orange ain’t your color, sis,” Braelynn told her as she looked in the rearview mirror.

“Right! And your husband told you not to put hands on that girl, but your hardheaded ass didn’t listen,” Myla reminded her.

“And you shouldn’t have listened to his ass either, but we’re just telling you why we ain’t let you kill that girl.” Braelynn said.

They all laughed as they replayed the scene from their perspectives. However, as soon as they pulled up to Jaelynn’s house and saw their husbands standing outside, they got nervous.

“Oh, shit. They look mad,” Myla whispered.

“Oh my God. Look at Kamden. Sis, you want me to just drive on by. We can go to my house until he calms down,” Braelynn offered.

“What’s done is done. He can be mad if he wants to,” she replied, trying to sound brave.

Braelynn turned into the driveway, and she couldn’t even put the car in park before Kamden pulled the back door open.

“What the fuck did I tell you, Jae?” he shouted.

“I don’t know, Kam. It was a while ago.”

“Don’t play with me. Why the hell are you out here fighting and shit like—”

“Like nothing, Kam. I told you when I saw her, it was on sight. I don’t know why you thought I was playing. You can be mad if you want to, but it’s over now. I beat that bitches’ ass.”

“And did!” Braelynn and Myla sang in unison as they high fived each other.

Kamden had a lot more to say, but he knew none of it mattered. He reached inside the truck and helped Jaelynn get out.

“Let me look at you. Are you hurt? Did she—”

“She ain’t land a punch,” Braelynn interrupted.

“Not a single one, but sis got in her ass real good,” Myla added.

“And y’all supposed to be the older, more mature ones, but it sounds like y’all were encouraging this nonsense,” Kyree said.

“Come in the house. They don’t need no more comments from the peanut gallery,” Kolby said.

Kamden continued to look for any scratches or bruises on Jaelynn’s body. When he was satisfied that she was unharmed, he looked her in the eyes.

“Why don’t you listen?” he asked before kissing her forehead.

“I do, but not this time. She deserved that ass-whooping, and you know it.”

“She did, but you should’ve let karma handle it.”

“Just call me Jaelynn Michaela Karma Ross.”

Shaking his head, he couldn’t stop the smile that formed on his lips as he pulled her into a hug.

“Meet me in the bedroom, Ms. Karma. Since you want to be hardheaded, I’m gon’ remind you who the real champ is while I’m beating that pussy up.”

He smacked her on the ass, and she turned around and playfully pushed him before running into their home.

“Don’t threaten me with a good time,” she yelled behind her as she ran past their siblings and went straight to their bedroom.

If the way Kamden worked her pussy over was his form of punishment, Jaelynn would be getting in trouble more often.

THE END
FOR REAL THIS TIME

Afterword

Dear Readers,

I hope you all enjoyed Kamden and Jaelynn's update. Kamden's young ass still plays no games when it comes to Jaelynn, and now you can add his kids to the equation. Vida reappearing after all these years was unexpected but thankfully, she didn't accomplish her goal to tear Kamden and Jaelynn apart. Happily ever afters are always my goal, so there was no a question these two would work it out. As always, I appreciate your continued support. If you could please leave a review on Amazon and/or Goodreads, I would greatly appreciate it. Until next time.

Kay Shanee

Let's Connect

You can find me at all of the following:

Reading Group: [Kay Shanee's Reading Korner – After Dark](#)

Facebook page: [Author Kay Shanee](#)

Instagram: [@AuthorKayShanee](#)

[Amazon Author Page](#)

Goodreads: [Kay Shanee](#)

[Subscribe to Kay Shanee's Mailing List](#)

Order Signed Paperbacks: [www.AuthorKayShanee.com](#)

Other books by Kay Shanee

Standalones

Love Hate and Everything in Between

Love Doesn't Hurt

Love Unconventional

I'd Rather Be With You

Can't Resist This Complicated Love

Love's Sweet Serenade

It Takes More Than Love

COMPLETED SERIES

Until the Wheels Fall Off

Until the Wheels Fall Off...Again

Could This Be Love ~ Part 1

Could This Be Love ~Part 2

SPIN-OFF SERIES

The Love I Deserve

Loving Him Through the Storm

Since the Day We Met

Easy to Love

Heal My Heart

To Have Her Again

Roll Bounce Love

And Then We Fell in Love

A Love Like This

Conflicted Heart

UPDATES

Steady Love – Kyree and Braelynn
(Since the Day We Me)

Steady Love – Kolby and Myla
(Easy to Love)

Coming Soon

