



The Surrogate By Cathrine Phiri

“Free Knowledge For All” is the motto of WWW.AllReadingWorld.Coms Team.

I’m waken up by the sun piercing my skin that’s odd because the sun never reaches my bedroom. This could

only mean one thing its midday. 'I'm going to be late for work' I just out of bed. This isn't my room I look around and rub my eyes because I might be dreaming. My room can never be this nice my attention is stolen by the view from the window. No I should focus I rush to the door and try to open it but it's locked.

"Help! Somebody help me" I scream why isn't anyone coming! It's been hours or minutes I don't know I give up and sit by the window.

This place is beautiful! Focus Bella! I should be looking for a way out not looking at the beautiful view. Where am I? Don't tell me I got kidnapped? No that only happens in the movies I mean why would anyone kidnap

me? I'm broke I can't even pay my parking ticket. Only rich people get kidnaped right? I'm still bombarding myself with questions when the door opens. An old lady walks in with tray of food in her hands.

"Oh you're awake! Good morning" she smiles

"Hello! Uhm where am I?"

"You don't know where you are?" she answers

"Are we still in South Africa?"

"You're funny!" she walks to the door

"No lady I'm serious please help me I need to get out of here"

“I’m just the maid sorry” she says closing the door I rush to the door and it’s locked again. I start banging the door but no one is answering.

“Help! Somebody help me!” I scream

“Will you shut up? It’s 7 for Christ’s sake” says a voice where did he come from? And how many doors does this place have? Shirtless tall dark muscular now that’s a man but who is he? He walks to where the breakfast tray and pours juice. Walks back to me.

“Here!” he hands me the glass I hesitate to take the glass. He look great he walks to the couch across the room.

“My eyes are up here!”

“Who are you” I ask

“That doesn’t matter”

“How did I get here? Most importantly why am I here?”

“Sit!” he orders

“I want to know where....”

“I said sit Bella!” he says firmly okay! I slowly walk to the bed and sit. He walks towards me I swallow hard. Who’s this god of a man that is sending tingles to the goddess between my legs? He hands me the juice I take it and take a sip.

“How do you know my name” I ask

“I know everything about you”

“Why am I here? Did you kidnap me” I ask

“Yes I did!”

What?

“Why? If it’s about the article I wrote about Mrs Radebe?
If it’s about that I’m really sorry” I say

I’m a journalist by the way Mrs Radebe is the Mister of finance’s wife and was cheating on her husband with a worker. All hail broke loose when the husband caught then red-handed and shot the lover so I covered the story.

“No that’s not it”

Thank God!

“Then why am I here? Why would you kidnap me” I ask

“I did so because I wanted to and I have a business proposal for you”

“Couldn’t you come to me house and asks me like a normal person” I ask

I might own a four roomed flat and drive a Mazda but I’m a person.

“Trust me this way was better”

“Oh so you’re one of those rich people who kidnap people and think it’s cool well you got the wrong girl” I walk to the door and try to open it I forgot it’s locked. Where is the door he used? Okay so I have no way out. I go and sit back on the bed pick a slice of bacon from the tray well I’m hungry.

“What’s the proposal?” I take the tray and put it on my lap he moves closer. Lord have mercy! How can one look and smell so great? He takes the juice and sips it that’s my juice.

“Eat first!” he walks out where did that door come from? I rush to it but it’s locked again. Great! I eat the fancy breakfast then head to the bathroom I need to pee so badly.

Wow! There are mirrors everywhere. The things rich people buy I mean what’s the use of having mirrors around the bathroom? Do you look at yourself bathing or peeing? I hear the door opening and I rush out of the bathroom.

“Toiletries!” say a lady she looks like she’s in her mid-thirties as she hands me a small bag in her hands. I rush to the door and try to open it but it’s locked. Why do the doors here hate me? I look at the lady and she chuckles

“Bath then someone will come get you” she says

“It’s not like I have a choice” I take the bag and head to the bathroom there are some towels tooth brush tooth paste lotion and underwear. Okay that’s weird do kidnapped people also get provided with under-wears? I take a shower and walk with a towel wrapped around my body. There’s a red jumpsuit on the bed exactly my size I’m a large. I dress up and the door opens again this time a man walks in. They don’t knock what if I’m naked?

“Good morning!” he smiles. He looks younger

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what if I’m naked?

“Good morning!” he smiles. He looks younger more like
Mr Good looking’s age

“Hie!”

“Please come with me” he says I nod and head to the door try to open it but it won’t. What is up with this place?

“Please let me” he says and I see he’s trying so hard not to laugh we walk out and take the elevator.

“The house has an elevator?”

“No this is a hotel and we were at the VIP suite” he answers

I knew that!

“Oh! And where are we going now?”

“My job is just to escort you” he answers

“Escort me? What am I? Royalty”

“No but you’re the guest of a very important man” he answers

“Important”

“You’ll ask him yourself in the car” he walks out of the elevator this is it my chance to run. I see the door and I run for my life. Which is hard because I’m in heels some man holds me just as I was about to reach the door maybe I should have ran when we were outside.

“Help! Help I’m being kidnaped” I scream as he throws me on his shoulder like a bag of meal-meal

“Don’t mind her she’s a little co-co” the man I was walking with says. Really people so they are just going to leave me just like that? I this the freedom we marched for? I’m literally thrown into the car I’m lady for crying out loud they should at least handle me with care. Mr

Handsome is in the car the doors of the car lock and it starts moving.

‘This is wrong Mr you could go to jail for this’ I say as he straps me to the seat how many seat belts does this car have?

“Would you hold still?”

“I will not” I say trying to break loose but he’s strong for me I bite his hand

“Ok that’s it” he taps duck-tape on my mouth

He covers my eyes God what did I do to deserve this my hands are tied my mouth shut and eyes covered. The car

stops moving I can feel that I'm being carried again. I'm still fighting I get thrown on what feels like a couch these people are carrying me and throwing me like I'm a bag of potatoes.

They remove the blind fold or should I say 'He' I still don't know his name. We are in a very fine and clean room cleaner than my apartment and why does it feel like we are moving?

"Promise you won't scream if I untie you" he asks and I nod he slowly peels the duck-tape off my mouth unties my hands and feet. He walks out of the room this is my chance to run. I kick off the heels and run. You got to be kidding me we are in a boat! Great I walk back into the room he's sitting on the couch sipping on alcohol.

"Can I have one of those" I ask

“No sit down”

“Can I at least have some water” I ask

“So that you can have the strength to run away?”

“I wish but I can’t swim” I sit down he hands me his glass. He wants me to use the same glass well he looks great can’t say no. I take the glass and gulp it down then hand it back to him.

“Jokes aside! Who are you” I ask

“My name is Michael!”

“Michael who” I asks

“Just Michael!”

“What do you want from me” I ask

“I want you to carry my child for me”

I burst into laughter carry his child what is this a movie.

“You want a child? I’ll give you a child do you want a boy or girl” I laugh

“I’m not kidding Bella”

“First of all don’t call me that my name is Isabella and second you don’t go around kidnapping people and asking them to have babies for you” I yell

“Listen little girl I don’t do well with people who yell so if you know what’s good for you lower your voice and I didn’t kidnap people I kidnapped you”

“What’s the difference I don’t want to be here and I don’t want to carry your child” I answer

“I’m not asking you”

“I don’t even know you” I say

“But I know you that’s all that matters. Isabella Manzini 23 years daughter of Leleti and Joshua Manzini born in a family of 3 with you as the first born and you’re a journalist earning peanuts should I continue?”

“Well at least I don’t kidnap people” raise my voice

“I don’t like repeating myself lower your voice and I just was a surrogate not a wife”

“I don’t want to” I answer

“Not even for a billion euros?”

Ok that’s a lot of money

“No!” I shake my head well

“Well since you refused the money then you’ll do it for free thanks Bella you’re so kind”

Two man walk in in black suits one of them is the one that was ‘escorting me’.

“She agreed take her to her room” Michael says before walking out. I didn’t agree to anything.

To be continued.....

2

I'm woken up by a loud siren why do I feel so hungry? I look around and I'm in my apartment. I'm in my pajamas

does this mean Michael and the surrogacy thing was all a dream? Thank God because that's just insane but I gotta admit it was a great dream. I get out of bed and head straight to the bathroom my regular sized bathroom not the one with mirrors from my dream. I take a quick shower.

I check the time on my phone and its 7:30am on the 6th of February but how when just yesterday was the 3rd or I'm seeing things. There's no way one can sleep for 3 days without being on any medication. My phone flashes and its Ethan my best-friend and co-worker.

*** Heard you're resigning have you found a better job or its just rumors?

Resigning? Why would I resign I need the job and I definitely need the money. I try to reply but my phone switches off. Why is this happening to me? I get dressed quickly and rush to the kitchen. Someone is cooking in my kitchen I can only see his back.

“Excuse me!” say but the person completely ignores me

“Excuse me Mr” I tab him on the shoulder he turns and my heart stops for a second it is him the man from my dream or maybe I wasn’t dreaming he really exists.

“Michael?”

“You still remember me” he says

“What are you doing here” I ask

“I am making breakfast!”

“I can see what you’re doing but I want to know why and how did you get in here” I ask

“We came here together remember from the boat we came here”

“And when was that” I ask

“Yesterday are you sure you’re ok?”

“So in other words you have been moving me around like a bag of potatoes for the past 3 days” I asks

“Yes!”

“Why what do you want from me” I ask

“I told you I want you to carry my child for me”

“Why me there are a million beautiful girls out there would kill to carry your child for you” I say

“But I chose you”

“Why” I ask

“Because that’s what I want”

“That is not reason enough!” I say

“Well from the looks of it you need the money”

“What is that supposed to mean” I ask

“Your fridge is empty you haven’t paid your rent yet and you have a gazillion unpaid parking tickets”

“A gazillion is not a number and so what I’m fine with my life” I fold my hands

“This isn’t living Bella this is surviving”

“What do you care” I say

“Well I want something from you give me child and you’ll live a life where you won’t ever have to lift a finger”

“I’m not interested” I answer

“That wasn’t a question either way you are going to have a child for me whether you like it or not”

“Are you going to force me to do it” I ask

“If you don’t compromise yes!”

“Who do you think you are? You can’t just force me to surrogate for you. It’s against the law” I say

“I am the law sweetie”

“Look I have to get work” I say walking away

“Already sent your resignation letter”

“What? You can’t do that I need the job ok” I yell

“Lower your voice and like I said you won’t have to work in your life”

“You’re crazy I’m calling the police” I rush to the landline and dial 10111. The phone isn’t even plugged. He unplugged it.

“I won’t stop until I get what I want and trust me I always get what I want” he says “Get ready we are leaving in half an hour”

“Where to?”

“Spain!” he opens the door

“I’m not going anywhere with you”

“Again I’m not asking you” he says

“Go to hell!”

“Well I tried to be nice” he says opening the door “Get her!”

Some man twice my age walks in and throws me on his shoulder kicking and screaming. This isn't life. The worst part is that people can see me screaming but they are just ignoring me I can't go to Spain. What about my family what about my life? So I'm supposed to smile at all this just because someone wants to.

We are now in the car my hands are tied now and Mr Michael is sitting next to me with him phone that is buzzing nun-stop.

“I need to pee” I say

“You just want to run away!”

“Please I really need to pee badly” I say

“Then pee on yourself”

“I promise I won’t run away!” the seat belt is too tight it’s squeezing my intestines.

“Nick stop the car at the next gas station or any store you reach first” Michael orders

“Thank you!” I roll my eyes

“Don’t make me tape your mouth”

We reach the Gas station and I head to the bathroom

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Nicky or so they call him follows me.

“Really? I can’t even pee in peace now” I ask

“I can’t risk you running away”

“I’m not going to run away I just need to use the bathroom” I say

“And I will be outside the door don’t mind me”

“How can I not mind you” I ask

“Do you want to use the bathroom or not?”

Just days ago I was a normal girl living a normal life and now I get followed to the bathroom. We walk back to the car and I sit next to Michael as before but this time they do not strap me up. We reach the airport seem Mr here

owns a jet. So I'm really going to Spain leaving my family just like that?

"I know you're scared of heights but you'll have to suck it up" Michael says

"What if I die in there?"

"It's not that bad" Nick says it's not like I have a choice anyway I slowly walk into the plane sit down and put the seat belt on with the hostess's help of course. Michael is sitting about 5 rows in front of me and I'm sitting with Nick.

"Relax it's not that scary" Nick says

“What are you my bodyguard?”

“Yes! I’m supposed to watch you’re every move” he answers

“Couldn’t he get a woman?”

“He prefers working with men plus no woman can handle you you need man power” he chuckles

“This is kidnaping!”

“Just 10 months and you’ll be free to go” he says

“Why didn’t get someone that’s not me?”

“What Michael wants Michael gets” he says

“This is madness!”

Oh my I think I'm going to throw up!

We finally reach this so called Spain there are cars already waiting for us. Michael hasn't even talked to me. I get shown to my room. This room is huge for one person. What's the use of having such a large bedroom anyway?

"Get some rest we have to go get you some clothes"
Michael says

"I'm hungry!"

“Nick get her something to eat” he orders

“Do you ever do anything yourself?”

“What’s the use when you have money and people to do it for you” he says

“Can I please have my phone back?”

He took it in the plane.

“Here!” he says

“That’s not my phone where’s my phone?”

“I threw it away! You can’t hang around me with that kind of phone” he answers

“Are you crazy? That phone had important files!”

“What did I say about yelling? And everything that was in the old phone was transferred here” he says

“Couldn’t you at least ask me first? Isn’t it enough that you forced me to come here?”

“You’ll get over it!” he says

Nick walks in wheeling a table of food.

“I don’t know what you like so I just choose whatever seemed nice” - Nick

“Eat up and let’s go” Michael walks out

“What is his problem” I ask Nick

“He doesn’t talk much but he’s a great person once you get to know him”

“There’s nothing great about him and I don’t want to know him” I say “So why does he want me to have his baby?”

“I don’t know why he chose you but hey you get the chance to carry a billionaire’s baby”

“I don’t want to carry anyone’s child” I say

“Too late! Michael chose you and he won’t stop at nothing until he gets what he wants”

“What if I can’t have children” I ask

“Him choosing you means he already did a background and medical check on you”

“Medical?” I gasp

“I have said too much eat up and let’s get”

“That’s a lot of food for one person” I say

“We wouldn’t want you to say we were starving you”

“Not if you join me” I say

“I’m full!”

“Then you’re going to burst today!” I answer.

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I guess I'm stuck with this mountain of a man. Even if I wanted to run away how do I get home? I don't want to carry his child either. I'm not ready to be a mother yet what if this is the only child I get and now I'm giving it to someone. We go shopping and he's letting me buy anything I want. I wanted to see if he was going to complain about the amount but he's just paying. He hasn't even talked to me.²

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Shopping was great finally got to buy all the clothes I have dreamed of having but couldn't afford them. I don't actually need some of the things I bought I mean what do

I do with 6inch heels? I don't even know how to wear them. I'm a journalist and trust me my work does not require wearing any heels because one moment you're typing on your PC the next you're caught in a cross fire trying to cover a story.

Mr Michael still hasn't talked to me but I have found a new friend Nick well I need someone to talk to since Mr here won't even talk to me. He's just so rude I mean he didn't even ask me nicely to surrogate for him. We drive back home Nick is driving and I'm sitting at the back with Michael who is busy with his phone. Have you noticed that when someone is rude it makes them less attractive no matter how handsome or pretty they are? That's how I feel about Michael I'm so over him.

We reach the house and there are some ladies who are wearing what looks like a uniforms but fancy busy setting up the table. How many times do we eat? And are they having a party or something because that's a lot of food? There are people running around the house if they are helpers then that's a lot of helpers. The shopping bags get taken to my room and we sit at the table.

And by 'we' I means Michael and I.

"So I this your house" I ask and he literally ignores me

"Michael I'm talking to you" I tab his arm

"What? What do you want?"

“First of all don’t give me attitude because you’re the one who brought me here I didn’t want to come here” I say

“Yes it’s my house so what”

It’s a gorgeous house and too big for one person imagine the electricity bill for such a huge house and he doesn’t even use some of the rooms.

“Don’t you think you should introduce yourself if I’m going to carry your child I have to know who you are” I say

“My name is all you need to know”

“Why did you chose me to carry your child for you” I ask
“You’re rich you can actually get any girl to carry your
child for free”

“I told you I want you to carry my child for me”

“But why Michael you have to give me something
tangible here” I say

“Give me what I want and you’re free to go”

“But I don’t want to have a child I have a boyfriend back
home I have a family back home” I say

“That is not my concern!”

“What about me? What about my life? You can’t just
kidnap me and expect me to cooperate” I say

“You really want to go?”

“Yes!’ I answer

“Fine then go but if you go I’ll make your life a living hell I’ll destroy your career and make sure no one will ever hire you because I will stop at nothing until” I get what I want”

“Well at least I’ll be free! I don’t want this you might have all the money but money isn’t everything” I say

“Really name one thing that you can’t buy with money?”

“A surrogate and happiness because from the looks of it you’re miserable” I say

“Listen little girl I don’t like being disrespected so you better watch it”

“Or what Michael” I ask

“You said you want to go right? Then you’re free to go but don’t say I didn’t warn you” he stands up and leaves the table minutes after Nick walks in.

“Ready” he asks

“Excuse me?”

“We are taking you back to South Africa!” he answers

“Thank you!”

We head to the car well I came with nothing and I'm going with nothing but I am taking the phone. This time I'm sitting with Nick someone is driving us.

"I guess this is goodbye!" I say to Nick

"I know it's none of my business but why didn't you take the offer? I mean its carrying child then you have your billions then you're free to go"

"I have a boyfriend ok and this is carrying a child it's different from hiring a fake wife or fake girlfriend" I answer

"We are going to miss you and all your drama the last 3 days have been fun with you giving us free entertainment"

"I can't say the same"

Nick leaves me at the plane they really do have people for everything. I really don't care about the money I don't want anyone who acts like they own me. But that was a good offer though the money would have turned my life around.

The last thing I remember is falling sleep in the jet at 11pm the next thing I wake up in my apartment the following day at 10pm. How did I sleep so long? How did I get in bed? I got out of bed head to the kitchen and prepared myself some cereal

Sponsored

head to the kitchen and prepared myself some cereal
ate then went back to sleep I'm still tired

I sleep and wake up at 6am showered and got dressed
for work I really need my job back since I turned down
billions of dollars. I drove to work. The time doors
opened I was already there. I went straight to the boss's
office. She seemed surprised to see me.

"Morning ma'am" I say sitting down on a chair opposite
Clara (My boss)

"Isabella! You're here didn't you say you were leaving the
country?"

"I was but the trip was cancelled and had to come back
so I wondering if I can have my job back" I ask

“Didn’t you say you were going to get help mentally?”

“I said that” I ask

“In your resignation letter remember and you also mentioned that the story about Mrs Radebe wasn’t true sometimes you see things that aren’t there”

“I didn’t write that letter ma’am” I say

“You even signed it!”

See there was this billionaire guy who kidnapped me and asked me to surrogate for him but I turned down the offer he took me to Spain and offered me billions he’s the one who wrote the letter. Please believe me I didn’t write it” I say

“You went to Spain and came back? I last saw you 4 days ago”

“I know he owned a jet and I don’t know how they moved me around” I answer

“So in other words you turned down a billion dollars?”

“Yes!” I answer

“Maybe you really need mental help because no one in their right state of mind would turn down a billion dollars”

“You have to believe me ma’am” I plead

“Look Bella you’re a hard worker and you do your job very well but after Mrs Radebe’ article I can’t have some with mental issues working for us. Thank God Mrs Radebe didn’t sue us. I suggest you get help”

I do not need help!" I answer

"You do and you have to treat it before it gets worse"

"I am not crazy" I yell

"I think you should leave!"

"I didn't mean to yell but I'm not crazy and I have no mental sickness" I say

"Don't make me call security"

"Please you have to understand" I plead

"Leave Bella or I'll have you escorted out" she picks up the landline

“Okay I’ll go!”

I drive back home and my car runs out of gas I don’t even have any cash with me I guess I’ll have to walk back home. When I’m stressed I want to eat but there’s nothing to eat in my house just cereal milk and eggs. I have to start looking for a job at least the flat has free Wi-Fi.

34 rejections in 5 hours I’m calling everyone that does newspapers and magazines I’m now known as the girl who has mental issues no one wants to hire me. I’m all over the internet. I see a letter on the floor near the door and it’s an eviction letter I have 24 hours. God why?

I can't go to my parents don't want to stress them out. Who to call? Ethan we have been friends for years I'm sure he'll let me crash at his place. He picks up right away.

Ethan: Hey you!

Bella: Hey I need a favor?

Ethan: I'm listening!

Bella: I need a place to stay

Ethan: Aren't you out of the country for your treatment

Bella: I'm not sick ok can you help me or not?

Ethan: How can I help?

Bella: I need a place to stay

Ethan: I'd love to help but my girlfriend is moving in with me sorry

Bella: Ethan you don't have a girlfriend

Ethan: I do I just never told you about her

Bella: And I thought we were friends

Ethan: I was going to tell you but then you got sick

Bella: I am not sick okay

Ethan: Bella the first step to overcoming a problem
admitting that you have a problem

Bella: You of all people should believe me.

I hung up! And tried literally everyone in my contact list
and not even one wants to help not even my boyfriend. I
guess when days are dark friends are few I'll have to
swallow my pride and call my sister Loraine. She answers
on the third ring

Loraine: Hey little sister

Bella: Sorry to call you at night but I need a place to stay

Loraine: Okay where are you I'll come pick you up

Bella: Thank you big sister.

If there's anyone I can count on to always have my back it's Lorain but I can't say the same about Maya she's the oldest and she's married to a very rich man so she acts like she knows it all. I told Lorain about Michael.

"Please tell me you believe me" I ask

"Of course I believe you"

"You don't think I'm crazy" I ask

"I believe you ok and you can stay with Mark (Husband) and I as long as you want but you're going to have to

crush on the couch Mark's cousin is here and he's using the spare room"

"Why can't he use the couch" I ask

"He is here with his wife so let me get you a blanket" she walks out of the room.

2 weeks goes by and still no one wants to hire me I'm still sleeping on the couch and it's very uncomfortable. Like Michael said "This isn't living this is surviving". My sister has been supportive but I have get my own place.

It's now 11pm and I can't sleep my neck hurts I keep tossing and turning. I message comes through on my phone

*** Ready to give me what I want?

This definitely has to be Michael.

To be continued.....

So it was Michael all along he did say he was going to make my life a living hell but I thought he was just blabbing. No one wants to hire me my friends think I'm crazy as for me boyfriend we are done. I took Michael's offer I'm going to be his surrogate.

The car is here to get me what choice do I have. I can't keep living on my sister like this and how hard can it be? Just have his baby for him then I get my money and live

the life I have always wanted. But it is a little embarrassing I mean I am letting him win. I'm doing exactly what he said "I always get what I want" that's what he said and I'm handing it to him on a silver platter.

"So you were really telling the truth about the billionaire guy" Lorain says

"Of course I was telling the truth"

"For a second I thought you were losing it" she answers

"Really? You of all people I thought you'd believe me"

"I'm sorry but your story was too good to be true" she says

“Anyways thanks for letting me crash at your place I owe you one and say thanks to Mark for me”

“I will and Bella are you sure about doing this” she asks

“Yes I mean how hard can it be? If you can give birth to a child then I can”

“It was with a man I love and our kids are now in school. Trust me once you hold the baby in your arms it’ll be hard to give it up” she says

“I doubt I don’t even want a child”

“If you say so and call me if you get in Spain” she hugs me

Spain here I come I'm getting treated like someone important guest come to think of it the past 2 weeks I was sleeping on the couch and now I'm flying alone in a huge jet with just security. This time I didn't wake up in bed like they usually do to me. I actually was woken up by the airhostess. Got out of the jet and a car was already waiting for me a black van.

"Welcome back" Nick smiles as I put on the seat belt

"Yay! Good to be back" I roll my eyes

"Don't be sad it's just for 10 months"

"Yeah just 10 moths" I sigh

We drive to the mansion Nick is opening doors for me and all that well he insists. Michael is with some girl when we get there they are making out. Don't they have a bedroom where they can be tochy without anyone judging them? They act like they can't see us. I mean they just saw us walk in. Nick clears his throat.

"You're here" Michael says

"It's not like I had a choice!"

"How was the flight" he asks that's the first his saying something that makes sense

"Not bad!"

“Lizzy lets go” Nick says and the girl stand up and follows him. I guess Nick handles the woman around here.

“So what brings you here Miss Bella” Michael asks

Really?

“I’ll carry your child ok!”

“And what made you change your mind” he asks

“Do you want me to carry your child or not? Stop asking stupid questions”

“Like you said it’s not like you have a choice” he chuckles

I wish I could slap that stupid smile off his face

“So what now?”

“First go rest and please remove that hideous dress people will mistake you for the helper. We’ll talk when you wake up”

“Yes Mr Michael!” I cluck start walking then I go back to him again

“Where’s my room again?”

He calls someone to show me my room I take a shower then a nap. I get woken up by a loud noise. A whistle! What is this prison?

“Wake up Miss Jacob” a lady yells

“What time is it?”

“It’s 5am and we have to make sure you stay in shape”
she says

“I am in shape and I will wake up at 7!”

“No ma’am you have to wake up” she continuously
shakes me

“10 more minutes”

She blows the whistle gain!

“Jesus! I’m up you people are weird what is the whistle
for anyway?” I get out of bed

“Just following orders”

I've never been to the gym all my life is this what rich people do to stay fit? This is torture.

I can't feel my anything my body is numb. This woman isn't even taking it easy on me.

"Okay Miss Jacobs let's get started on the exercise" she blows the whistle why is she even blowing it

Sponsored

it's just the two of us

“Get started? What have we been doing?”

“That was warm up” she answers

“What? This is insane I'll rather not be I shape this hurts”

“Mr Michael said you should do this every morning” she says

“Every morning? Hell no! My body hurts in places I never imagined would hurt tell Mr Michael that I said no”

“Ok let's end here today!” she says “And drink lots of water”

“I just want to sleep and never wake up!” I walk out then come back again “Uhm lady! Which way to my room again?”

“Last door on your right” she answers

“Thank you!”

“See you tomorrow!” she smiles

“I seriously doubt”

I reach my room and throw myself on the bed the door opens and some lady walks it with a dress on a hanger.

“Morning Miss Jacobs” she smiles

“Call me Bella!”

“I can’t do that sorry! Please get ready wear this dress and come down for breakfast” she says they all speak calmly

“I am so hungry!” I get out of bed

“Bath first” she smiles and walks out

I forgot rich people do not eat their breakfast with gym clothes I took a shower and put on the dress selected for me. Then went down for breakfast.

“Morning” I say to Michael but he does not answer he’s reading the paper I snatch it from him and throw it across the room some man quickly picks it up where did he come from.

“I said morning!”

“Don’t ruin my breakfast for me” he answers

Does this man even have any friends?

“I’m just greeting you ok”

“Then don’t” he answers

How rude!

“So how are we going to do the procedure?”

“Bella! Eat first then we’ll talk after breakfast” he rolls his eye

“Look Michael you might be rich but you have to respect me after all you need me for this”

“Finish eating while we wait for my lawyer then we can talk” he sighs

“That wasn’t bad right?”

“God why are so annoying” he mumbles

“So what do you do?”

“That is not your business” he answers

“Fine was that your girlfriend yesterday?”

“Again not your business” he answers

“Then what is my business because you won’t tell me anything”

“You’re here to carry my child and that’s it” he says

“That girl is pretty why didn’t you asks her?”

”I just lost my appetite” he leaves the table

“You no longer want to eat?”

“You can eat all you want I’m full”

But this is a lot of food.

“Nick!” I call

He quickly walks into the room.

“Morning! How can I help” he asks

“I need help eating this food”

“No! I’m not supposed to be talking to you” he says

“Michael said if I needed anything I should call you”

“Anything besides this!” he says

“Sit we are eating”

“Fine!”

“Hey big guy please come here” I call the man who
picked up the newspaper

“Yes ma’am!”

“Sit down too let’s eat” I say he looks at Nick before sitting down

“You’re going to get us in trouble” Nick says

“This is a lot of food really why waste it”

At noon the so called lawyer comes and he has a contract in his hands. I get to carry Michaels’s baby and I couldn’t hear half of the things he was saying with his Spanish accent. But I just signed the contract anyway..

“Let’s set some ground rules” Michael says after walking the lawyer out

“I’m listening”

“You can go where ever you want you can visit whoever you want but you’re not allowed to go clubbing or on a date as long as you carrying my child understood” he asks

“Fine whatever!”

“I’m serious Bella you are not allowed to have a boyfriend in the next 10 months” he says

“What if I need help?”

“Nick will help you with anything” he answers

“What if I need help sexually?”

“I don’t know but no funny business carrying my child” he says

“We haven’t even started with the process and you’re already ordering me around”

“You will stay out of my business don’t asks me any personal questions and no eating breakfast with the guards ok” he says

“I will I get to know you if you won’t talk about your life?”

“You don’t have to know me you’re here for one thing focus on that” he answers

“So then who do I talk to? I can’t spent the whole day doing nothing I’ll go crazy in this big house”

“Like I said you can get out of the house and get some air just don’t break the rules” he says

“I also have rules”

“What?” he chuckles

“Yes! You will respect me and you will talk to me like a human being do not order me around like your servants. And you should ask me nicely to carry your baby”

“Excuse me?” he say

“Ask me nicely to carry your baby for you. From the looks of it this “baby” means a lot to you and if you want me to be your surrogate then ask me nicely Mr Michael. You need me”

He sighs!

“Carry my child for me” he says

“That’s not asking that is commanding”

“Will you carry my child for me” he asks

“Didn’t your mother teach you to say please?”

He exhales heavily

“Will you please carry my child for me” he asks

“No!”

“Really? After making me say please”

“Either way you were going to force me just like you told my boss and everyone I know that I’m crazy”

“So you just wanted to hear me say please” he asks

“Yes and it felt good for once hearing you say please”

“Maybe you are crazy” he shakes his head and walks out.

To be continued.....

The whistle again! This woman should really work on a new strategy of waking me up because blowing a whistle on me will make me have a heart attack. Why do I have to work out anyway? If this is Michael trying to punish me then it's working.

"I'm up!" I get out of bed

"Let's go Miss Jacobs it is burning day light" she blows the whistle.

"Please don't blow the whistle!"

"Wake up first" she answers

"I'm up okay and why do we have to go this so early?"

"Just following orders" she blows the whistle again

My thighs hurt like no man's business is this what happens when you don't work out because every limb in my body hurts it feels like I have been hit by a truck.

"Let's go Miss Jacobs!" she yells

It's 5am for Christ's sake.

"I'm sorry ma'am what's your name?"

"Anna!" she answers

"Mrs Anna please stop blowing the whistle. We are the only ones in the room and I can hear you clearly"

"Sorry it's a habit. Let's get going" she says

We hit the gym I don't know why Michael felt the need to get me a personal trainer? This woman is making me do sit ups and squats what does that have to do with being a surrogate? 2 hours felt like a year I swear tomorrow I'm going to play sick.

Took a bath then headed down for breakfast. Michael is already there I sit next to him. He doesn't greet so I won't greet him either instead I greet Nick who's sitting across the room with a newspaper in his hands.

"Hey Nick!" I call this house is huge and quiet so when you yell something it echoes.

"Morning Miss Jacobs" Nick answers lowly

I start eating I still don't understand why they cook for an army yet it's just me and Michael.

"Hie to you too" Michael after a decade of silence

I ignore him that's what he did to me yesterday.

"Bella!" he says

"Mmmm!"

"So you telling me you didn't hear me greeting you" he asks

"Are you talking to me?"

"We are the only ones in the table of course I'm talking to you" he answers

"Oh! And what did you say?"

"Never mind! Get ready we are going to the doctor" he says

"Why? Are we doing the surrogacy thing today?"

"Just get ready and let's go!" he says

"I am not going unless you tell me why we are going to the doctor's"

"Do I have to explain everything to you" he asks

"Yes! You have to explain to me"

"Get ready Bella!" he orders

"Don't order me around"

"I tried being nice" he stands up "Nick get her to the car even if it means dragging her there" he walks out.

Right getting someone to do his dirty work.

"Look Isabella as long as you want to get along with Michael try by all means to not disrespect him" Nick says

"I didn't do anything!"

"Whatever you said don't say it. Just try not to tick him off" he says

"What is he God?"

"Stop provoking him ok trust me you won't like seeing him angry" he answers.

"I was just playing with him he should loosen up"

"Michael isn't the kind of person to joke with trust me" he answers.

"Noted!"

"Now let's go to the car" he says

"Don't you people know how to use the word please?"

"We can always use force you know" he says calmly.

"Can I at least finish eating?"

"No! Now go to the car or you'll be carried there and trust me these guys are not gentle you might end up losing all your breakfast" he says

"Fine!"

"Good girl!" he smiles "And apologize to Michael"

"I'm not doing that he's going to have to live with it"

"It's going to be the longest 10 months of my life" he sighs opening the car door for me Michael's already in the car.

The car starts moving no one is talking in the car just smooth jazz playing on the radio I'm just looking at the beautiful city and Michael is busy with his phone as usual. I might as well admit that I have a sickness I do not know how to shut up well I am a journalist so asking questions is a part of me.

"Michael!" I clear my throat he puts his phone away and locks at me. That's the first.

"What's your second name" I ask

"Michael!"

"Isn't that your name" I ask

"It's my second name!"

“Then what is your name” I ask he gives me the annoyed look

“Is this how it’s going to be? You getting annoyed by everything I say” I ask

“I can’t help it you’re so annoying”

He’s going to have to get used to it.

“Do you have a wife or girlfriend” I ask

“That’s my personal life”

“What do you need a child for” I ask

“Personal!”

“At least tell me something about you

Sponsored

how will we get to know each other if we don't talk" I say

"We don't have to know each other you're here for one thing..."

"I know I'm the surrogate and nothing more but we are going to be together for the next 10 months and what if I have a medical issue that you don't know about" I say

"I know everything about you Isabella Jacobs I studied you like a book"

I tried to make conversation with him but seems he's a closed book.

We get to the hospital and they do a check up on me so he couldn't just tell me that we are going for a checkup. They give me a few injections I don't know what they are for and I don't want to know I just want to get over with this madness and go back home. Can it be 10 months already?

(2 weeks later)

This is what one calls living having breakfast lunch and dinner on time. Nick gave me a mini tour showing me the beautiful Spain. Two weeks of eating healthy and

exercising. Plus we are waiting for my ovulation days so I can get pregnant and give Michael his 'cargo' and leave. Let's say I'm getting used to living with Michael's stinking attitude even though a part of me wants to rip his head off. He's just rude and I hate the way he treats the helpers like they are not human. I know I agreed to be Michael's surrogate but sometimes I think of changing my mind I think I'm getting cold feet. I'm scared this is no joke this is carrying a child and I'm scared I heard that giving birth is very painful. And I keep thinking about what my sister said "Once you hold the baby in your arms it'll be hard to let go"

What if I want the baby? Do I also get the right to the baby? These are the questions I should have asked the lawyer but hey we have the internet for everything I'm going to look online I'm sure I'll find something about surrogate rights. The question I keep asking myself is why does Michael wants a baby so bad? And why did he chose me. There are billion girls who would have his baby naturally and for free.

I'm sitting by the pool it's a little too hot today and since I have nothing to do and Nick is not around he's the only person that talks to me around here. The others just nod and smile. I'm just sitting by the edge with my feet in the pool wearing a £2000 bikini. This is just madness a bikini shouldn't cost this much after all it's just a set of strings tied together and covering one quarter of my body.

"Uhm Bella!" Nick says

"What!"

"I think you've been in the sun for too long maybe you should go back inside" he says

"It's hot inside!"

"Just turn on the A.C" he says

"No I'm still enjoying the sun!"

"Look I wouldn't ask you to do it if it wasn't necessary" he whispers

"Why are you whispering?"

"You seriously need to go back inside" he answers

"Don't tell you Michael ordered you to do this?"

"Bella please!"

"Okay!" I say getting up

"And please wear something decent" he hands me the towel

"Yes sir!"

"You have to get inside house Bella hurry!" why us he so bent on getting me inside the house.

"Okay alright I'm going!"

The car drives in and stops right in front of the door a man walks out and he's with two women. Nick curses before walking to them well I don't know anyone so I continue walking to the house.

“Hey not so fast! Come here” the man says I slowly walk to them

“Hie!” I whisper

“I’ve never seen you before” he smile I look at Nick!

“This is Bella and Bella this is Jordan! He’s Michael’s brother”- Nick

“Nice to meet” I say before walking away

“Not so fast! So are you and Michael together” he asks

“God no!”

“She means not yet they are in the process of making things official”- Nick

“What!” I give him the blank look

“She’s just shy bust they are together and Bella go get ready Michael is waiting for you” Nick answers

What is he on about?

“She’s coming to the dinner” Jordan asks

What dinner?

“Yes! Bella go get ready” Nick says

I don’t know what he’s on about but I’m going to leave before things get more awkward. I heard to my room Nick walks in soon after.

“You’re not Michael’s surrogate and no one can ever know” he says

“But I am his surrogate?”

“And it stays between you two no one else has to know” he says

“Why?”

“Can for once in your life not ask why? Change of planes get ready you’re going to the diner with Michael” he calls

“I’m not going anyway especially with Michael”

“Bella don’t make me use force because we will or just drug you and you wake up at dinner your choice” he says

“What is up with this diner thing anyway?”

“I’ll send people to get you ready” he says

“I can dress up by myself ok”

“Good then get ready we are leaving in 2 hours” he checks his wrist watch.

“I like you better when you’re quiet and why can’t Jordan know that I’m Michael’s surrogate after all that is why I’m here”

“Just get ready! I’ll check on you in 2 hours and please no funny business” he says

“Do I have a choice?”

“No!” he walks out

What have you gotten yourself into Isabella Jacobs? I look at myself in the mirror even with a million dollar dress I still feel like nothing.

“Let’s go!” Nick says entering the room

“Don’t you knock?”

“No no Bella you can’t go wearing that” he says

“Why?”

“Too revealing! It’s a no. Please go change” he answers

“I’m not changing anything if you want to go with me then I’m going in this”

“Please Bella Michael will kill me please change!”

“Then start digging your grave let’s go”

To be continued.....

Ever entered a room and be in the spotlight that everyone stops whatever is it that they are doing and looks at you. This is me right now. All eyes are on me and may I say it is very uncomfortable I don't know how celebrities do it. I'm not sure whether they are looking at me because I look great or I look terrible.

“Why are they all staring at me” I ask Nick as we go down the stairs thank God Nick is balancing me because I’d have tripped and fell by now.

“I told you that dress was too revealing”

“It’s not that revealing” I whisper

“Well as you can see it’s a formal dinner”

“I have been to formal dinners and this is how people dress” I answer

“Not this one!”

I spot Michael across the room he’s busy talking to people and he’s smiling laughing and all that shit.

“Who are all these people” I ask Nick

“The Michael family”

“All these people are Michael’s family” I ask

“Yes! There are relatives distant cousins uncles and third generation children”

“That’s a huge family then” I answer.

I look over at Michael our eyes meet and his face goes from happy to sour we walks up to us.

“Nick what the hell is’ she wearing” he asks

“I tried talking to her Michael you know how she is”

“Comes with me” Michael grabs me by my arm and literally drags me out of the room.

“I can walk on my own” say trying to break loose but he’s holding on to my hand and he keeps on walking. We reach some room and he closes the door behind him.

“You have to change that dress” he says

“And wear what?”

“I’m sure there’s something to wear in the closet” he answers

“Why do I have to change?”

“Because my family is here and that dress is too revealing Isabella” he answers

“Is it me or you’re scared of your family?”

“Just change” he says

“Change to what Michael?”

“I don’t know ok find something” he yells

“Don’t yell at me”

“Maybe if you had listened to Nick we wouldn’t be having this conversation” he shouts

“Why did you even ask me to come here if you can’t stand me? You don’t even talk to me yet you want me to carry your child all you do is yell at me. If I’m so much of a burden to you then please take me home. My life was fine before you came into the picture. You know what. I

don't care about all this just take me back home at least I was happy there"

He takes a second! I guess taking me back home isn't an option.

"I'm sorry for yelling!" he moves closer takes off his jacket and places it on my shoulders. "Just don't talk to anyone just stay with me all the time" he says

"And if anyone talks to me?"

He gives me the look.

“Just don’t say anything and don’t mention the surrogacy” he says

“Then what am I to you?”

“My girlfriend” he says

You wish!

“Just for today!” he says

“Okay! But I don’t want your hands on me”

“Just don’t mention the part where you carry my child”
he says

“Yeah whatever!”

“Please Bella!” he says

Did he just say please? This must mean a lot to him.
What’s the big deal anyway?

“On one condition!”

“Really! Now is not the time to blackmail me” he says

“I want to know your real name!”

“Why” he asks

“You owe me that much”

“Steve!’ he answers

“Your name Steve!” I laugh

“Hahaha its Eric let’s go”

“Eric Michael! Not bad” I say

“It’s Michaels with an s”

“I prefer calling you Michael” I say

We head out of the room and run into Jordan (The brother) he looks great he’s in a grey suit.

“Miss Bella!” he takes my hand and kisses it

“Hie Jordan!”

“You sure know how to make a grand entrance” he laughs “That’s one hell of a dress”

I look down.

“No don’t feel bad the dress looks on you” he removes the jacket on my shoulders and throws it at Eric. “You look better without the jacket.

“Hie Eric!” he pushes Michael a little

“You never grow up don’t you” Michael answers

“Don’t act like you didn’t miss me”- Jordan

“I didn’t!”

“Then why throw a party for me”-Jordan

“This is a party?”

“That’s exactly what I said. This is more like a get together” Jordan answers

But Nick said it was a formal dinner. Well if it was organized by Michael then no wonder it sucks like this.

“Are you done?”-Michael

“So aren’t you going to introduce me to Bella” Jordan asks

“Well you already know her” Michael answers

“What I want to know is whether you two are serious if she’s going to melt your cold heart” - Jordan

He needs more than love to melt that ice he calls a heart

“Things aren’t even serious between us” Michael answer

“So in other words you two are just playing around”
Jordan asks

“Jordan what’s with a million questions” – Michael
answers

“Nothing little brother just asking”

Oh he’s younger

“Let’s go!” Michael places the jacket back on my
shoulders

“Nice to meet you Bella!” Jordan calls as we walk away

“Do me a favor whatever you do stay away from him”
Michael says

“Let me guess he’s bad news?”

“Yes! Nick will take you home” he says

“You’re staying?”

He gives me the look I guess that means don’t ask.

“Fine then

Sponsored

should I go with your jacket?”

He just looks at me I don't know if I'm supposed to know what that means. I just walk away.

"I see you behaved" Nick says opening the car door

"Sometimes I don't know who is worse you or Michael"

"Where to" he asks

"Do you know any clubs around?"

"Wait did Michael approve of this" he asks

"My curfew is 8 and now it's 7 plus that does not apply until I'm pregnant"

"I'll have to call Michael first" he takes his phone out

“Michael said I can go anywhere I want as long as I don’t bother him”

“Fine but 8 o’clock I’m taking you out of that place

“Yes sir!”

Sometimes I ask myself why people drink alcohol. Maybe it’s because they want to forget about life for a second. Forget about all the crazy things happening around them. Just a month ago I was living an ordinary life. Wearing my \$20 cloths and now I live in a mansion getting everything I ever dreamed of but still I’m not happy.

Being in this club isn’t fun either because they took me to the VIP section and its quiet just the guards Nick and me.

“Okay that’s enough we should get going” Nick says

“I want to go back home!” I answer

“Okay then let’s go!”

“I mean home home! I’m tired of this life” I say

“Okay let’s get you home!”

When I stood up that’s when all the alcohol rushed to my head that’s when I realized maybe I had a little too much to drink. Maybe the fancy life is getting to my head.

Nick helps me to the car and we drive back home I feel like vomiting whatever is in my stomach. We get home and Michael is waiting for me like a child who just came home late. Well I am late but I'm not a child.

"You broke the rules!" that's the first thing he says I don't want to talk. I just want to throw up.

"You can't even stand on your own. Nick didn't I tell you to take her home?" - Michael

I can hear them talking but I do not have the strength to answer because if I say anything I might end up vomiting in this million euro couch.

“Bella go upstairs” Michael orders

“She can’t even...” Nick tries to speak

“Shut up!” Michael yells “You were supposed to take her straight home”

“I’m sorry!”- Nick

I stand up and the moment I do so. I throw up on Michael. He was standing in front on me there was no way I could make it to the kitchen. Well that’s the last thing I remember.

The next thing I wake up with a terrible headache my head feels heavy my stomach feels like its inside-out. At least the whistle lady isn't here today. I'm still under the covers I can't even wake up. Someone pours water on me. I really want to yell but I can't and why am I naked.

"Really Michael you'd pour cold water on me" I sit up covering myself with bedcovers. I look around this is not my room either.

"You broke the rules Bella! You're not supposed to go clubbing" he says

"You also broke the rules I'm supposed to be just your surrogate and yesterday you had me playing your girlfriend"

I'm talking with my eyes closed my head on my knees.
Every word he says feels like I'm getting hit by the
hammer.

"In other words this was you getting back at me" he asks

"Michael my head is killing me can we at least talk later"

"You want water" he asks

"Please!"

"Here!" he pours it on my face

"Michael!"

"You broke the rules Bella!" he says

“So what? Rules are meant to be broken. And why am I naked?”

“Oh that! We had sex" he walks out

To be continued.....

Just those words were enough to sober me up and make my headache disappear. What is Michael saying? What does he mean by “we had sex” if I really did it I’d know right? Or I was too drunk? But no there’s nothing such as too drunk? Or maybe he’s joking right? But I’m naked and that could mean anything yes I still had my panties on. I’m standing under the cold shower bombarding myself with questions.

I'm trying so hard to remember but I can't the last thing I remember is vomiting on Michael the next thing I wake up naked. I'm even scared to get out of my room how do I look at Michael if what he said is true? But if it's true then it counts as rape because we didn't agree on any of this he took advantage of me because I was drunk.

No I have to confront him he has to know that he can't just do anything he wants with me and he doesn't own me. He might have forced me to be his surrogate but he doesn't own me. I get out of the shower and there's a dress on the bed I guess that means I have to wear that. I don't know why they select clothes for me. I can do that myself. I dress up when I come out of the closet there's breakfast and painkillers on the tray.

I eat and take the painkillers although I can no longer feel the headache because I'm trying so hard to remember what happened last night. I head downstairs. Michael is all dressed up black suit all polished up.

"Michael what did you do to me last night" I ask

"How's the headache?"

"I want to know what you did to me and how did I end up in your bed" I ask

"I told you what happened or you want detail by detail?"

“Why would you do that? Do you know that counts as rape” I yell

“Lower your voice Bella why do you have to be so loud?”

“You expect me to be calm after waking up naked in your bed? What if I get pregnant” I ask

“Saves us money don’t you think. We won’t have to go to the doctor we just did it naturally”

He seems to be enjoying this I swear I’m taking a morning after pill as soon as he walks out that door.

“This wasn’t part of the contract Michael” I say

“Like you said last night rules are meant to be broken”

“The deal is off I want to go home” I say

I’m sick of this man

“Already? I thought you were liking it here?”

“Not after you took advantage of me” I folded my hands

He shifts closer places his hands on my shoulders and pulls me towards him.

“I told you I don’t like being disrespected and I don’t like people who yell” he whispers

“I want out the deal is off”

“We have a contract I could sue you” he chuckles

“Sue me for what? You enjoy torturing me don’t you?”

“The interesting part is that I don’t even have to make an effort” he lets go of my shoulders. What have I gotten myself into?

“Are ya’ll ready?”- Nick walks in

Ready for what?

“To the car” Michael orders

“Where are we going” I ask but he doesn’t answer he just walks out.

“How do you feel” Nick asks

“Just a slight headache that’s all”

“Serves you right” he indicates I should walk.

One would swear him and Michael are the same person.
We head to the car.

“Michael where are we going” I ask

“To get the alcohol out of your system” he answers

“Michael we haven’t even started the procedure trust
the alcohol in me won’t affect your baby plus it was a
once off thing”

“Who knows maybe you already are pregnant after all
it’s your ovulation days” he says

Nick chuckles in the front there's a reason why men shouldn't know these kind of things.

"So now you have to tell everyone my business?"

"Nick doesn't mind" he answers

"But still it's my private business"

"From the looks of it you don't mind anyone knowing or seeing your business" he laughs and Nick joins in

"What are you talking about?"

"Don't worry your buddy Nick will explain everything to you on your way back home" they laugh.

Now I'm more curious what are they talking about? We get to the hospital although I don't see the reason of this taking the alcohol out of my system plus there are many woman who drink while pregnant yet I'm not even pregnant whether last night happened or not I'm not yet pregnant. It takes 48 hours for the egg to be fertilized.

To our surprise we run into Jordan in the hospital. In fact he saw us first and he was with some lady or should I say girl because she looks younger than me.

"Hey little brother" he pumps Michael's shoulder

"Hie!" Michael answers lowly I'm sure he's rolling his eyes in his head that's how annoyed he looks

“Hie!” I say

“Bella Jacobs! Come give me hug” he doesn’t even give me the chance to walk to him he literally pulls me to his arms.

“Hie Lyn” Michael greets the girl that is with Jordan and she just gives him a low hie. I greet her too and she answers as if she doesn’t want to or that’s just how she is.

“I’ll wait in the car” –Lyn walks away

“So what are you two doing in the hospital” Jordan asks

“Bella had a stomach cramp but she’s fine now” -Michael

And what is he doing in a hospital with some girl that looks like she’s underage.

“Funny Lyn also had stomach cramps. Maybe it’s that time of the month you know” Jordan answers

These men have no respect for woman really

“We were just leaving

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see you around” Michael says

We were?

“Is Miss Jacobs coming tonight” Jordan asks

Coming where?

“No she can’t!” - Michael

“Why not? I’m sure the family would like to see her”

“I still think it’s a little too early for that” Michael answers

So they have discussed this before? But when because I just met Jordan yesterday.

“There’s no such thing Bella we have a family dinner and you shouldn’t come” Jordan says

Michael give me the “don’t you dare” look it’s not like it’s want to go anyway.

“Maybe next time!” I fake smile

“I’m not taking no for any answer you’re coming and if you don’t I’ll come then you myself. (He turns to Michael) and you can’t you see your woman is cold?”

I’m not his woman that’s why he doesn’t care. It’s not actually that cold that’s why I didn’t take the jacket.

“Here take mine!” he removes his and hands it to me from the looks of it these two don’t get along because Michael looks annoyed as hell.

“Bye Jordan!” Michael takes the jacket from my hands throws it back at Jordan. Takes my hand and head straight to the door.

“Nick will take you home and please no getting drunk” he walks away leaving me at the door this man though. So he won’t even walk me to the car? I slowly walk to the

car and Nick isn't even there where did Michael disappear to? I just stand by the car leaning on it.

"Hie!" says a voice

I turn around and it's Lyn

"Hello!"

"Welcome to the Michaels family" she says

"Excuse me?"

"You're Eric's woman right" she asks

I wanted to deny but Michael did beg me not to say anything.

“Sort of why?”

“Nothing it’s nice to know that Michael has found love again” she says

Found love again?

“I’m sorry what?”

“He was really torn when I broke up with him” she says

Ex-girlfriend?

“You and Eric use to...?”

“Yes we were together for like 2 years then we broke up” she answers

“And why did you break up?”

“Its hard being Eric’s girlfriend he’s too controlling and impossible to love its hard being with someone who doesn’t even have time for you. He only cares about his business nothing more” she says

“And why are you telling me all this?”

“I’m giving you a heads up so you know what you’re getting yourself into” she answers

“Well there’s no need for that I already knew what I was getting myself into”

“Is everything ok” Nick asks

“Yes! Was just having a little chat with Bella” - Lyn

“Well keep your thoughts to yourself”

“Funny not long ago you used to drive me the same way you’re driving Bella”-Lyn

I won’t stand and listen to these two I get into the car.
Nick follows soon after.

“I’m sorry about Lyn” he says

“You don’t have to explain anything it’s not like Michael and I are together. I’m just his surrogate nothing more”

He starts driving I guess no more getting the alcohol out of my system.

“He didn’t do anything to you last night”-Nick

It’s like he knew I wanted to ask.

“Then how did I get naked?”

“You threw up on him then took off your dress saying you wear feeling hot. Plus it’s not like you were naked you still have your lingerie didn’t you?” he answers.

“But why was in his bed?”

“You insisted on sleeping in his bed” he says

I did?

“Where did he sleep?”

“There are many rooms in the house Bella” he says

“Then why did he says we slept together?”

“He was just being Michael” he answers

When we got home Nick showed me the video I did take off the dress myself and Michael carried me to his room. I didn't know the house has cameras too. So in other words they watch my every move. I get ready for this so called dinner and yes I dressed decent nothing revealing as Michael ordered. Today there are lesser people than last time we are having weird food that I've never ate in my life. I don't even know what dish it is but it's very delicious. Lyn is here for reasons I don't know of I was asked not to talk so I'm just nodding and smiling.

“So Bella how did you two meet” Lyn asks

To be continued.....

8

All eyes are on me everyone wants to know how I meet the mighty Eric Michaels. Actually I don't know what to tell them should I tell them the version were they tie me up and throw me around like a bag of potatoes or the part where he makes my life a living hell. Should I cook up a story real quick? Maybe just smile and nod like I was told to. And why is this Lyn girl even here? From what I heard this was a family dinner and ex-girlfriends aren't family. Or there's more to it?

So how did you two meet" Lyn asks

"Yes we want to know how you two meet" - Jordan

I just smile and look away hoping they would let it go but no Lyn wants to know how I met her ex-boyfriend.

"I just don't want to waste everyone's time because it's a long story" I fake smile

“Don’t be shy Bella tell us about how you stole Eric’s heart” Lyn says I don’t know what she’s up to but I won’t give her the satisfaction to walk over me.

“I’m not shy at all it’s just that I don’t even know where to start” I answer

“Start from the beginning!” – Lyn

“Are you sure because it mind take the whole night” I chuckle

“We don’t mind right everyone?” - Jordan

“Well...” Michael tries to speak but Jordan interrupts him

“Are you Bella Eric? We want to hear the story from Bella I’m sure she can tell better since she does it for a living” - Jordan did he Google me or something because earlier he called me by my full name and surname and I don’t remember telling him that?

“I rather not don’t want to bore you” I answer

“We don’t mind! So how did you two love birds meet”
Lyn asks

“Bella’s tired she wasn’t feeling well earlier maybe I should take her home” Michael says

“Bella is fine Michael! Right Bella?” - Jordan

I look around the table and everyone is looking at me they really want to hear the story. I fake smile Think Bella you're a journalist you write stories for a living it shouldn't be that hard my mind screams.

Where to start?

"Eric and I met at the Art gallery!" I clear my throat "I was there for a story since I am a journalist or should I say was. That's how I meet him looking handsome in his navy suit"

That's if he even owns one but he's rich so maybe he has a navy suit.

"I know it's not the most romantic place to meet someone but that's how I found the love of my life" I say

Michael owes me for this I can't be confessing about feelings I don't even have.

"Aww that's sweet! I love seeing young people in love" – Grandmother Michaels says

"Quick question what was Eric doing at the art gallery" – some man asks

"I wanted to ask the same thing because Eric hates art" – Lyn says

Can this girl please shut it? Before I shove my shoe down her throat.

“According to him he was having a bad day and just needed a quiet place to clear his head” I answer

“You should have just hit the gym” one young man says he looks like he’s the youngest in the room.

“Michael having a rough day that’s the first” - Jordan says everyone bursts into laughter. I don’t get why they are all ganging up on him? And why is Michael so quiet?

“Do you want to hear the story or not?” I say

“How did you feel when you first saw him?” - Lyn

Honestly when I first saw him I thought “Damn that’s a man” but as soon as he started talking everything went sound I’m so over him. He’s just rude.

“The moment I saw him my heart skipped a beat they say it takes just 3 second to like someone but in that 3 seconds I was already in-love” I chuckle

“So you fell in-love with him first” Lyn asks

Why is she the only one talking? Can Michael please back me up here? I kick him under the table

“No I fell in-love with her first”- Michael

“That’s the first” Jordan mumbles

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they say it takes just 3 second to like someone but in that 3 seconds I was already in-love” I chuckle

“So you fell in-love with him first” Lyn asks

Why is she the only one talking? Can Michael please back me up here? I kick him under the table

“No I fell in-love with her first”- Michael

“That’s the first” Jordan mumbles I just don’t get why it so hard for them to believe that even a cold hearted person like Michael can find love. Or maybe I don’t know him as they do

“So you love her” Lyn asks

I swear if he embarrasses me in front of these people I will cause a scene. He better say yes even if he doesn't. He swallows hard. Looks at me then the family then back at me again.

“Before I meet her I never would have imagined that I'd have such strong feelings for anyone or let alone love someone but the moment I laid my eyes on her everything changed. The moment I laid my eyes on here I knew she was my soul mate” - Michael

A smile escaped my lips.

And everyone lets out an “Aww sweet” only if they knew.

“It's nice to know that you've found love son” - Mr Michaels (The father) says

“So are you guys serious or you’re one of those girl”
some lady asks

What does she mean by ‘one of those girls’ even Jordan asked that when we first met. Don’t tell me Michael is a womanizer? I don’t answer instead I leave the stage for Michael to answer but he looks away.

“Too bad! I really like Bella she seems like a nice girl” -
Jordan

Too bad?

“Told you she’s just one of those girls who keep Eric occupied” -Lyn whispers but I could hear her because she’s sitting next to me

“Excuse me”

“No I didn’t say anything” she answers

I see what this girl is she’s that one ex that think they can just come back in someone’s life anytime they please knowing you’ll take them back just because you love them and your family already loves the person. I really don’t like the way Michael’s family is treating him for some reason I’m getting frustrated for Michael. God why am I letting these people get under my skin.

“Are things serious between you two” Lyn

“Eric and I are serious ok” I answer

I’m getting pissed really

“How long have you been dating?” some lady asks. I look at Michael.

“A year”

“6 months”

Michael and I answer at the same time.

“1 year 6 months” I say

“Whoa! That long? And we are only meeting you now”
Jordan says

“We were taking things slow”- Michael

This is a lot of lying for one day I excuse myself and head to the bathroom. I just need some air. I miss my normal life where I don't have to pretend to be someone's

girlfriend or wear this thousand euro dress that is so tight. Someone knocks on the door.

“Occupied!”

“It’s me! Wanted to check if you were ok you’ve been gone for some time now” - Lyn

What if I have diarrhea and what does she want from me?

“I’m fine!” I wash my face and head out.

“So 1 year and 6 months huh!”

I can’t with this girl

“What you scared we going on the 2 years you and Eric spend together” I ask

“I’m just surprised Eric is with you doesn’t do relationships well not after me”

“Maybe it’s because he’s over you now and we are so happy our relationship is going so well we were thinking of having a baby” I say

“You know he used to tell me that too that he wants to start a family”

“Used to but not anymore and he’s not telling me. I’m already carrying his child” I walk out of the room.

Michael is going to kill me. I’m not supposed to mention the baby thing

Everyone is still at the table they are still eating. I sit next to Michael.

“I think we should go home” I whisper Michael

“Nick will drive you I have something I need to take care of”

“Like what” I ask

“Personal stuff!”

“Well if I’m going to be your face girlfriend then I need to know where you are going” I say

“Stop Bella ok! I already have a lot on my mind”

“You’re unbelievable!” I roll my eyes and didn’t realize I said that out loud. All eyes are on us again. Why do we

have to explain everything to these people? And why don't they focus on themselves and let us be.

"I'm sorry! I'm just tired and I want to go home" I chuckle

"Like I said Nick will drive you"- Michael

"Leaving so soon? Is the baby troubling you" Lyn asks

God this girl will be the reason I go to jail.

"Baby?" -Mrs Michaels

"You didn't know? Bella is pregnant and they are having a baby"- Lyn

The room goes quiet the only sound at the moment is Michael who just choked on his wine all eyes on me again. Pregnant Isabella! This Lyn girl deserves a beating really she doesn't know that I'm from the ghetto and where I come from we settle things with our fists.

To be continued.....

Michael is angry I can tell by the way he's looking at me. The room is quiet again I don't know if that's a good thing or not. I should really learn how to control my big mouth. Maybe I should have listened to Michael when he said Nick will drive me home. It's just that this Lyn girl annoys the hell out of me. I get it she's Michael's ex but she doesn't have to rub it in my face I don't care about their relationship.

“You’re pregnant!” Jordan says

“We are not yet sure” - Eric

“That’s great news! I’m going to be a grandmother” Eric’s mother stands up and walks up to me hugs me

“This is the best news we’ve ever got in this family” - Eric’s father

“To Bella and Eric!” everyone raises their glasses

“We should get going Bella is tired” Eric stands up

“Yes go rest and eat healthy ok” the mother says. Eric has already left the table I follow him to the car. He’s quiet!
We drive home

“Michael!” I whisper he doesn’t answer

“I’m sorry! I know I wasn’t supposed to tell anyone but Lyn provoked me and I couldn’t control myself” I say

“She’s my ex Bella obvious she’s going to prove you”

“I know and I shouldn’t have let her get to me I’m sorry!”
I say

“My family wasn’t supposed to know about that at least not yet”

“What’s the deal anyway? They are going to see me pregnant anyway” I answer

“The deal is that you’re not pregnant yet and they are going to worse me to marry you trust me I don’t want to marry you”

Wow!

“I know I’m not your type” I say lowly

“You’re not!”

“I didn’t meant to I’m sorry” I say

“You never mean to do anything Bella this is the second rule you have broken. The contract doesn’t allow you to talk to my family members about our business”

Have I should have thoroughly read the contract

“I’m sorry Michael!” he’s scolding me like a kid

“I bet you are he get out of the car”

I stay behind in the car I get it I messed up but he doesn’t have to be so harsh. I also have feelings and like they say physical pain is better than being hurt emotionally. Words pierce like a sword I feel like I was stabbed across your heart. “They are going to make me marry you and trust me I do not want to marry you” those were his exact words. I know I’m just a womb for hire to him just because he has money and power he feels like he can say or do anything he pleases. It’s enough that I let him ruin my life now he’s damaging me emotionally. I get it I’m out of his league and I’m nothing but I have feelings. He can’t just lash out at me like that.

“Hey! He didn’t mean that he’s just angry!” Nick says

“Still he shouldn’t talk to me like that”

“I know and I’m sorry! Please bear with him he’s going through a lot at the moment” he says

“Then what does he need a baby for?”

“It’s not my business but please don’t feel bad” He answers

“Good night!” I get out of the car and head inside the house straight to my room.

My phone rings which is odd because no one usually calls me.

Me: Hello!

Voice: Bella!

Me: Mum! How are you?

Mum: I'm fine baby how's Spain? Hope Eric is treating you well.

Me: Eric?

Mum: Yes the man you went with to Spain

Me: I never told you about him!

Mum: You're funny! (She laughs) Remember you texted saying you got a job opportunity in Spain and thank you for the money you sent yesterday

Me: Oh that (I'm sure that was all Eric)

Mum: You ok baby?

Me: Yeah! Just miss home!

Mum: We miss too and don't work too much ok you're still young have fun ok

Me: Ok! (I chuckle)

Mum: You're crying aren't you?

Me: No! I'm just happy to talk to you

Mum: I know you Bella! What's wrong?

Me: Nothing I can't handle! Just 10 months and I'll be back home

Mum: Okay baby!

I hung up and went to bed just 10 months and I will be out of this place. The following morning I wake up at 5

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fix the bed and put on the gym clothes when Anna came to my room I was already ready.

“Someone is up early today!” she says I bet she was ready to blow her whistle.

“Good morning!”

“How are you today” she asks

“I’m fine thank you!”

“Ok let’s get on with it” she smiles

I'm getting used to the working out my body doesn't hurt anymore. After workout I took a shower and wore the cloths selected for me. Headed downstairs for breakfast. Michael is already there reading the paper.

"Morning!" I sit opposite him

"Hie!"

I start eating this house is so quiet it would drive a person mad.

"You're going for your last check up today at 12 noon then Monday we do the procedure" Eric says

"Ok I'll be ready at 11"

"About last night" he says

“I know stay in my lane I got it. It’ll never happen again!”

“My family was invited to the Latin Grammy Awards...” I
stop him before he could finish

“Just tell me the time and I’ll be ready!”

“8pm!” he answers

“Okay! Is Nick driving me?”

“No we’ll drive together” he answers

“Ok then I’ll be ready at 7:30”

“Okay!”

He leaves for work then at 12 Nick drives me to the hospital we do the checkup then we head back home.

“Do you need something before we go back home” Nick asks

“No I’m fine!”

“Don’t you need a dress for tonight” he asks

“I’m sure I have something in the closet”

“So everything is fine? You don’t need to fix your hair or anything” he asks

“I’m ok!”

He stops the car

“Are you ok” he asks

“Yeah I’m fine!”

“Don’t let what he said get to you Bella!” he says

“I just want this to be over so I can get back home”

“Please don’t feel bad!” he asks

“I’m fine really don’t worry about me”

“It’s my job to look after you and if you not happy then I’m not doing a good job” he says

“I’ve always wanted to go to the Prado museum”

“Now you’re talking let’s go there and cheer up!”

He starts driving. We got the museum and it uplifted my spirit a little then I looked for a dress to wear even though I have plenty of those in my closet well I’m using Michael’s money after all. They hired a personal hairstylist for me and she’s just a call away. She fixed me up and at 7:30 I was good to go. Eric always looks great.

“Are you ready to go” Eric asks

“Yeah let’s go!”

“Wait one second” he says then disappears for a second and comes back. Hands me a small box.

“What’s this?”

“It’s a necklace I had bought it for...” he pauses “You can have it”

Bought it for Lyn I bet.

“Thanks! Can you help me put it on?”

“Sure!” he clears his throat

“Your hands are cold!”

It’s a Marie Antoinette choker necklace he must have really loved this Lyn girl because this piece looks like it costed a fortune. We drive to the Awards. I’m not used to being in front of the camera but I had Michael all the way. Lyn is here she’s with Jordan why does she have to

be everywhere? As soon as they saw us they walked to us.

“Hey you two” - Jordan

“Hie!” Eric answers I just smile

“Looking good Bella! I’ve always wanted that choker” Lyn says

“Thanks!”

It’s hers after all

“Eric bought it for you right?” - Lyn

“Yeah!”

“He was supposed to get it for me too but we broke up” -
Lyn

“That’s great!”

I swear inside I want to strangle her but I don’t want to
tick Eric off.

“Let’s go sit down!” Eric says and just as I was about to
follow him Lyn hold my hand

“A word” she says

“Okay!”

“How serious are you and Eric?” she asks

“Why?”

“Do you have an open relationship or something” she asks

“What are you talking about?”

“Your baby daddy was with me last night” she says

This girl!

“Okay!” I try to walk away but she hold my hand

“You don’t mind?”

“Can’t you see you’re playing the side chick? He came to you to satisfy his sexual needs then came back to me. You’re just his call girl” I answer

“He loves me”

“But I’m carrying his child!” I walk away Eric saved me a seat.

“Everything ok?” - Eric.

“Perfect!”

The whole evening goes well. I swap seats with Lyn seems she wants to sit next to Eric so bad. I’m sitting next to Jordan

“What are your intentions with my little brother” Jordan asks

“What do you mean?”

“Do you really love him or you’re just after his money” he asks

Whoa! That was straight forward

“I’m after his heart”

“Good to know! But you know he likes Lyn right” he asks

“And why are you telling me this?”

“You seem like a great person and I don’t want to see you get hurt by loving the wrong person” he answers

“Thanks but I’ll be fine I’m a big girl”

“With a heart of gold you deserve to be treated like a lady” he touches my chin

Do you know that feeling you get when someone touches you and you feel you're the butterflies. That's how I feel. I just smile and look away. After the Award Michael and I drove home. We got home I removed my shoes and was about to head to my room when Eric stopped me.

"Are you ok" he asks

"Yeah why?"

"You've been quiet" he answers

"Nothing I'm fine"

"Are you sick or something" he asks

“I’m not sick!”

“Is it about last night” he asks

“I’ll stay in my lane Eric really you don’t have to remind me”

“I didn’t mean to say what I said” he answers

“But you did!” I walk away

To be continued.....

I just don't get Eric he's the one who said we should not tell people that what we have is fake but now he's the one running to Lyn. That girl even has the nerve to rub it in my face. I know it's none of my business who he gets with but if we are going to fake things then we should at

least do it right. Can it be 10 months already? I just want to leave.

“Bella wait! I didn’t mean to upset you ok” Eric follows me to my room

“Do you still love Lyn?”

“We agreed not to talk about our personal lives” he says

Guess that’s a yes

“Fine then I no longer want to be your pretend girlfriend”

“We can’t back out now Bella please my family thinks you’re carrying my child” he says

"Then we need to set down some rules" I open my bedroom door he follows in. I sit on the bed and he sits on the couch. I have him cornered now which means I can ask for anything and he'll agree.

"What rules" Eric asks

"If I'm going to play your girlfriend then you should respect me and treat me like your girlfriend"

"I respect you!" he says

"You don't! And last night you said some hurtful things to me you owe me an apology"

"I was angry ok! You broke the rules" he answers

"Lower your voice Michael and remember you need me not the other way around"

"Fine what are the rules" he sighs

"Stop getting with Lyn"

"Who said I'm getting with Lyn" he asks

"She said so herself"

"Lyn is crazy everyone knows that" he answers

"Do you still love her yes or no?"

"I don't know" he sighs "She's the only woman whom I ever loved and she broke my heart"

Which explains why she has power over him.

"Ok I understand but why does she have to be everywhere? You guys broke up can she move on already"

"Her father and my father are old pals and she's always been part of the family although no one knows we used to date except Jordan" he answers

"Fine I'll be your fake girlfriend and since I'm not your type then you won't have any trouble keeping your hands to yourself. I don't want you touching me"

"I didn't mean to say that" he says

"You don't have to feel bad I know I'm not your type.
Close the door behind you" I get under the covers.

The following day when I head to breakfast I find Eric
with his mother.

"The sleeping beauty is up" Mrs Michaels stands up as
soon as she sees me.

"I wasn't sleeping I was in my room" I answer as she hugs
me

"Your room?"

"Yes my bedroom" I answer

"She means the bedroom! Our room"- Michael

I forgot my job #pretend baby mama

"I was in our bedroom Eric didn't wake me up today" I chuckles

"Good! I thought maybe you sleeping in separate rooms thought you were fighting" she says

"We are not fighting at all" I fake smile.

I don't see this lying ending well

"So how far are you" Mrs Michaels asks

Oh boy!

"Uhm Bella can you walk me out" Eric quickly stands up

"Don't stress her Eric! She's hasn't even had breakfast in fact you should bring her breakfast in bed. When I was pregnant with Jordan your father used to spoil me rotten"- Mrs Michaels

"It's ok Mrs Michaels I could use some exercise" I answer following Eric.

(Outside)

"I didn't know she was coming" he says as we walk to the car

"Good morning Michael!"

"Really now is not the time for game" he answers

"Will you loosen up?"

"I know my mother she's going to start interrogating you" he says

"So?"

"Our stories have to match Bella" he answers

"Yes sir!"

"This is no joke this is why I wanted to keep this a secret because the more people involved the more people who are going to get hurt by all this lying" he answers

"I can handle your mother so don't worry I won't say anything stupid"

"Good and try avoiding talking the baby thing" he say getting into his car.

"Your mother said you shouldn't stress me and you're stressing me"

"You're not even pregnant yet" he answers

"You're the only one who knows that!"

"Do not mention the bay and I mean it" he starts the car

"Bye honey" I wave

"Hahaha see you later"

Now I see why Michael wanted to keep the baby thing a secret. His family is getting attached to a baby that doesn't even exist. Jordan also passed by earlier and everyone wants to know if I'm ok and if I ate. I'm not used to being on the spotlight.

Finally it's Monday and there's no backing out now. But there's one thing I didn't know and it's that I'm going to be the mother of the baby. I thought I was just a womb for hire. We are at the hospital and I can't relax what if the procedure hurts and let's hope they won't inject me with anything because I am scared of needles.

“Relax!” Eric says

“Easy for you to say”

“I’ll be right here next to you you don’t have to be scared ok” he rubs my shoulder

“Okay!”

“You’ll be fine I promise” he smiles now I see why Lyn is so into him he might be rude but he’s sweet sometimes.

As promised he was by my side. It still feels like a dream. I’m really going to carry Eric’s child. I’m going to carry a person my belly wow! I hoping maybe we were going to celebrate when we got home but he went out with Lizzy instead I thought we were getting along.

Before going to bed I called my sister Lorain.

Me: Hey you!

Lorain: Hey little sister

Me: How are things there?

Lorain: We are living the life only if you could see.

Me: Did Mark get a promotion or something

Lorain: No! The money you have been sending

Me: That's Eric not me

Lorain: He's definitely a keeper

Me: Too bad I'm just a womb for hire to him

Lorain: Someone is falling for Eric

Me: God no!

Lorain: Not even a little bit? (Laughs)

Me: Maybe just a little bit but he's just rude

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only if you could see.

Me: Did Mark get a promotion or something

Lorain: No! The money you have been sending

Me: That's Eric not me

Lorain: He's definitely a keeper

Me: Too bad I'm just a womb for hire to him

Lorain: Someone is falling for Eric

Me: God no!

Lorain: Not even a little bit? (Laughs)

Me: Maybe just a little bit but he's just rude too rich and too handsome for me

Lorain: Love knows no boundaries little sister

Me: I miss you

Lorain: I miss you too when are you coming back?

Me: 9 months!

Lorain: Can't wait!

I hang up and lay on the bed I feel sleepy or it's the injection they gave me. I'm woken up by someone shaking me its Eric.

"What? What do you want" I rub my eyes

“My mother is on her way here”

She’s coming again?

“Why” I ask

“I don’t know but you’re going to have to go sleep in my room she can’t find you here”

“Eric I’m sleepy and what time is it” I ask

“Past six”

“Where’s Anna? She’s supposed to be here by now” I say covering my head

“You have to wake up Bella!”

“I don’t want to! Don’t stress me” I answer

“Bella get out of bed”

“I’m sleepy leave me alone” I answer

He pours water and me and walks out. There’s no way I can sleep after this. In no time Anna and her whistle was in the room these people are of the devil.

Eric’s mother is here making me eat weird things she said she used to eat that when she was pregnant. I’m just a day pregnant for Christ’s sake or maybe I’m not who knows if the stupid procedure worked. Eric leaves for work and now I’m left with his mother who is one hell of a character.

“So where are your parents dear” she asks

“They are in South Africa”

“Okay that’s great! Do they know about you and Eric”
she asks

“Yes ma’am!”

“Please call me Simone” she insists

“I can’t call you by your name my culture does allow me”

“Then call me mum” she smiles

“Ok mum!”

The door opens and Lyn walks in I don't like this girl at all.
Why is she here?

"Good morning mum!" Lyn hugs Simone then turns to me "Hey Bella!"

"Hey!"

"I thought I should come and keep Bella company don't want our new family member to feel left out" - Lyn

She means come and rub it in my face how she and Eric used to be so in love

"That's so kind of you" Mrs Michaels answers

"I was thinking maybe we should go to the mall" - Lyn

"I'm tired maybe next time" I answer

“We can go for a massage you know it might help you relax” she says

Why does she want to go with me I’m not her friend

“Yeah Bella it might help you relax and it’s good to get out of the house a little” Mrs Michaels says

“Fine! Let me go change” I head upstairs and change into jeans and a simple top and add blocks. Nick is driving us to the mall. Honestly if Mrs Michaels wasn’t there I’d have refused.

“How are you Bella” - Lyn asks

“I’m ok thanks”

“Cool denim! But Eric isn’t a fan when we were dating he didn’t let me wear them” she says

God help me block my hears or something

“Are we there yet Nick” I asks because a minute with this girl feels like I’m walking bare foot on broken glass.

“A few more minutes” Nick answers

*** *Your ex is bothering me. Fix it!* - I text Eric

All the way to the mall Lyn blabbing about how Eric and she used to be so in love I don’t know what that girl wants from me. And Why is she telling me this I don’t care about their relationship. We reach the mall and to

my surprise the person who opens the door is Eric how did he get here so fast.

“Hey Eric” Lyn says

“Hie!” Eric answers then walks up to me “Hey honey!” he smiles

Okay what is happening? He then turns to Lyn.

“Look Lyn Isabella is carrying my child and I don’t like you bothering her”- Eric

“I wasn’t...”

“I’m not done Lynnette! You’re going to respect Bella are we clear? Yes we dated but that was in the past” he says

“I know Eric okay” she answers

“I’m saying don’t talk to me or Bella but she’s carrying my child and if you stressing her that means you stressing my child and I do not like that” Eric says

I did not expect that at all.

To be continued.....

The surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 11

I'm glad Eric finally put Lyn in her place that girl was starting to get on my nerves. I know I shouldn't mind her

since this is all pretending but I can't help it she's annoying. Eric asked Nick to drive Lyn home guess there's no more going to the Spar. Honestly a part of me is happy that for once Eric defended me.

"Thank you!" I say to Eric

"You left the house without telling me" he answers

And he's back

"Since when am I supposed to report to you" I ask and he gives me the look I forgot I'm carrying the precious Michaels cargo that is a day old.

"I need to know where you are all the time" - Eric

"Yes sir!"

“I mean it Bella” he says

“I got it Michael geez loosen up it’s not yet a baby”

He’s already like this on day 1 what will happen when I start showing?

“Do you still want to go to the spar” he asks

“No I’ll just go home”

“You know if you’re going to be my fake girlfriend then you should play the part” he says

“Excuse me?”

“I don’t like a woman who wears denims” he answers

“To bad I’m not your woman” I get into the car he’s driving today.

“You just don’t listen do you?”

“I need something to keep me busy before I go crazy staying at the house doing nothing” I say

“Something like what?”

“A job or anything to keep me busy” I answer

“I told you that if you do this you won’t have to work in your life”

“I know! But I’m not used to sitting around and doing nothing” I answer

“Do you know many women would kill to be in your position?”

“But I’m not many women. I’m me” I say

“You will never work not with my baby in your stomach”

“Michael I’ll go crazy around the house” I say

“I can bring you someone to keep you accompanied”

“Really like who” I ask

“Your sister Lorain!”

Sometimes I forget he knows everything about me.

“She’s married and has kids she can’t just leave her husband and come to Spain” I answer

“Then find a new hobby because you are never working and that’s an order”

“Don’t order me around and I can do what I want when I want” I answer

“Isabella Jacobs! You love going against me don’t you?”

“Don’t stress me ok your mother said its not good for the baby” I answer and he laughs and focuses on the road guess he wasn’t expecting that.

He drops me off at home this place sucks I preferred being with annoying Lyn. The only thing I do only this house is eat dress up sleep and do that over and over again.

“Nick I’m bored” I say

“My job is to watch you nothing more” he answers

“Michael said if I need anything I should tell you”

“And what do you need” he asks

“To have some fun! I’m tired of this house”

“Bella I can drive you anywhere you want but with Michael’s approval of course” he answers

“This sucks!”

“It’s only for 9 months enjoy it while it lasts” he says.

“I want to go shopping!”

“Call Mr Michaels first” he answers

I rush to my room to get my phone then call Eric

Eric: I’m busy what do you want?

Me: Not even a hello?

Eric: Bella I’m in the middle of something ok

Me: I want to go shopping

Eric: Okay

Me: So this what I have to do every time I need something?

Eric: Yes! And there's a small box on your bed do you see it?

Me: Yeah what is it?

Eric: Open it and you'll find out

Me: You bought me a bracelet? Thanks!

Eric: Don't get too excited it has a tracking device on it so never take it off.

Me: You sure know how to squeeze the fun out of a situation

Eric: Look Bella don't get the wrong idea

Me: I know ok I'm just the surrogate no need to remind me.

I hang up and sleep on the bed I don't want to go to the mall anymore plus I have enough clothes. I wake up around 2pm wash my face and head downstairs to get some food. Lizzy is here how great for all of us.

"Hie!" I pass by

“Hie Bella” she answers

Please don't tell me she's psycho Lyn part 2.0

“If you're here for Eric he's at work”

“I'm not here for him I'm here to get my things since Eric dumped me” she answers

“Oh! I'm sorry!”

“It's ok loving Eric is hard trust me he thinks showing someone with gifts is loving them” she rolls her eyes she might not want to admit it but I think she loves him.

Lyn also said the same thing that it's hard to love Eric.

“Do you still love him?”

I don't know why I'm asking this.

“Feeling don't just go away just like that and he said some weird shit and that this will all make sense in 9 month's time. If he thinks I'm going to wait for him then he's out of him mind” she say

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she might not want to admit it but I think she loves him.

Lyn also said the same thing that it's hard to love Eric.

"Do you still love him?"

I don't know why I'm asking this.

"Feelings don't just go away just like that and he said some weird shit and that this will all make sense in 9 months time. If he thinks I'm going to wait for him then he's out of his mind" she says she's hurt

"Very sorry!"

"Quick question are you and Eric a thing? Did he dump me for you" she asks

"I don't know! I should get going" I rush back upstairs before I ruin things with my big mouth.

2 weeks go by and Eric is giving me the attention I need he checks up on me well mostly about the baby but I'm warming up to him and he can be sweet when he chooses to.

"Are you ready" Eric asks we are going to his parents' for dinner

"Yeah lets go" I answer Nick doesn't drive us these days he follows on a different car he only drives me when Eric is at work.

"Lyn is going to be there but don't mind her and I'm sure she got the message last time" Eric say as he starts the car

"Okay!"

We get to the Michaels mansion we were the first to arrive according to Michael's mother. Well Mr Eric here likes being on time.

"Bella!" Mrs Michaels hugs me

"Hello!" I smile

"How are you? Hope the baby isn't giving you any troubles" she asks

"Beside the morning sickness everything is fine"

"It'll end soon and eat well ok" she says

“I’m fine mum thanks for asking seems Bella has taken my spot because the last time I checked I was your favorite” - Eric

“My handsome boy!” they hug

“I’m 27 and yet you calling me a boy” he chuckles

Eric is just 4 years older than me and he’s this rich. Wow!

“So where is everyone” Eric asks

“They are coming you’re the ones who are early I was even thing of cancelling”

“Why” Michael asks

“This stupid chef called in sick he should have told me that hours ago now I can’t find someone to replace him”

“There are many cooks mum” - Eric

“The good ones aren’t available at such short notice and you know I’m not good around the kitchen”

That’s the first black person to actually admit that they can’t cook.

“How many people are coming” I ask

“About 10 excluding us in the room” she answers

“I can cook if you want my father used to own a small restaurant it wasn’t a five star but I can cook”

They look at each other first they are doubting me. I really know how to cook.

“It’s okay I’m sure I can find someone” - Mrs Michaels

“Plus there’s no way you can cook for 15 people” - Eric

“I can cook for 50 people just tell me the dish you want”

“Fine! But change that dress we don’t want it to get ruined” – Mrs Michaels leaves the room

“Bella you don’t have to” Eric says

“I don’t mind really plus it’ll help me keep busy for a second” I say and he smiles

“What?”

“Nothing! Let’s go find you something to wear upstairs”
he says

Dinner went well and everyone was happy with the meal thank God. Imagine if they all didn’t like it. Lyn stayed away from me I guess that means she got the message.

Everyone leaves Eric and I stayed behind since him and Jordan are inseparable one minute they are fighting the next they are getting along.

“Dinner was lovely Bella you should teach me how to cook” -Mrs Michaels

I laugh then notice she’s not joking

“Okay!”

“We should get going” Eric says

“Why don’t you guys sleep over it’s a little late for you to drive”- Mrs Michaels

“We don’t want to over crowd you and it’s not that late”
Eric answers

“What are you saying you can never over crowd you can use your old room” she insists

We tried making up stories but she’s so insisting and we ended up sleeping over. I slept on the bed and Eric on the couch. Rich and might Eric sleeping on the couch

“This is torture” Michael sighs

It's almost midnight he's been complaining the whole time.

"Don't tell me you've never sleep on the couch before"
I laugh

"Why would I sleep on the couch?"

"Of course you've never you grew up in a rich family there's enough space" I answer

"It's a couch it's for sitting not sleeping"

"You can come sleep on the if you want" I laugh

This bed is big enough for 5 people

"I want to this couch is uncomfortable"

“Just stay on your side of the bed” I say

“I should be telling you that because you sleep walk”

“How do you know I sleep walk” I ask

“Good night!”

To be continued.....

Like before you read  

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

Chapter 12

I'm waken up by the urge to pee I'm now on Eric's side of the bed and God does he smell so good. He's really handsome I never took time to actually look at him well it's hard since he's always angry. How does one look so handsome when sleeping or he's not? Maybe he can feel that I'm looking at him. I quickly get of the bed I'm wearing some pajamas I don't even know the owner. Michael gave them to me last night.

This is one lovely room and a little too big for a bedroom I open the curtains standing by the window looking at Eric I find myself smiling why am I smiling? I won't hate he's handsome. I sigh and touch my flat stomach I'm carrying a billionaire's child.

"Will you please close the curtains"-Eric

He's awake

"Sorry!" I quickly close them

"It's enough that you kept kicking me and stealing the blanket the whole night" he covers his head

"Well you're the one who insisted on sleeping on the bed"

"If I had known I'd have taken the couch I will never in my life share the same bed with you" he answers

"You just can't say one nice thing to me can you?"

"I'm just saying it as it is worse you kept stealing the blanket" he answers

“Then why didn’t you sleep on the couch if it was that bad?”

“I wish but couches are for sitting not sleeping” he answers

“Spoiled brat” I mumble

“I heard that”

“That was the point” I answer

“What is your problem anyway?”

“You’re my problem! You’re just so rude” I answer

“I didn’t even say anything”

“You don’t have to you couldn’t just say good morning to me nicely” I say

I don’t even know why I’m getting mad

“I don’t know why you’re getting upset but I’m going to go back to sleep try not to wake me up”

“I’m hungry!” I say

“You know where the kitchen is Bella now stop annoying me”

“So much for caring about your baby” I said

“Really! You’re going to use the baby against me?”

“Just let me be” I open the curtains again

“Really?”

“Its morning wake up already” I pull the blanket off him

“You should thank the spirits that you’re carrying my baby or you and I were going to have some serious problems”

“Whatever!”

I head to the bathroom I could use a shower but I don’t have any of my toiletries the only things I see here are ‘for men’ I guess I’ll have to go around smelling like Michael I’d definitely love to go around smelling like him. I take a quick shower the moment I get out of the shower I feel the urge to vomit and rush to the toilet. Morning sickness!

“Are you ok” Eric asks standing by the bathroom

“Just leave me alone okay!”

“But you’re vomiting” he answers

Don’t tell me he’s never seen a pregnant lady before.

“It happens in the early days of pregnancy now can you please let me be”

“But the baby is fine right?” he asks

“Your baby is the one making me vomit like this”

“I’m sorry!” he kneels down next to me and rubs my back

God his touch! It's sending chills all over my body.

"I'm fine Eric!" I push him off me

"Go and get dressed and I'll take you to the doctor"

I forgot I have a towel wrapped around my body.

"It's normal for pregnant women okay I'll be fine" I answer

"Get dressed then I'll ask someone to make you something to eat" he helps me up

"I don't have anything to wear"

"Just find anything in the closet and I'll get you something to eat" he answers

I guess his baby is the only thing he cares about. I get into the closet there are some dresses I'm sure they belong to one of his skinny exes because it doesn't even fit properly. He gets out of the bathroom towel wrapped around his waist.

"What!" he asks

"I said I'm hungry Michael!"

"Isabella Jacobs!" he sighs

"Don't Isabella Jacobs me I'm hungry"

He moves closer looks at me in the eyes

"Are you horny or something" he asks

“You’re sick!”

“I can help you if you want” he laughs

“Are you crazy? I’m telling you that I’m hungry and you’re here talking rubbish” I yell

“Stop yelling!”

“Don’t tell me to stop yelling when you’re disrespecting me like this” I shout

“Can you two keep it down

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looks at me in the eyes

“Are you horny or something” he asks

“You’re sick!”

“I can help you if you want” he laughs

“Are you crazy? I’m telling you that I’m hungry and you’re here talking rubbish” I yell

“Stop yelling!”

“Don’t tell me to stop yelling when you’re disrespecting me like this” I shout

“Can you two keep it down I can hear you all the way from my room” Jordan says as soon as he walks into the room he doesn’t even knock we could be naked.

“See Bella! You’ve woken up the whole house” - Eric

“Don’t speak to her like that you know how pregnant woman are” Jordan says

“She just started lashing me” Eric answers

“She’s pregnant what do you expect” - Jordan

Hello! I’m right here.

“You two know I can hear and see you right” I say

“Don’t mind him Bella what do you need I’m at your service” Jordan says

“I’m hungry!”

“Ok let’s go get you something to eat (Then he turns to Eric) Do us a favor and put on some clothes” –Jordan

He takes my hand and leads me out of the room.

“You’re going to have to bear with him he doesn’t know much about pregnant woman”-Jordan

“He should have thought about that before...” I pause realizing I almost spilled the beans “He should have thought about that before getting me pregnant”

“So what do you want to eat” he asks

“Anything!”

“Okay then let’s go get you anything in the kitchen” he answers.

I'm loving the attention everyone loves me or they just happy that I'm carrying a Michaels. A month goes by and I'm still having the morning sickness when does it end anyway? We are at the Michaels mansion again Eric's mother insisted we sleep over these people have family gathering every after 2 weeks. I'm tired of everyone asking about the baby.

It's a Sunday morning and I'm sitting outside getting some air after I vomited all my breakfast. I swear if this goes on I'm going to be skinny as hell by the time I give birth.

"If it's not the new shining toy that everyone loves"

“Hie Lyn!” I answer

Doesn't she have a job or something to keep her busy?
She was also at the dinner last night.

“I brought you juice” she says

“Why?”

“More like a peace offering” she answers

“Oh!”

“I didn't poison you ok” she takes a sip well I can't trust
her that much.

“Peace offering for what?”

I take the glass from her

“I think we started on a wrong foot and I can tell you mean a lot to Eric so I’d like us to be friends” she smiles

I don’t want to be her friend but don’t want to sound rude either.

“Okay!”

“How’s the pregnancy?” she asks

“Great!” I fake smile and stand up I’m not about to sit and listen to her. Gulp down the juice and hand her the glass

“I’m a little tired so I’m going to go and rest”

“Sure you can go” she answers

Why does she suddenly want to be my friend? Just as I was about to go back into the house Eric walks out.

“Let’s get going!” he says

“Hie Eric”- Lyn

“Hie!” Eric answers I’ve noticed he doesn’t keep eye contact with her. Maybe he still feels something for her. We drive back home Michael leaves for God knows what he takes Nick with him which is odd because Nick always watches over me. Everything is all fine. I’m talking to Lorain on the phone

Me: I have a confession

Lorain: Yes!

Me: I think I'm falling for Michael!

Lorain: No way! You like him?

Me: I don't know if it's the baby but I like him

Lorain: Does he know?

Me: Of course not! It's not like I'm going to walk up to him and tell him that I like him

Lorain: You should who knows you might go from Surrogate to Wife

Me: Hahaha very funny

Lorain: Are you in the bathroom?

Me: No why?

Lorain: You sound like you're in the bathroom the way your voice is so boxed

Me: I am in the bathroom this is the 5 time in an hour is that normal?

Lorain: Sometimes!

Me: No!

Lorain: What?

Me: I'm bleeding

Lorain: What? That's not good Bella

I feel a sharp pain and drop the phone on the floor.
Please don't tell me it's what I think it is?

To be continued.....

He's mad at me Eric is mad at me. He hasn't talked to me since we left the hospital. The doctor said I tried to terminate the baby and that is not true at all. Michael and I might not be the best of friends but I'd never try to harm his child. I'd never harm any child. We get home and he's fuming.

"Sit!" Eric orders

"Michael!"

"Shut up!" he yells Eric doesn't yell he must be really angry.

"Why Bella" he asks

"I swear I didn't...."

He interrupts me he won't give me the chance to talk
he's mad at me.

"We both know you never wanted to do this in the first
place" he says I'm sitting on the couch and he's pacing up
and down. I almost lost the precious Michaels cargo
today and Mr here isn't happy at all. I don't know what
happened but I did not take any medicine or anything
that might have been harmful to the baby.

"At first I didn't want to but things changed when I
signed the contract Michael I really want to carry your
child"

"Then why did you try to terminate it" he yells

"I didn't!"

“Shut up okay don’t say anything just shut up before I say anything I’ll regret”-Eric

“I swear I didn’t try to terminate the baby”

“I regret asking you to do this in the first place maybe I should have choose someone else. If you didn’t want to then why sign the contract?” he says

“I’m sorry!”

“No Bella this is my child and you crossed the line you know what....”

Nick stops him before he could continue.

“That’s enough Eric” Nick says “You heard what the doctor said she has to get some rest”

“Lock her in her room don’t let her out until I say so” Eric walks out

Lock me up? What am I a prisoner?

“I did not try to terminate the pregnancy” I say to Nick

“I know! Maybe it’s something you might have taken unknowingly”

“I didn’t take anything I swear” I answer

“Let’s get you to your room you need to get some rest”

They really locked me in my room like I’m some prisoner I don’t even get the chance to even go downstairs I get food in my room I haven’t seen Nick or Michael since the day I almost lost the baby and that was 2 weeks ago

which means I'm now 2 months pregnant. They also took my phone I'm going crazy in my room because the only thing I do is sleep eat and watch TV.

I'm lying on the bed facing the ceiling just 7 more months and I'll be back home with my family. The door opens and I check the wall clock its 1pm which mean it's time for my lunch.

"I'm not hungry!" I say without even checking who it is

"Hey!"

Its Nick haven't seen him in two weeks. He has a tray of food in his hands.

"I'm not hungry!"

"You have to eat something they say you didn't eat anything since morning" Nick says

"I'm not hungry!"

"You have to eat Bella if not for you then do it for the baby" he answers

"Stop acting like you care you and your boss have me locked up here like a prisoner"

"He was just angry I'll talk to him ok" he says

"First you force me into this now I'm being treated like a prisoner

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you and your boss have me locked up here like a prisoner”

“He was just angry I’ll talk to him ok” he says

“First you force me into this now I’m being treated like a prisoner even jail is better than this at least they get the chance to see the sun”

“Okay I can take you for a drive if you want to get some air” he says

“Is your boss okay with that?”

“He’s out of town it’s been a week” he answers

“Okay let me change!”

I change into a simple dress I could use some sun. Exactly what I needed.

“Here!” Nick says handing me my phone

“Thanks!”

“Your sister has been calling I texted her back and told her that you’re fine” he says

“Ok thanks can I make a phone call?”

“Sure!” he gives me some space

I quickly dial Lorain she answers right away.

Lorain: Bella! Are you okay? Why won't you answer the phone?

Me: I'm fine just been busy

Lorain: What happened last time is the baby ok?

Me: Yes the baby is fine although I almost lost it and Michael is mad at me

Lorain: What happened?

Me: I don't know! The doctor said I might have taken something that might have been harmful to the baby

Lorain: You sure you didn't take anything? Any medication?

Me: I swear I didn't

Lorain: Did anyone offer you anything?

"We should get going" – Nick

Me: Can I call you back?

Lorain: Okay take care of yourself

Me: Okay say hie to Mark for me

Lorain: Will do!

I hang up and get into the car.

“Michael is on his way back” Nick says

“Thank you! I really needed to get out of the house”

“Anytime” he smiles

“So where was Eric all this while?”

“It’s not my business” he answers

“Right! Let’s hope he’s less angry than last time”

“He’s fine now!” he answers

We drive to the house and to our surprise we find Lyn and Jordan there.

“There she is” Jordan hugs me

“Hie Bella!” Lyn says

“Hello!”

“Where have you been? Haven’t seen you around”
Jordan asks

“I was here at the house!”

“You’re losing weight is the baby ok heard you almost lost it?” - Lyn

“What? When?” - Jordan

“The baby is fine I am fine”

How does Lyn know I almost lost the baby?

“I’m glad you are fine and why didn’t you go with Eric. As a couple shouldn’t you travel together” Jordan asks

“I wasn’t feeling well so I stayed behind” I answer

“We should get going we just thought we’d pass by and say hi” - Lyn

I just don't get Jordan he's with Lyn who is Eric's ex girlfriend coming together to check on Eric's current girlfriend. And how did Lyn know that Eric is out of town and how did she know about the baby thing because even Jordan does know most importantly how did they know that Eric didn't take me with him. And why did I get sick the same day Lyn wanted to make peace she's the one who gave me that juice.

"You should go back to your room before Eric gets here because he'll kill me if he finds out I let you out" - Nick

"Okay!"

I give him back the phone then go back to my prison cell. Minutes after Nick walks into my room.

"He wants to talk to you" - Nick says

“Let’s hope he won’t yell like the last time” I say following Nick out haven’t seem Eric in two weeks. He’s sitting on the couch legs crossed with a glass of whiskey in his hands.

“Hie!” I sit down and Nick quickly leaves the room.

Eric doesn’t answer he throws some documents on the table. I pick them up and read them. He’s terminating the Surrogacy contract.

“It’s clear you wanted nothing to do with all this just sign the contract and abort the baby if you want then move on with your life. Don’t worry I’ll still pay as promised” he says

“What! You want to abort the baby?”

“Yes we go our separate ways I don’t like forcing things. I can get another surrogate you just have to sign the contract then the deal is off” he answers

Don't like forcing things? They literally dragged me kicking and screaming.

"Michael we are talking about a 2 month old baby we can't just abort it"

"That's not your decision" he says

"Well I'm carrying it and I'm not aborting it"

"It's better if you sign the contract willingly or you're going to wake up back in South Africa not pregnant" he says

I know he's not blabbing he's capable of doing it. This is a baby we are talking about is he that heartless?

To be continued.....

14

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

Chapter 14

Eric is crazy this is a baby we are talking about and I can't just abort it as if it's nothing. He has no right to tell me about the contract he forced me into this I was doing just fine before I meet him. My life was great before he came with his rich self and ruined things for me. And now he wants me to kill an innocent soul. There's no way I am agreeing to this madness.

"Sign the papers Bella" Eric orders

“Read my lips I am not aborting this baby and I am not signing this bullshit”

I tear the papers up.

“Don’t test me Isabella” he warns

“Oh what? You’re going to send one of your bodyguards to drug me again? I dare you Eric”

“Is that a threat” he asks

“It’s a promise!”

“First of all the baby isn’t yours and second I can do what I want and not even you or anyone can stop me” he answers

“If anything happens to this baby Eric I will ruin you and don’t forget I’m a journalist”

“Was Bella! Everyone thinks you’re crazy and trust me no one will believe you” he says

“Well there’s only one way to find out plus your family already knows me and you might ruin my life but you have more to lose”

“What do you want from me Bella you want me to beg you to stay? You tried to terminate the baby for Christ’s sake” he says

“I did not try to do anything maybe you should ask your ex because she’s the one who gave me juice and the very same day I almost had a miscarriage”

“Lyn? No Lyn wouldn’t do such a thing and why would he try to harm the baby” he asks

Isn’t it obvious that she still loves him?

“Well love makes people do the stupidest things”

For example here I am defending a child that’s not even mine. I think I’m getting attached. He sighs and looks at me for a second. I’m sure he regrets bringing me here well that’s what he gets for forcing me into all this.

“So you want to continue with the pregnancy” Eric asks

Can’t believe I’m saying this.

“Yes!”

“Why” he asks

“This is an innocent child after all and I can’t just abort it”

“You know the baby isn’t yours right and let’s hope you are not getting attached because it’ll be hard to let go”
he says

Too late I’m already attached!

“I know Michael you don’t have to remind me ok. I know I’m just the surrogate”

“Good!” he gulps down all his whiskey

“I am sorry for almost losing your baby and I promise it’ll never happen again”

He looks at me again guess he wasn't expecting me to apologize.

"Bella I need you to understand that this baby means a lot to me ok" he says

"I got it and I promise no more incidents"

"Let's hope so!" he answers "Do you need to see the doctor or anything?"

"No I'm fine but unless you want to check on the baby then we can go"

"We'll go some other time then" he answers

"I'll be in my room!" I stand up

"Wait!" he calls

“Yes!”

“One of my friends is having a party tonight and since you haven’t been out of the house in weeks you can come with me if you want” he says

“If you want me to come with you then ok”

“I’m asking you if you want to go I’m giving you a choice. You can say no if you want don’t be afraid” he says

“And do you want to go with me you also have a choice”

“You know what just get ready at 6pm. If you need anything talk to Nick” he walks out

If I’m going out with a billionaire then I should also look like one. After all I have to play my fake girlfriend role.

Nick drives me to mall. I need a dress not too long not too short. Don't want to piss Mr Eric off. I pick up a maroon dress long sleeved

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long sleeved leaving my back exposed but in a nice way. I added a pair of black LV heels.

"Let's go!" I say to Nick

"Is that all?"

“I still have to get my nails and hair done but we’ll do that at home I’ll call Cassidy”

Cassidy is the personal hairstylist Eric hired for me. That was before I almost lost his baby.

“Someone’s in a good mood today” he says

“What makes you say that?”

“You’ve never been happy about going out with Eric” he answers

“Well he’s is no longer mad at me so yeah it’s something to be happy about”

“Quick question Eric gave you the chance to leave and you chose to stay. Why” he asks

“He wanted me to abort the baby and were you listening to our conversations”

“I was and I think you didn’t just stay for the baby” he answers

“You know I like you better when you were quiet”

“Don’t act as if you don’t enjoy my company” he laughs

I do enjoy his company at least I have someone to talk to since Eric doesn’t talk to me at all. We drive back home Nick also gave me my phone back so I call Cassidy to come and help with my hair.

“Hope I’m not late” Cassidy say as I open the door for her

“You’re actually early”

“So what do you need Mrs Michaels” she asks

“It’s actually Miss Jacobs!”

“Eric hasn’t put a ring on it yet” she asks

A ring?

“Things aren’t that serious”

“But you live together? I’m sorry for asking about your personal lives” she says

“It’s ok we are taking things slow”

“Well you must really mean a lot to him because he doesn’t usually use the same house as his women” she says

How does she know? And of course I’m different from the others I am carrying his baby and like he said the

baby means a lot to him even though I don't understand why the baby is such a big deal to him. I get my hair done and Cassidy also helped me dress up even though she made me change my dress according to her that's not how Eric's girlfriend should dress so she picked out another dress for me.

Looking at myself in the mirror I can't even recognize myself I look like a billion bucks. I take out my phone take a picture and post it on Facebook. If my family sees this picture they are definitely going to want to come to Spain. I take my bag and head downstairs Eric is already waiting for me but he's on the phone speaking in Spanish. I tap him on the shoulder and he turns.

He doesn't say anything he just stars at me. He even stops talking on the phone.

"Larry can I call you back" he hangs up and just stares at me.

“We can go now” I say he doesn’t answer he’s just staring. Maybe it’s the dress.

“Is the dress too much? I sorry Cassidy made me wear it. Should I change it” I ask

“Well.....”

“Michael!” I say

“What did you say?”

“Should I changes the dress” I ask

“Mmmmm”

“Are we going or what” I asks

“Yes! Let’s go!”

What is his problem?

We reach this so called party and Lyn is also here. Does this mean Lyn and Eric have the same friends or she’s a psycho stalker ex-girlfriend? This time Jordan isn’t here.

“Hie” some guy greets me then fist bumps with Eric

“Hello!” I answer

“I’m Larry and you are?”

“Isabella” I answer

“Are you single Isabella?”

Yes but currently I’m carrying a billionaires child

“As you can see she’s standing next to me” Eric answers

“I was just trying my luck ok and I see you love them dark and lovey” Larry says “I’m Eric’s best friend by the way” he takes my hand and kisses it

“Will you grow up? Who still uses the term best friend”- Eric

Well I do!

“Come Bella let me show you around” he takes my hand

I look at Eric first well I need his approval first

“It’s ok! You’re in safe hands” Eric answers

This Larry person seems to be all over the place because he just took me from Eric and then disappeared on me.

“Looking good! You sure know how to clean up good” -
Lyn

“Hi Lynette!”

“How are you” she asks

“I almost lost the baby because of you thank you”

“Excuse me” she says

“So you think it’s a coincidence that you gave me juice and then I almost lost the baby”

“Are you accusing me of poisoning you” she asks

“Your words not mine!”

“Look I have nothing against you Bella trust me if I really poisoned you you’d be dead” she answered

“Like you said you have nothing against me but this baby is what’s standing between you and Eric. You might not want to admit it but we both know it’s true”

“There you are you disappeared on” Larry says

He’s the one who disappeared on me.

“I’ve found your girl Eric” he calls

“She’s not my girl” Eric answers

Really he's going to deny me in front of his ex-girlfriend?

"She's not" Lyn asks

"She's not my girl she's my woman"- Eric

Damn!

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

Chapter 15

He just referred to me as his woman is this to make Lyn back off or I'm overthinking things. The look on Lyn's face when he said this is my woman it's like one moment she was happy that Eric just denied me in front of his best friends and his ex-girlfriend. Then she went from happy face to sour face.

"She's your woman" Larry asks

"Yes! And she's carrying my child!" Eric answers

"What? And your only telling me now" - Larry

"Even if I told you it's not like you were going to believe me"

"I wasn't! Congratulations Bella!" Larry pulls me in for a hug. This guy is just too much.

“Thank you!”

“Lyn a word” Eric asks

“You sure your woman is ok with it” Lyn rolls her eyes
Eric doesn’t answer he just pulls her by her arm. Let’s
hope it’s not about the baby because from the looks of it
Eric would kill for his baby. My phone rings and I rush to
the balcony there’s less noise there.

(I answer)

Me: Hello!

Voice: Hey Bella!

Me: Terence! How did you get my number?

Him: Your sister gave it to me and I saw you on Facebook

Me: What do you want?

Him: Bella you just left what about us?

Me: There's no us ok where were you when I needed you?

Him: So things are over just like that?

Me: Yes!

Him: Is there someone else now?

Me: Please don't do this

Him: Bella I love you and I know you love me too

Me: I don't! Not anymore

Him: When are you coming back? We need to talk this can't just end.

Me: There's no talking I'm pregnant!

Him: You're already pregnant for another man Bella?

Me: I'm sorry but it is what it is.

Him: Wow! And to think I thought we were in love

He hangs up! I might be falling for Eric but Terence is my boyfriend or should I say was. There's no getting back together after this. He might had not been there when I needed a place to stay but I really loved him. Eric has just ruined my life and for what? For money!

“Are you really pregnant or Eric was just trying to make Lyn feel bad” Larry asks he’s also standing by the balcony smocking. Let’s hope he wasn’t listening to my conversation with Terence.

“How long have you been standing there?”

“Long enough! How far are you” he asks

“I’m 2 months pregnant”

“How come Eric never told me about you” he asks

“We wanted to keep it a secret well until I was showing”

“Something is offish here” he says

“Excuse me!”

“You just come from nowhere and suddenly you’re Eric’s woman and you’re carrying his child. Are you two really in love” he asks

“We are very much in love I wouldn’t be carrying his child if we weren’t”

“Okay then let’s get you something to drink something that does not have any alcohol” he says

“Why does it sound like you’re doubting me?”

“I am! If you really are together then why did you let him leave with Lyn everyone knows that Eric has a weak spot for Lyn” he asks

“Well they put their past behind them and they are now friends”

“Trust me I’ve known Eric my whole life and if he was really in love he’d have told me” he says

“Maybe he was just waiting for the right time”

“Let’s hope so and let’s hope you won’t break his heart like Lyn” he answers

Can everyone stop talking about this Lyn girl?

“Let’s hope he doesn’t break mine”

“Where are you from” he asks

“South Africa!”

“Is that where you met Eric” he asks

What's with the 21 questions?

"Yes we met at an Art gallery"

He laughs!

"Eric hates art I still don't believe you and all this sounds fake" he answers

"Do I have to kiss him in front of everyone to show that we are really in love?"

"Yes!" he answers

"You're crazy!"

"There he is" he says

"And if I kiss him? What's in it for me?"

“If you kiss him I’m going to buy you a Bugatti” he answers

A Bugatti for just a kiss?

“You’re blabbing”

“I’m not!”

“Fine!” I slowly walk upto Eric

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I turn and look at Larry and he's smiling.

"What!" Eric asks

"Can you do me a favor?"

"Okay" he answers

"Larry thinks this is fake"

"But it is fake" he answers

"We made a bet and he said I should prove to him that this is not fake"

"I'm not getting involved" he answers

"I want you to kiss me"

“You’re kidding right? Don’t tell me the baby wants me to kiss you?” he laughs

“It’s just a kiss no strings attached plus you’re the one who started with this faking thing. Plus it’s a meaningless kiss”

“Are you scared you might fall for me” he laughs

“Are you going to kiss me or what?”

“Okay!” he answers

“Why are you smiling?”

“Well it’s not everyday someone walks upto you and asks you to kiss them” he chuckles

My heart is racing my feeling for Michael are stronger that I imagined he places his hands behind my back and pulls me toward him. Uses his hand to pull my chin up.

“Just a kiss” he whispers he moves his face towards mine.

“Stop!”

“What” he asked

“Nothing” I just walk away well Larry wasn’t there anymore.

I’m falling for Eric and kissing his will only make things worse. This being a surrogate thing is worse than I thought I’m not supposed to catch feelings that’s what the contract says. I just lost the man that I love and now

I'm about to kiss a man who'd never have looked at me if he ran into me in the streets.

"Are you ok" Eric asks I'm back at the balcony

"I'm fine!"

"Hey! You can talk to me" he says

"My boyfriend broke up with"

"I'm sorry!" he says

That's the first!

"My life has been ruined Eric I just lost the only man that ever loved me. My friends think I'm crazy and I'm pregnant"

“I know I ruined your like and I’m sorry but I promise I’ll fix everything” he says

“How Eric? I’m just tired of all this okay”

I’m getting emotional. My feeling for him are too strong and it hurts I can’t even tell him.

“It is okay!” he pulls me to his arms “I’ll fix everything I promise”

He takes off his jacket and places it on my shoulders.

“Let’s go get you some food” he takes my hand we heard to some eatery. It’s late so there are less people.

“Feel better” he asks

“Yes” I nod

“You asked me why I need a baby well I’m sick”

“What do you mean” I ask

“I have Liver Cirrhosis”

“Okay! But it’s curable right?”

“Yes but I’m failing to find a donor” he answers

“But you’re rich I’m sure you’ll find one”

“Money doesn’t not buy everything Bella” he answers

“You will find a donor!”

“It’s been a year now and I’m failing to find a person with the same blood type as mine” he answers

“Then what do you need a child for?”

“I have worked so hard Bella I have to leave all this for someone” he answers

“You’re dying!”

“Not right away but I have a few months”

To continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

Chapter 16

Eric and I are still at the eatery. Now I understand why he wanted a child so bad but now I'm the one in an awkward position because I feel sorry for him I know we don't get along but I don't want him to die. I don't want anyone to die. Which also explain why Nick said he's going through something.

"So you're dying" I ask

"Bella it's not like I'm going to wake up dead tomorrow!"
he answers

"I know but you said you want the baby to inherit your stuff which means your condition is serious right?"

“Please don’t feel sorry for me that’s the last thing I need right now” Eric answers

I actually do I can’t help it.

“I think you make a wrong decision by wanting a baby” I say

“Why?”

“The baby is going to grow up without a mother and father” I answer

After all I am just the surrogate and our contract is up for the next 8 months then we go our separate ways.

“Don’t worry about that I’ll handle everything”

How what if he dies sooner?

“Handle things how” I ask

“The baby has relatives that love him and a billion euros in his/her account so don’t worry”

“But still a baby needs a parent’s love” I answer

He goes quiet guess he didn’t think of it. Now I’m carrying the child of a dying billionaire.

“Do your parents know about the condition” I ask

“No and I’d like to keep it that way”

“But you have to tell them who knows maybe they might help find a donor” I say

“I don’t want to bother them it’s enough that my father almost died of cancer. I just want to die in people without bothering anyone”

Rich people!

“But they are going to be more hurt when they find out later on” I ask

“My parent are going to be fine sweet Bella”

“I’m going to help you find a donor I promise” I say

“This is why I choose you to be my surrogate because I want my baby to be smart and have a big heart like his mother” he smiles

“I’m not smart”

“Are you kidding me? You’re the best journalist in your country you have a master’s degree” he chuckles

“Sometimes I forget you studied me like a book”

His words not mine

“Yes Miss Bella Jacobs” he chuckles

“Why me? Of the billions people in the world you chose me. Why?”

“I don’t know but there’s just something about you” he answers

“That’s it? Something about me”

“Did you expect more” he asks

“No but that is not reason enough. There has to be a reason why you chose me. Because there’s no way you just saw me and said I want that girl to be my surrogate”

“That’s exactly what happened” he answers

“For real?”

“Let’s get you home it’s getting late” he stands up we head to the car and drive back home. We get home at about 10pm. I sit on the couch and remove the heels sometimes I ask myself my we women wear these things I prefer flats and sneakers. I lay back on the couch I don’t know why Eric was complaining rich people couches are comfortable as hell.

“Aren’t you sleepy” Eric asks

“Not really!”

“I’ll be on the kitchen I could use a drink” he says

“I’ll go get it”

I heard to the kitchen and come back with two glasses of juice and hand him one.

“I don’t want juice Bella” he answers

“I’m not asking you I’m ordering you to take it”

“Ordering me!” he chuckles and takes the glass

Well he does it to me.

“From now on no more alcohol you’re already sick because of it and now you want to finish yourself”

“Don’t worry I won’t die before giving you your money”
he laughs

“I’m not taking any chances so I have to make sure you don’t die”

“You’re cute” he touches my chin

“I’m going to go to bed!”

“Does the baby want me to cuddle you” he asks

“Hahaha not funny see you tomorrow” I head up the stairs.

“Bella!”

“Yes!” I answer

“You looked beautiful today”

“Thank you!” I continue walking

This is the first time Eric and I have talked without fighting or without him being rude at me. I still can't get over the fact that he's sick which also means I should shove whatever feeling I have for him where the sun does not shine. Because falling in love is the last think a dying person wants to do.

The following morning I head downstairs for breakfast as usual Michael is already there looking good in his royal blue suit he's always on point. He looks too good for a person who has a deadly disease.

"Good morning!" I sit on the chair next to him he doesn't answer

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don't tell me he's back to his arrogant and rude.

“Michael!”

“What? What do you want” he asks

I just don't get him one moment we are getting along the next he doesn't want to talk or maybe his condition is rushing to his head. Let me just let him be. He leaves for work and I'm left with Nick.

“Do you want to join me” I ask Nick

“Am I allowed to say no?”

“No is not an option” I chuckle

“I'm going to miss all this when you leave we are starting to enjoy your company”

“Who knows I might be rich enough to hire you and take you back to Africa with me” we laugh. Nick and I have always been close since day 1.

Another month goes by and I’m now showing but not that much. I’m also getting closer and closer to the Michaels family I know I’m not supposed to get attached by I am. They are so nice to me they treat me like family I thinks its going to be hard to let go. A week ago when I went for my check up the while family insisted on coming with us and we have a baby girl coming up.

It is weekend and Eric isn’t at work when I go outside I find him sitting by the pool lost in his thoughts. He doesn’t even see me sitting next to him. Sometimes when I see him quiet like this I get worried is he thinking about his sickness? Is he scared that he can die anytime soon?

“Eric!” I snap my fingers in his face

“What happened to calling me Michael?”

“Well I did but you were lost in your head to hear me” I say

“You were saying?”

“Nothing I just greeted you are you ok” I ask

“Bella you don’t have to feel sorry for me I know that I’m dying and I don’t need to be reminded of it that’s why I didn’t tell my parent about this”

“I know but I can tell something is bothering you something that is not the sickness” I say

“Even if I told you you wouldn’t understand”

“Try me! Who knows I might help” I answer

“Its work related really I can handle it”

“You know you can talk to me?” I say

He exhales heavily!

“There’s a deal I’ve been wanting to sign like my whole life but now that I finally got it. The problem it just doesn’t feel right I don’t think it’s a really good deal anymore”

“If you don’t feel good about it then don’t take the deal”
I answer

“Just like that?”

“Yes!” I reply

“But it’s something I’ve always wanted my whole life”

“But is it something that you need. Just like I want a Bugatti but I don’t need it” I answer

“I like the way you think my baby is going to be one smart-ass child like her pretty mother” he rubs my chin with his hands

Since when am I the mother? I don’t know why he loves touching my chin only if he knew what it does to me.

“Give me your hand”

“Why” he asks

I take his hand and place it on my stomach

“Feel that?”

“She’s kicking!” he smiles

“Yup!”

“So does it hurt when she kicks” he asks

“No!”

“Thanks for doing this for me Bella no amount of money can ever pay for what you doing for me” he says

“What are the doctors saying?”

“I have 18 months to live” he sighs

He says it as if it's his bank balance.

“Hey don't feel sad 18 months is a lot of time to see your baby and find a donor”

“Even after I ruined your life you still have the heart to be nice to me” he say

“Well you're going to die soon might as well be nice now”

We laugh

“I'm glad I chose you our baby is going to be pretty and smart” he tucks a string of hair behind my ear

Our baby?

“And filthy rich” I chuckle

“She’s going to have your beautiful eyes” he tucks the hair behind the other ear places his hand on the back of my neck pulls me towards him and gentles kisses my lips. Just one kiss made me want to lose my mind. He looks at me and smiles.

“What” I ask

“I’m just surprised you letting me kiss you”

“And why are you kissing me” I ask

“I don’t know!”

“I don’t know either” I chuckle

We kiss again and again and again

To be continued....

17

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

Chapter 17

What just happened? Am I dreaming or what? Did the Eric Michaels just kiss me? We are still at the pool and we can't get enough of each other. Wait! Does this mean he also has feelings for me? The feeling is out of this world our tongue dancing to the same tune his hands on body are is enough to make me lose my mind.

He looks at me and smiles bites his lower lip. How I wish I could read minds right now I want to know what he's thinking. I want to know if his heart is beating as fast as mine. I want to know is he wants more than just kissing because I do.

"Isabella Jacobs" he smiles

"Eric Michaels" I blush

"You're a great kisser" he rubs my lips with his hands

"You're not so bad yourself!"

“Look Bella I’m not good with words” he stands up and helps me up also.

“I’m not....”

“I’m not good with words but I can show you how much I love you” he says

“You love me?”

He kisses my lips lifts me up and we head inside the house.

“I can show you better than I can tell you” he smiles.
What’s on his mind?

“Why are you smiling?”

“I’m about to take you to heaven” he says heading up the stairs. He’s not even watching where he’s going its like

knows the house with his eyes closed. We are kissing all the way my legs snaked around his waist my arms on his neck his hands running around my back it's like he's touching every grit in me.

“Relax I won't drop you” he chuckles

“Okay”

“I'm not that sick” he laughs

“You just passed your room”

“Who said we are going to my room” he smirks

Okay! I guess I'm going to have to trust him on this one. We get to the last room in the corridor. Why am I suddenly nervous? He puts me down and locks the door I look around. What is this room? White room white bed sheets everything is white. There's a huge picture of me in the wall there's a bed in the middle of the room. He hugs me from behind I'm in a bikini and he's in his shorts so there's not much clothes to take off. We start kissing he stops and turns me around to face my portrait that's on the wall. I'll ask about that later.

"Hey!" he whispers in my ear sending tingles to my goddess.

"Hey!"

"You good!" whispering in my ear isn't doing me any justice his places his warm hands on my waist touches my belly caressing it with his fingers. "She's going to have

to forgive me for what about to do to her mother right now” he bites my ear

“I’m sure she doesn’t mind” I breathe

He grabs my hair with his hand and lightly pulls my head back and tied my hair up. Okay that’s the first.

“We don’t want your hair disturbing us!” he says

“Okay!”

He runs his fingers on my shoulders going down my arm moves to my belly circling my belly button slides his hands into my bikini.

Oh my word!

“Do you need a safe word?” he murmurs

“No!” I let out a light moan

“Are you sure?”

God can we get on with it already?

“Yes! I’m very sure” I vigorously nod my head. He chuckles.

“Okay then Miss Jacobs” he bites my neck. His hands are doing wonders in my bikini he stops turns me around to face him. Plants a kiss on my lips lift me up and gentle places me on the bed. Kissing and sucking every inch in my body

Sponsored

with in a second the thousand euro bikini was on the floor and had me screaming on top of my lungs I swear the whole house could hear me. He was flipping me over like a piece of steak on a braai stand. Now this is what I call good sex. I had to stop him I just couldn't anymore. Maybe I did need a safe word after all.

The next thing I wake up to an empty bed. Don't tell me he made love to me and then just left? The door opens and I was hopping Michael could walk in but instead it's Nick with a tray of food.

"Hey!" Nick says

“Hey!” I pull up the bed sheets covering myself

“I brought you dinner”

“It’s dinner” I ask

“Yes!” then he clears his throat “Somebody got laid” he chuckles

“Shut up!”

“Fine” he smiles

“Why are you smiling” I ask

“Nothing!”

“Uhm where’s Michael” I ask

“He went out!”

“Oh! Okay” that’s disappointing usually you wake up in their arms

“Don’t feel sad he’s not the cuddling type”

“Don’t tell me you’ve also slept with him?” I say

“Look I know Michael and usually I look after his woman and you’re not the first to complain. But he does love you he doesn’t just sleep with anyone without developing feelings”

“How do you know we slept together” I ask

“You’re in the play room and trust me we could hear you all the way from downstairs”

“Don’t tell me this is where he sleeps with all his girls” I ask

“This room has never been used”

“Well I didn’t expect him to be gone when I wake up” I say

“He’s like that just get used to him. Eat up” he walks out.

Then this sucks I want a man who’s going to cuddle with me and tell me that he loves me. I eat up then take a shower. While in the shower I feel hands snaking around my body.

“You’re awake!” Eric says

“You just left me”

“I had to take care of something” he closes the tap

“Something like what?”

“Personal stuff!” he grabs my hair. Does Michael want to kill me with sex or what?

“What kind of personal stuff?”

“It’s better if you don’t know” he groans

He tightens his grip on my hair I guess that means he’s close.

We get out of the shower and put on the gowns. We are sleeping in the same room today. I noticed he doesn't talk much we were just making love the whole night. Again in the morning I wake up to an empty bed. I take a shower and head downstairs he's already having breakfast.

"Hey!" I sit next to him

"Hey!" he's focused on the newspaper

"So! What are we now?"

"What do you mean" he asks

"We slept together!"

"I don't know" he answers

You gotta be kidding me?

“What do you mean you don’t know?”

“I mean I don’t know” he says

“Then why did you sleep with me?”

“Because we both wanted to” he answers

“You’re joking right”

Maybe Lyn and Lizzy were right he’s impossible to love. I stand up.

“Where are you doing” he asks

I don't answer I just walk out and ask Nick to drive me. We drove to some eatery well I didn't have breakfast. I just don't get Eric! One moment he's making love to me the next he doesn't know why. After eating Nick drives us back home I find Eric sitting by the couch. Well since we are nothing I just pass him. He pulls me back holds me in his arms.

"I know I'm not good at this and I'm sorry. Like I said before I am not good at expressing myself" he says

"Stop Michael okay don't play with my emotions if you know that you don't want me okay where I come from you sleep with someone because you love them not just to satisfy your sexual desires"

“I wasn’t satisfying my sexual desires I really wanted to show you how much I love you” he answers

“You left me in bed alone! I woke up naked to an empty bed”

“I’m not the cuddling type” he says

“Well I am”

“Okay I’ll work on that and I’m really sorry for leaving alone in bed” he smiles

“It’s okay!”

Like I can stay mad at him

“Make up sex?” he winks

Not again!

The next think I’m under him. Even the baby is happy she’s kicking at her father’s touch.

“I never thought I’d fall in love after Lyn” he says

“Why did you two break up?”

“She broke up with me she said it’s hard loving someone like me and that she wanted more than what I was giving. I just don’t it I gave her the world and still she wanted more” he answers

“A relationship requires more than just sex and spoiling someone Eric”

“Like what?” he asks

“The little things matter the kisses the hug and cuddling like we are doing right now. You can’t just sleep with someone then leave the room”

“Leaving doesn’t mean I don’t love you’ he says

“But it look like it”

“Well I wouldn’t sleep with you if I didn’t like you” he says

“And how do I know you love me if you don’t tell me”

“I love you! There I said it” he kisses my forehead

“And why do you love me?”

“I don’t know but the moment I laid eyes on you I just loved you” he says

“And when was that?”

“April 27th when you were covering story about the Vice President of your country” he said

“That was 2 years ago?”

“Yes I had just broken up with Lyn and you just took my heart. I had to search for you you asked me why I chose you to be my surrogate right? I choose you because you stole my heart” he says

“Then why have you been so harsh to me?”

“Love makes up do the stupidest thing and I’m dying
Bella I don’t want to hurt you by leaving you” he answers

“You’re not dying Michael we are going to find a donor
I’m going to find you a donor”

“This is what I was afraid of this is why I wanted to keep
my distance because it’ll be hard to let go” he says

“You’re not dying ok and we have a baby coming so you
can’t die”

“Promise to take care of her if anything happens to me
ok” he asks

“Nothing is going to happen to you. Never talk like that” I
say

“Yes ma’am”

“Now relax let me take you to heaven this time” I get on top of him

“I got warn you though I don’t like being controlled especially by a woman” he smiles

“Just try not to die ok!”

“I’ll try” he laughs

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

Chapter 18

Things are getting serious between me and Eric even though we still haven't found a donor yet and I'm getting worried what if we never find one? Does this mean he's really going to die and leave me? It scares me I love him too much even though he has a hard time showing his feeling but I still love him.

I'm now 4 months pregnant and used to waking up to an empty bed he's not the cuddling type like Nick said. I get out of bed and put on his Eric's shirt that is on the floor next to the bed head to the bathroom. Brush my teeth then go downstairs for breakfast.

"Hey!" I kiss Eric on the cheek

"Hie!"

“You leaving for work” I ask

“Yeah!”

“I have to go for my check up today” I say

“Nick will drive you”

“Aren’t you coming” I ask

“I have something I have to take care off”

“What could be more important than your baby” I ask

“Bella please! I wouldn’t miss it if it weren’t important”

“Eric if we are going to be together then we are going to have to communicate more because from the looks of it the only thing we do together is have sex” I say

“Here we go again”

“Really! Really Eric?”

“I have to get to work see you tonight don’t forget dinner at my parent’s” he stands up

He walks out. Loving him is hard how do you love someone who’s a closed book like Michael. To him having sex is the only way he can show that he loves someone. And I want more than that I want him to tell me he’s having a bad day I want us to do the little things together.

“Nick!” I call

“Yes!” he answers he’s always near by

“You know Michael better than anyone how do I make him happy?”

“Just do whatever he asks you to” he says

“Eric is hard to please he doesn’t talk much. What do I do to make him open up? What does he love?”

“Eric has it all so it’s hard to notice and but one thing for sure he loves you and if you’re happy then he’s happy”
Nick answers

“I want more than just spend his money and sleep with him” I say

It’s funny how openly I can talk to Nick.

“I’m afraid you’re going to have to ask him” he says

“I have a doctor’s appointment at 9”

“Get ready I’ll drive you” he says

How do I make him open up? There’s only one person who can help me with that and that is my sister Lorain. I quickly dial her.

Lorain: If it's not the billionaire's surrogate

Me: Hie to you too

Lorain: How are you? Haven't talked to you in a month

Me: Yeah a lot have happened this past month

Lorain: Details?

Me: I slept with him and we are a thing well sort of

Lorain: What? Is he good?

Me: Fifty shades good

Lorain: Oh my God I want to know everything

Me: Come on I don't even know where to start

Lorain: Then start from the beginning I don't have anything to do

Me: He takes me to heaven and back his touch his kisses he drives me crazy I don't even know how to explain the feeling

Not to mention I'm standing in front of the mirror in nothing but a towel wrapped around my body I should be getting dressed not playing around

Lorain: I want my own Eric

Me: Don't let Mark hear you say that

Lorain: So are things official now?

Me: I don't know!

Lorain: What do you mean you don't know?

"We are officially dating" Eric bits my ear

Sponsored

I thought he was at work. I quickly hang up the phone then turn to face him.

“Thought you were at work?”

“Had to come and take my woman to the doctor and why aren’t you dressed yet” he asks

“I was on the phone!”

“Did you mean what you said on the phone? That I drive you crazy” he asks

“You do!”

“I’m glad” he plants a kiss on my lips then shifts to my jaw line I’ve noticed he’s a very sexual person.

“Wait!”

He quickly lets go and give me the ‘what’ look.

“We are going to be late for the doctor’s appointment” I say

“The doctor can wait” he lifts me up

“What do you like?”

“I like you” he answers

“There has to be something else sports maybe?”

“I’m not a sports person” he throws me on the bed

“Music movies anything you have to like something Michael”

“I told you I like you” he removes the towel

I got myself an addict here.

“What makes you happy?”

“You make me happy” he answers

“What’s your favorite food” I let out a light moan as he starts to move. Well they say a way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.

“Don’t make me tape your mouth” he pins my hands above my head.

“Trust me I’d love that”

“Somebody is going wild” he chuckles

“You’re the one making me wild”

Later that day we went to the doctor's and everything is ok the baby is healthy I'm healthy. On our way home we pass by some restaurant since I'm always hungry.

"Have you been going to the doctor's" I ask randomly I noticed he doesn't talk about his health much.

"I'm fine ok! Don't worry about me" he perks my lips

"I want to go with you for your next appointment and I'm not taking no for any answer"

“I told you I don’t like being ordered around especially by a woman” he says

“Let me guess that makes you seem weak?”

“Exactly” he answers

“Well then I’m asking you nicely to please let me come with you to your next Doctor’s appointment”

“And I’m telling you that I’m fine woman” he answers

“I’m coming!”

“You’re not!” he answers

“Why don’t you want me to come with you?”

“Because there’s no need” he answer

“You have to let me in Eric I’m here for you. You don’t have to go through this alone”

“I have to go to work” he stands up and walks to the car. He didn’t even wait for me. I follow him to the car. He starts driving.

“Eric come on you can’t say we’re together yet you don’t open up to me. There has to be a difference between me and everybody else”

He stops the car. And gets out this man! Minutes after Nick get in and starts driving. Is he going to do that every time I ask him about his health?

“Do you want to talk about it” Nick asks

“I don’t get Eric”

“What did he say” he asks

“Nothing! He doesn’t talk and that’s the problem he doesn’t let me in”

“Look Bella! He has been looking for a donor for some time now and all hope is lost” he says

“There’s still time to look for one”

“Michael is rich Bella and he knows a lot of people if there was any hope of him getting a donor he’d have found one by now” he answers

“Only if he could let me help him”

“You’re getting attached Bella and that’s what he’s avoiding” he says

“Of course I’m getting attached if he didn’t want all this then why did he make a move on me? If he doesn’t want to see me hurting then why is he shutting me out?”

“You wouldn’t understand” he answers

“Then make me! What is he so afraid of? Or it’s just his ego that won’t let him”

“I’m not supposed to be telling you thing but he’s getting worse” he sighs

“Define worse?”

“Not that he’s dying tomorrow or the day after but the medication isn’t working Bella” he answers

“Why is he hiding something like this from me?”

“Because he loves you and doesn’t want to see you stressing because of him” he answers

“Turn the car around”

“Why” he asks

“Take me to Michaels”

“As in Eric’s parents” he asks

“Yes!”

“You should call Eric first” he says

“Eric won’t mind”

“I’m sorry Bella but I can’t do that without Eric’s permission” he says

“I’m not asking you Nick turn this car around”

“Wow!” he chuckles and turns the car around.

I know Eric is going to hate me for this but I have no choice his parents need to know. After having a little chat with Mrs Michaels I went back home. Found Eric sitting on the couch with a glass of whiskey in his hands.

“Eric you shouldn’t be drinking!” I say

“Didn’t I tell you to go straight home?”

I look at Nick first and he gives me the ‘I told you so’ look

“Can we talk upstairs” I say heading up the stairs he follows behind. We are in his bedroom or should I say our bedroom.

“I told you Bella I don’t like being disrespected” he says

“I didn’t disrespect you I just needed some air”

“You couldn’t just call and say so” he asks

“I was with Nick what’s the big deal?”

“I was worried that’s the big deal” he answers “You took off the bracelet”

“I forgot to put it on”

“I told you never to take it off in the first place and what were you doing at my parent’s” he asks

“You need all the help you can get Michael”

“Don’t tell me you told them” he says and I don’t answer

“Tell me you didn’t Bella because I will lose it” he yells

“They can help you Eric stop being stubborn”

“I do not need help!” he answers

“You do! I know the medication isn’t working”

“How do you know” he asks

“Nick told me” I whisper

“So you’re discussing me with Nick now?”

“We weren’t discussing you” I answer

“Then what Bella he’s supposed to watch you and you’re not supposed to talk about our business with him or anyone for that matter”

“Then who do you want me to talk to Eric? At least Nick listens to me you don’t even talk to me at all to you everything is too personal or I don’t need to know it” I say

“Because the less you know the better. And stop talking to Nick”

“Are you jealous” I asks

“I don’t have to be jealous to not like it Bella I don’t like it. His job is to watch you and that’s it

“Why do you have to decide for me? Let me decide who I want to talk to and who I don’t want to talk to” I say

“Bella I don’t want to fight with you ok”

“We are not fighting we are talking!” I answer

From nowhere he just chokes on his own and starts coughing. I rush to him.

“Are you ok?”

“I’m fine!” he answers but he’s still coughing he removes the handkerchief from his mouth and it has blood this isn’t good.

To be continued.....

19

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

Chapter 19

Eric was supposed to tell me he was supposed to tell me that he's getting worse. This is why communicating is important in a relationship it's my duty as his woman to make sure nothing happens to him. I know he says it makes him seem weak but screw that I deserve to know

as the mother of his child. I have to make it my mission to find him a donor. He just started coughing blood and the last thing he said was.

“Nick get her out of here”

I don't understand why he didn't want me to be with him? That was before they took him to the hospital I hate that he wants to go through all this alone he doesn't have to go through this alone. I'm here for him I'll always be here for him. We are at the hospital and Nick won't let me call Eric's family although I don't know why and it's been an hour now and no update from the doctor I mean how long does it take to get a person checked up?

“Relax Bella he's going to be fine” Nick says

“Why did they give him alcohol they know he’s sick”

“No one at the house knows about his condition” he answers

“What if something bad happens to him Nick I’m carrying his child”

“Nothing is going to happen to him Eric is a fighter and he just coughed it’s not the first time this has happened” he says

“I can’t lose him I’d die if I lose him”

“You won’t! He’s going to be there when you deliver that baby now relax” he rubs my shoulder

“We should call his parents”

“Isabella Jacobs!” he calls

“Fine!”

A couple of minutes later the doctor walks upto us.

“Is he ok” I asks

“Mrs Michaels right” the doctor asks

“Something like that how is he?”

“He’s out of danger now he just choked just like any normal human being” the doctor answers

“So he’s fine?”

“Yes ma’am!” he answers

“Can I see him?”

“Yes we’ll keep him over night just in case” he says

“Ok thank you!”

At least he’s out of danger and I still think we should have called his parents who knows maybe they might help find a donor after all they are rich and successful I’m sure they can find something. The only problem here is my man and his stubbornness. I head to his room and I find him sleeping. I kiss his lips I’m going to find him a donor even if it’s the last thing I do

I take his hand and place it on my stomach just 5 more months and we'll have a female Eric running around.

"My two favorite girls" Eric says with his eyes still closed

"Thought you were sleeping!"

"I was until you started kissing me and touching me" he smiles

"Are you ok?"

“I’m fine my sweet Bella!” he rubs my chin

“Why did you keep that from me?”

“Because I don’t want to see you like this” he answers

“You’re supposed to tell me these things Eric”

“Okay from now on I’ll tell you” he smiles

“You sure you’re ok?”

“I am fine!” he answers

“Then you won’t mind if I do this”

I slap his arm

“What did I do” he asks

“Never scare me like that”

“I won’t my darling Bella come here” he pulls me to his arm

“They are keeping you for the night”

“Yeah we’ll see about that” he answers

“Why do you have to be stubborn about everything?”

“Do you blame me look at this place” he says

“Smells like pills and medicine”

“And the bed isn’t big enough” he says

“Big enough for what?”

“Take a wild guess” he perks my lips

“You’re crazy

Sponsored

look at this place” he says

“Smells like pills and medicine”

“And the bed isn’t big enough” he says

“Big enough for what?”

“Take a wild guess” he perks my lips

“You’re crazy let me get you something to eat”

“Don’t take too long might die before you get back” he chuckles

“Just a minute!”

I walk out of the room find Nick tell him to go and find Eric something to eat. On my way back to Eric’s room I bump into Lyn it’s been long since I saw her.

“Hie!” I fake smile

“Isabella! How are you?”

“I’m good and you” I ask

“I’m great! What are you doing at the hospital by the time?”

“I forgot to get my medication” I answer

“How is the pregnancy treating you?”

“All good!” I smile I try to walk away because I know she’s going to start provoking me

“Bella!” she calls

“What?”

“I know it’s none of my business but I think you need to know this” she says

“Know what?”

“Eric was once married” she says

“What?”

“And the woman is back in town” she says before walking away.

I just don’t get what her problem is? Why does she have to ruin my day like this? I’m brought back from my thoughts by Nick tabbing me.

“Hey!” he says

“Does Eric have another woman besides me?”

“What do you mean” he asks

“You said you handle his woman right”

“Not women I only look after you” he stammers

“He’s been married before?”

He doesn’t answer guess that’s a yes. I walk back to Eric’s room. I find him off the bed ready.

“Told you I’m not sleeping here” Eric says as soon as I open the door

“Great then let’s go”

“Come back!” he pulls me to his arms “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing!”

“When you left the room you were happy and now you look like you’d eat me. What’s wrong” he asks

“Can we go back home”

“Okay” he kisses my forehead

We drive back home I still can’t get over that Eric was once married or maybe he still is. What if this so called woman comes back? What if they get back together? I

have my head on Eric's shoulder I'm starting to doubt if he really loves me?

"What's on your mind?" Eric rubs my stomach

I want to ask if he really loves me but I shake my head no.

"Is the baby giving you trouble" he asks

"No I'm just tired!"

"We'll run you a bath when we get home" he kisses my forehead

"Okay!"

Do you know that one time when you're trying by all means to keep your cool? But your inner demon wants to lose it that's me right now. I'm trying by all means to keep my cool well until we get home. We get home and I rush up the stairs straight to our bedroom and sit in the middle off the bed with my legs folded. The door opens and our eyes met as soon as he does.

"Did I do something" he asks

"Did you?"

"You tell me" he climbs on the bed and sits in front of me with his legs also folded

"I'm going to ask something and I want you to answer yes or no"

“Okay” he gives me the confused look

“Are you married?”

“What” he chuckles

“Don’t lie to me Eric”

“I’m not!” he shrugs

“Are you married?”

“I was but not anymore” he answers

I don’t know why but a part of me threw a punch I think it’s the baby because I’d never.

“I’m sorry!” I cover my mouth with my hand

“Isabella!”

“I didn’t mean to I’m sorry really” I say

“What is wrong with you suddenly your mood went from 100 to 0”

“You should have told me you were once married” I say

“Why? I mean it happened 4 years ago and we got divorced”

“You were supposed to tell me” I fold my arms

“So that you can punch me in the face like you just did?”

“I said I’m sorry!” I answer

“It didn’t cross my mind ok”

“I ran into Lyn today” I say

“Why do you let her get to you like this? Can’t you see she enjoys seeing us fight”

“What was her name” I ask

“Bella come one!”

“I want to know” I say

“Chelsea!”

“Is she back in town” I ask

He doesn't answer

"Did you see her" I ask

He doesn't answer.

"Get out!" I say calmly

He looks at me and shakes his head

"Get out of the room Eric!" I say

"It's not what you think ok"

"And what am I thinking" I ask

"I'm not cheating on you Bella!"

"I never said anything about cheating" I answer

“Why do I get a feeling you just want me to get mad?”

Maybe!

“I just want to know whether you saw your Chelsea woman” I say

“You know what let me leave”

“Don’t walk away from me!” I get off the bed he continues walking.

“What is your problem Bella what do you want?”

“The truth” I answer

“What truth? That are saying”

“Do you even love” I ask

“Does this answer you” he throws me a small box and walks out. It’s a ring was he going to propose?

To be continued.....

20

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

Chapter 20

I think now I understand why most black woman are single it's because we have trust issues and we've been hurt so many times that we no longer see the good ones when they come. I know I wasn't supposed to make it a big deal but Eric should have told me that he has been married before. He knows literally everything about me so I deserve to know about him too.

I'm still carrying the box with the diamond ring did he want to propose or what? Even if he wants to propose I'm not ready for marriage but I can't say no either because I love him. I take my phone and dial my sister she know about these things she's married and has kids after all. She answers right away.

Me: Hey are you busy?

Lorain: Yeah I'm sleeping what's up?

Me: When Mark proposed were you ready to get married?

Lorain: Did Eric propose?

Me: Not really

Lorain: Look Bella marriage and kids isn't something one gets ready for.

Me: I'm carrying a diamond ring in my hands right now. Sometimes I question myself if he really loves me because he's never told me so

Lorain: Sometimes love doesn't need to be told his actions can say that for him does he take care of you does he consider your feelings before his?

Me: He treats me like a queen

Lorain: Isn't you're the one who always speaks about communication? Then talk to him and tell him to slow down a little if you feel like he's rushing you. And ruin things because of your insecurities

Me: Excuse me?

Lorain: I know you Bella you always find a flaw and Eric really loves you so don't ruin a perfect relationship.

Me: And how do you know?

Lorain: I talk to him sometimes

Me: About what?

Lorain: You of course he really cares for you

Me: Okay I'll talk to him

Lorain: Can I go back to sleep now?

Me: Sure! Good night!

Maybe I overreacted a little I shouldn't have made a big deal out of the Chelsea saga. I head out of the bedroom with the ring I'm going to say yes even though he didn't ask me. I find him sitting on the couch I don't get why he's always on the phone. It's either he's reading the paper or he's on the phone.

"Michael!" I whisper he prefers I call him that.

"What?"

"I'm sorry!" I say

“For what?”

“For over reacting I shouldn’t have done that and for doubting our love” I say

“I don’t like being disrespected Bella and you know that”

I forgot I punched him in the face.

“And I promised I’ll stay in my lane” I say

“I don’t know if it’s the pregnancy making you lose your mind but don’t ever do that again”

“I won’t I promise” I say

The doorbell rings

“I’ll go get it” I say rushing to the door and when I open the door a Shakira look-alike is standing there.

“Hello!” she smiles

“Hie!”

“Is Eric in” she asks she has a Spanish accent

“Yeah come in”

I stand aside so she could walk in

“This place hasn’t changed one bit” she says guess that means she’s been here before.

“Nick can you take Bella”- Eric

Take me where? It’s already dark outside

“Hey Nick! I see you’re still here” she says now I’m curious who is she?

“Come with me” Nick whispers

“Why?”

“Just follow me”

Well Eric did say that he doesn’t like being disrespected I quietly follow Nick. I’m just going to trust him on this one. Why is he leading me out of the house? ‘Okay Bella keep it cool trust Eric’ I say to myself

“Get in!” Nick says as he opens the car door

“Thank you!” I clear my throat

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he gets into the car too and starts driving

“Go ahead and ask” Nick says it’s like he read my mind

“Who is she?”

“Eric will answer all your questions” he says

“Is she Chelsea?”

“Like I said Eric will answer all your questions” he answers

“Where are we going?”

“Just for a drive” he answers

“Just a drive?”

“Yes just a drive” he answers

“Okay!”

So many thoughts are running in my head right now. Who was that pretty lady? Is she this so called ex-wife that Lyn was talking about? After a few minutes Nick drives us back home. I still don't understand the need for this drive really. Eric is standing outside he opens the car door for me.

"What are you doing outside its a little cold" I say

"Was waiting for you"

"Well I'm here!" I smile

"I'm sorry for not telling you that I was once married"

"It's ok I shouldn't have reacted the way I did I'm also sorry" I say

“Do ever feel like I don’t love you?”

“I was just being stupid Eric” I say

“You did not answer my question”

“Well you don’t tell me that you love me so sometimes I don’t know” I answer

“You know I’m not good with words”

“Like I said that was stupid of me I know that you love me” I say

“But do you feel that I love you”

“I do” I answer

“That girl from earlier is my sister”

“She’s pretty!” I answer

“Not prettier than you”

“I love you Eric Michaels” I smile

“That explains why you’re so insecure”

“I’m not insecure” I say

“You are you also doubt my love for you. You think I just love you because you’re carrying my child and that there’s no way I can fall for you with all these woman around me”

He just said it as it is. That's exactly what I think every time I wake up. What if he falls for someone prettier? What if he wakes up and doesn't love me anymore? I just love him too much it scares me. I'm not the jealous type but with Eric I'm very jealous.

"Bella there may be many woman in this world but I want you and one thing for sure they can never be you. I want you with your craziness and insecurities" He smiles

Not bad for someone who's not good with words!

"I am really sorry for disrespecting you and mostly for punching you. That's not me"

“For now let’s just blame the baby but never do it again because I won’t be that cool next time” he says I’ve noticed he never loses his cool

“It’s getting late we should head inside”

“You need your rest because tomorrow is going to be a busy day you have people to meet” he says

“People? What kind of people?”

“I’ll tell you when we’re inside” he smiles

“It’s late I want to go to bed!”

“It’s not yet late and you just had to piss me off and ruin the surprise. Give me back my ring” he says

“Eric I said I’m sorry!”

“And I want my ring back” he says he’s not even joking he really wants it back. Maybe I shouldn’t have been so forward. I reach into my pocket and hand it to him.

“So you’re really taking the ring?”

“Yes! Let’s go inside my lady” he takes my hand

“So you’re really taking it?”

“Yup!”

He’s not joking he’s really taking the ring. We head back inside I wanted to ask him why he made me leave the house when his sister came but I stopped myself. I’m hungry so he makes me something to eat first before I got to bed with my sex addict of a man. If he continues like this I’m going to start sleeping in a separate room really this is too much sex.

I wake up the following morning and he's not there well that's normal. I sit up and rub my small bump and smile by myself thinking about how I never wanted all this just a couple of months ago now I can't even stay away from Eric. The door opens and I pull up the bed sheets covering myself.

"Good morning!" it's the mini Shakira with a tray of food in her hands.

"Hello!"

"I brought you breakfast" she says excitedly

Is she always this happy?

“Thank you!”

“I’m Ella by the way nice to finally meet you” she says

“Nice to meet you too”

Even though I’ve never heard anything about her.

“Eat up and get ready I’m taking you out” she walks out of the room. A text comes through on my phone and it’s Eric

*** Don’t let her boss you around and call me if she bothers you

Straight to the point now that's Eric for you. No good morning my love or anything. I eat up and get ready to go with Ella. She takes me to spar then we do some shopping. She really knows how to spend money.

"I think we should go back home" I say

"Are you tired?" Ella answers

"Yes!"

"They said you haven't shopped enough if your feet aren't killing you" she says

"Well mine are can we go?"

“Okay let’s go” she smiles

Just as we were about to walk out of the mall we run into Lynette why do I get a feeling she’s following me because she seems to be everywhere. She’s with some girl.

“Hey Ladies!” Lyn says

“Hie!” I answer but Ella doesn’t she just folds her hands

“Nice to see you Ella you’ve grown” - Lyn

“I can’t say the same” Ella answers then turns to the girl that is with Lyn “Hie Chelsea!”

So this is Chelsea? She's friends with Lyn? How do ex-girlfriends become friends?

"Hie Bella" - Chelsea

She even knows my name

"Hie!" I fake smile

"Nice to see that someone finally agreed to carry Eric's child" Chelsea says "Nice to know that he finally convinced you to surrogate for him"

She knows?

To be continued.....

21

Not edited

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

Chapter 21

Love makes people do the craziest things ever. I know Lyn is definitely behind all this she just wants to tick me off she just wants to create a reason for me to fight with Eric and I won't give her the satisfaction. I just don't get why they feel the need to want to separate Eric and I because there's no way they are both doing to date him.

“Nice to know that Eric finally convinced you to surrogate for him” - Chelsea

Just when I was about to answer Ella jumped in.

“And how is that your business ma’am” says Ella

“Can’t you see she doesn’t like your brother she’s just a hired womb” Chelsea answers

“Yet he loves her unconditionally” - Ella

“He just wants a kid from her”

“Come to think of it he took his time and flew all the way to South African just to ask a random stranger to be his surrogate when you two are here ready to carry his child for free” – Ella

“Eric is just confused” Lyn says

“Eric is a grown man who knows what he’s doing and you too better stay away from Bella or you’ll have me to answer to” - Ella

Okay! I wasn’t expecting that at all

“What are you her body guard now” - Lyn

“If you know what’s good for you keep your mouth shut before you lose teeth” Ella answers

“See you around Bella!” Lyn and Chelsea walk away.

“Remind me never to piss you of” I say to Ella

“These two get on my nerves every time I see them I feel like strangling them to death”

“And what did they do to you” I ask

“Lyn knows Eric has a weak spot for him and she uses that to her advantage and then Chelsea thinks that since she was.....”

She stops and looks at me.

“It’s ok I know her and Eric were once married” I smile

“She thinks that since she was once a Michaels she can come back and ruin Eric’s life anytime she wishes”

“You must love your brother” I say

“I do so make sure you don’t hurt him because I won’t hesitate to put you on my list”

“And what list is that” I ask

“The people I’d kill if I was given the chance”

“Wow!” I laugh

“I’m not joking”

“Don’t worry I won’t break his heart let’s hope he doesn’t break mine first” I chuckle

“Let’s go back home”

“I have a question” I say

“You want to know why Chelsea and Eric divorced.”

“Yes that!” I say

“She aborted his baby and you know Eric and babies”

“I can imagine” I say

“But everything happens for a reason if Chelsea had not aborted that baby Eric would still be married to her or that bitch Lyn”

“What do you have against Lyn anyway” I ask

“I just don’t like here if it was up to me I was just going to make her disappear but hey the family loves her which means we are stuck with her for the rest of our lives”

“How old are you” I ask

“Going on 21”

“I’m older than you” I say

“Of course you’re older after all you are dating my brother”

We head back to the car Nick is driving us. I’ve noticed how Ella and Nick look at each other I think they like each other. We get to the home just in time for lunch.

“I have a question? About what Chelsea said are you really in love with Eric or just his surrogate” Ella asks

“I thought you said he talks to you?”

“He does but I know nothing about any surrogacy” she says

“I’m not supposed to talk about that but we are in love now”

“You can talk to me its ok” she says

“Okay at first he asked me to carry his child for him but the we fell in love turns out he loved me first that’s why he chose me to carry his child for him”

“So you voluntarily agreed to carry his child for him” she asks

“Well it took a lot of convincing”

“In other words he threatened you” she says

“He didn’t threaten me”

“I know my brother Isabella and once he wants something he doesn’t stop until he gets it” she says

“I really love him”

“And he loves you too even though he doesn’t say or show it he really loves you” she smiles

“I also have a question” I say

“What?”

“Do you like Nick” I asks

“What makes you say that?”

“I’ve seen how you look at him you look at him like he’s snack” I laugh

“Well he is good looking”

“So you do like him” I ask

“We are dating”

“No way” I gasp

“Just don’t tell my brother”

“I’m sure he won’t mind” I say

“But he still sees me as a baby I’m a grown woman now”

“You’ll always be little in his eyes” I say

“Promise you won’t tell him?”

“I won’t!” I smile

“Hello ladies!” Eric says as he walks into the room

“Hie!” - Ella

“Hey!” I answer as he perks my lips

“You guys are back so soon?” - Eric

“Yeah Bella was tired” Ella answers

“Did you rest because I’m here for you?” - Eric

“Where are we going” I asks

“Just for a drive”

“Okay do I need to change” I ask

“No you look great let’s go”

Eric and I drive to some place it’s so beautiful and quiet

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it’s so beautiful and quiet looks like a park but with less people. We sit on the bench.

“How’s the baby” he rubs my stomach

“She’s fine!”

“She’s not giving you trouble right” he asks

“She’s behaving!”

“I love this place it helps he relax and think better whenever I’m having a rough day I just come here and I feel better” he says

“It’s is very beautiful and calming”

“I love ice-skating” he says randomly

“What?”

“You said you hardly know anything about me right. I don’t like crowded places as if my big family isn’t enough” he chuckled “I love smooth jazz I’m every adventurous I wouldn’t say I have any food that I could call my favorite but anything well-cooked is fine for me”

“Do you have other siblings excluding Jordan and Ella?”

“It’s just them” he answers

“I also don’t like crowded places but I guess you already know that”

“I didn’t! But you’re a journalist and you’re always in crowded places” he says

“Doesn’t mean I liked it had to suck it up because I loved being journalist even though my parent didn’t see it a good profession”

“Why” he asks

“In my family it’s either you’re a doctor or a lawyer if you’re neither then you’re a disappointment”

“But you were doing something that you like” he says

“Where I come from you don’t choose what you like you choose what your family wants for you”

“And I just had to come and ruin your life” he chuckles

“Are you kidding me? These are the best months of my life I have a super handsome man baby in my belly and I get treated like a queen. What more could I ask for”

“I’m glad you let me ruin your life because I can’t imagine my life without you” he smiles

I don’t know why but every time we talk about something serious I start thinking about the fact that he’s sick. I get scared every time I think about it. I have tried

everything but can't seem to get a donor with the same bold type as him.

"What's on your mind" he asks

"I love you so much Eric and I don't want to lose you"

"But I'm still here let's make the most of it" he smiles

"I'd die if I lose you"

"Don't talk like that who's going to take care of Anna if you die" he answers

"Anna? Is that what we are going to name her?"

"Yes!" he answers

“Am I allowed to name her?”

“No! The father gets to name her” he says

“Says who?”

“The father” he answers

“That is not fair at all”

“Life isn’t fair my dear Bella” he smiles

“Can we go?”

“Are you angry” he asks

“I just want to go home”

I stand up and walk away well it is my child too and I also want to name here.

“Bella wait” he calls

“You’ll meet me at car” I continue walking

“Hold up!” I runs after me and stands in front of me

“What do you want?”

“Why are you walking like a single lady” he asks

“Excuse me?”

“You’re walking like a single lady and I don’t like it” he says

“And how am I supposed walk?”

“Like a woman who’s taken” he smiles

“What are you saying Eric just get out of my way?”

“Wait here” he digs into his pocket. Takes my hand and puts a ring on it

“Eric!”

“Marry me!” he goes down on one knee

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

Chapter 23

Am I dreaming or what? I look at him and smile my man my Eric looking handsome as always. Finally I'm going to be Mrs Michaels finally I'm going to be his and he's going to be mine. Tears roll down my cheeks as I walk down the aisle I'm walking down the aisle with my bouquet in my hands. I never pictured myself getting married it wasn't on my to-do list. People smiling and cheering for me as I walk past them so all these people came here to celebrate with me? I spot Ethan (my best friend) in the crowd even Lyn and Chelsea are here cheering for me. This is the best day of my life or no!

"Bella!!" a voice calls I slowly open my eyes. It was just a dream. The kind that you never want to wake up from the kind that you wish to live it. Why does my body feel so heavy? I look around and I'm in my room the one I used before Eric and I became a thing. My body feels so heavy like something is sitting on me. I touch my stomach and it's flat. I quickly sit up. Look around the room I'm alone. There are machines in the room since

when one needs help breathing and a drop in my hand I remove it then I touch my stomach again.

What is going on? I was just pregnant yesterday I still remember I was at my engagement party and my family was there then....

I don't seem to remember anything from there the next thing I woke up here. Don't tell me it was all a dream. I look at my finger and I still have the engagement ring which means I wasn't dreaming. But I was pregnant. I remember I was pregnant. Tears are now rolling down

my cheeks I'm crying but I don't know why. I quickly get out of bed.

What happened to Eric's baby I was carrying Eric's baby. Eric is going to kill me I'm literally losing my mind trying to find some slippers and a gown to put on my body aches and it's making me cry more. The door opens and its Eric he looks different. I can't quite put my finger on it but this is not the same Eric I was with at the engagement party. I rush to his arms.

"You're awake!"

"Please don't tell me it was all a dream" I hold on to him and he holds me tighter "I was carrying your child we were going to get married and I was wearing the white

dress. The next thing I wake up here and there's no baby" I say

"Why don't you rest first?"

"I don't want to rest why can't I make sense out of all this. Eric I was pregnant it felt real" I cry

"I'm sorry my love"

"For what? Where's the baby Eric and please don't tell me I'm losing my mind because I know I was pregnant" I ask

"I'm sorry I wasn't there to protect you"

"What are you talking about" I ask

He sighs! Uses his thumb to wipe the tears of my cheeks
pulls me back to his arm.

“I thought I had lost you” He mutters

“Lost me how?”

“You don’t remember” he asks

“Don’t remember what Eric first I wake up not pregnant
and now you’re not making sense what is going on why
are you acting weird”

I don’t even know where these tears are coming from
really.

He takes my hand and leads me to the bed makes me sit down and pours me water there's a jar next to the bed.

"How do you feel" he asks

"I'm fine!"

"Any pain" he asks

Can someone please tell me what is going on?

"My muscles hurt like I've been sleeping for a year"

"You have" he hums

"Excuse me?"

"You have been in a comma but it wasn't a year just months" he hums

“A comma? I just saw you last night at the party”

“What day is today” he asks

What day is it?

“March 15th since yesterday was the 14th”

“It’s September 3rd” he answers

“Let’s see your phone?”

He dips into his pockets and hands me his phone it is really September 3rd. I think my brain just threw up

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it is really September 3rd. I think my brain just threw up how is this possible. I was at the party last night. Or maybe it's a prank. Maybe he's joking.

"This is a joke right" I ask

If I was in a comma then how come I just got off the bed like a normal person no sick person can do that. And don't people feel it when in a comma? He holds my hand and presses his head on mine.

"You were shot at the party you were standing by the balcony with your sisters remember?" he says

“I was shot? How?”

“I’m sorry my love I’m sorry I wasn’t there when you needed me”

It’s all slowly kicking in I remember. Everything is inundating back into my mind. I remember being in the ambulance with Eric I remember him telling me I’m going to be fine and that I have him. I remember blood everywhere I remember the pain.

“Eric where’s my baby” I whisper

He doesn’t answer he looks down and shakes his head

“You were shot in the stomach and there was no taking out the bullet without harming the baby”

“Then why didn’t you leave it in” I ask

“It was either you or the baby Bella I can’t lose you. I’m sorry but that was the only option”

“You should have let me die Eric she was innocent” I cry

“Bella!”

“I want my Anna I want her right now” I say with a breaking voice

“My love!”

“Where’s my baby? I want my baby right now” I scream

“Bella calm down!”

“I want my baby Eric I want her right now. Eric give me my baby” I cry “You should have let me die instead!”

He holds me tight in his arms I don't want him to hold me and I want him to give me my Anna. I just want my baby. Now I'll never see her? Now she's gone. I didn't even get the chance to bury her. Why didn't God take me instead? I know I never wanted to be a mother in the first place but I was 4 months pregnant I had already bonded with her. I was looking forward to holding her in my arms I was ready to be woken up by her screams and cries in the middle of the night.

I had already prepared a room for her painted in dust pink bought her toys and teddies. I wanted to spoil her rotten I wanted to give her all my love.

I'm holding on tight to the teddy bear. I can hear the door opening and the footsteps approaching me.

"Hey little sister heard you were awake" Lorain says

"She's death! They killed her" I hug her

"I'm so sorry"

"He let them kill my baby" I cry

“It was either you or the baby Bella trust me it was also tough for him not to mention you were in a comma for 6 months there was no way the baby was going to survive”

“She was mine she was my baby” I say

“I know but you were shot twice one bullet straight up hit the stomach then the other went through your chest. I’m surprised to see you walking”

“Eric says it’s the pills that’s numbing the pain” I answer

“I know you’re angry but it was the only option.

We stay quiet for a moment.

“I was scared Bella! When I saw you choking on your own blood for a second I thought you were gone” she sniffs

“Everyone had lost hope we thought we had lost you Eric was the only person who kept us going”

“I owe him my life!”

“He really loves you and you’re still young you can still have babies” she says

“You think so?”

“I know so” she hugs me and I notice Eric standing by the door

“Can you give us a second” I say to Lorain and she walks out. I walk upto Eric

“Hey!” Eric says I hug him I know the baby meant a lot to him too. I know he’s hurting too.

“They will pay Bella I’ll make sure of it”

To be continued.....

24

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 24

Nothing compares to the pain of losing something or someone that is close to your heart. I never realized I

love my un-born baby so much when I had her in my stomach I never imagined myself losing her. I don't know who did this and why but the baby was innocent and what sort of human being would want to harm a child one thing I know whoever did this wanted me dead because they were aiming for the heart.

I asked Eric to put the wedding thing on hold I'm not ready to act as if nothing happened. It might be old news to everyone but I just found out about it a week ago. My family went back to South Africa.

"Hey!" Ella snaps me out of my thoughts she comes to the house almost every day. I don't why she doesn't just move in.

“Hey you!”

“You look great for someone who has been in a comma for months” she smiles

“Thanks!”

“Hey cheer up I know you’re sad about the baby but you can still have children so cheer up” she says

“You know I’m older than you right?”

“I know but you’re always quiet what happened to always happy Bella” she says

“She’s still somewhere in there”

“Please cheer up we hate seeing you like this” she says

“We? You and who?”

“Eric the whole family” she answers

“It’s hard trust me I’m trying to move on from it but I can’t”

“In other words you want a kid?” she says

“Something like that”

“You know you can still have a kid in fact you can even have 10 if you want” she says

“You’re crazy!”

“Cheer up already do you want to go shopping” she asks

“Not today!”

“I insist let’s go you need to see the outside. You haven’t been out for 6 months” she says

“Why don’t you go out with Nick and I’ll stay here”

“What do I have to do to cheer you up” she asks

“Get Eric!”

“On it” she grabs her phone

She’s really calling him. I hate it when they use Spanish I never learnt Spanish. She hangs up then turns to me.

“What did you say to him” I ask

“Stuff and he’s on his way I’m going to go out with Nick.
When Eric asks about me tell him I went shopping and
Nick had to drive me”

“Are you asking me or telling me” I chuckle

“Please!”

“You don’t have to ask me you can go” I smile

“Nice to see you smiling”

“Go before Eric gets back” I say

“Take care of yourself for me”

“With all these guard trust me not even a fly can harm me” I answer.

She rushes out I wish to see the day Eric finds out about this relationship worse Jordan doesn't seem to like Nick at all. The door opens and Eric walks in.

“Hey you” I say as I hug him

“Somebody missed me today”

“I always miss you” I chuckle

“You know you don't have to call me back home you can just come see me at work. They need to know and see that I have a fiancé now”

“I’ll come and fulfil one of your fantasies” I smile

He really brightens my day when I see him I know that everything is going to be fine just seeing him uplifts my soul.

“Have you had lunch yet” I ask

“Not yet!”

“I’ll make something for you” I say

“Sometimes I forget that I have a fiancée who’s good with her hands”

“What would you like me to make for you” I ask

“I’d eat anything made by you” He pulls me towards him and plants a kiss on my lips

“Let’s get to the kitchen before I get naked in the next minute”

“Or we’ll cook afterwards” he says

“We both know there won’t be any cooking”

“You shouldn’t have called me back home” he says

“Ella called you not me”

“You know I can’t say no to you” he says

“No bad!”

“So what do say

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just seeing him uplifts my soul.

“Have you had lunch yet” I ask

“Not yet!”

“I’ll make something for you” I say

“Sometimes I forget that I have a fiance who’s good with her hands”

“What would you like me to make for you” I ask

“I’d eat anything made by you” He pulls me towards him and plants a kiss on my lips

“Let’s get to the kitchen before I get naked in the next minute”

“Or we’ll cook afterwards” he says

“We both know there won’t be any cooking”

“You shouldn’t have called me back home” he says

“Ella called you not me”

“You know I can’t say no to you” he says

“No bad!”

“So what do say we take this upstairs” he asks

“We are going to the kitchen to make you something to eat”

“I can eat you” he winks

This man!

“Michael!”

“I haven’t had you in 6 months” he pecks my lips

Who am I kidding there was no cooking with him touching me. He can't get his hands off me so we took things to the play room. I'm happy he still loves me for a second I thought he was going to hate me for losing our baby and that he won't love me the same since there's no baby but nothing changed he still loves me the same.

"I love you" Eric kisses my forehead

"I love you more"

I'm lying on his chest and I can feel his heart beating

"For a second I thought I had lost you" he says

“There’s no way I’m going to leave all this good sex”

“I got myself one crazy woman” he chuckles

“Hey don’t call me crazy!”

“How was it like? Being in a comma” he asks

“I felt like I was dreaming the day I woke up we were going to get married”

“See even the universe wants us together!” he chuckles

“It felt so real you looked handsome waiting for me down the aisle everyone was so happy”

“I can always make that a reality for you you know I’d do anything for you” he kisses my forehead

“And I’d return the favor”

“My lovely surrogate” he says

“Speaking of which you owe me Mr Michaels”

“The contract” he sighs

“We should tear it up”

“Yeah we should” he smiles

“Michael!”

“Yes!” he answers

“Who shot me?”

“We are not sure yet we are still investigating” he answers but I know that’s not true.

“Okay!”

“Does it hurt?” he touches the scar on my stomach

“No!”

“And this one” he touches the one just beneath my breast I don’t get why they cut there because they say the bullet hit the chest but hey the doctors knew what they were doing.

“It doesn’t hurt my love”

“My love? You usually call me Michael and how come you never call me Eric” he says

“You’re the one who told me to call you Michael and I love it so you’re Michael to me”

“To you and only you” he smiles

“Yes I’m different from everyone”

“Of course you’re different” he answers

“I’ve been thinking!”

“I’m listening” he says

“We should try for another baby”

“What do you think we have been doing” he laughs

Two months goes by and I'm still struggling to get pregnant I mean how hard is it to get pregnant? It's starting to frustrate me. Eric is out on a business trip I know he's going for his treatment he doesn't want me to worry about him but I can't help it.

"You called for me" Nick says

"I'm going to ask you something and I need you to answer honestly"

"What is it about" he asks

"Don't worry it's not about you and Ella"

“She told you” he chuckles

“Of course she told me sit down and eat with me”

“It’s not like I have a choice” he sits down

“I want to ask about Eric”

“What about him” he asks

“Is he getting better?”

“I think you should talk directly to him” he says

“I need to know Nick”

“He’s not responding to the treatment” he answers

“I have found a donor for him”

“What” he gasps

“Yes!”

“That’s great! I’m sure he’ll be happy” he says

“I’m more excited and I need to ask for a small favor”

“Okay” he answers

“I want you to get Lynette for me”

“What” he says

“You heard me”

“But why” he asks

“Because that’s what I want”

“But Bella....” I stop him

“Please! Or do I have to ask someone else?”

“When do you want to see her” he asks

“As soon as possible!”

“I can get her here before dawn” he answers

“Thank you!”

I leave the room and head to my room. My phone rings and its Eric’s friend Larry. He’s just a bowl of energy.

Me: Hey!

Larry: How are you?

Me: I am fine and you?

Larry: I'm ok I wanted to tell you that Larry pays his debts

Me: What?

Larry: I owe you a Bugatti remember

Me: Larry what do I do with a Bugatti?

Larry: I don't know but it'll be delivered to your place
later today

Me: Okay then thank you.

Larry: Anytime!

I can't believe he still remembers that the deal was for me to prove that Eric and I weren't faking things by kissing. If I did it Larry was to buy me a Bugatti I didn't kiss him but whatever. One of the helpers calls me downstairs Lyn is here. She seems puzzled to see me

"Hey!" I smile

"Hie!"

"How are you" I ask

“I’m ok why am I here?”

“I just wanted to see you that’s all” I answer

Honestly I wanted her to see that I’m very much alive.

“Why” she asks

“Can I get you something to drink?”

“Wine will be fine” she answers

“I have seen you in a while”

“I haven’t seem you either” she says

“Well I was in a comma!”

I can tell she's not comfortable she's avoiding eye contact they serve her wine and she gulps it down like her life depends on it why is does she look nervous?

"Do you like the wine" I ask

"Yeah it's not that bad"

"And how sure are you that it's not poisoned" I ask. I swear she's about to faint.

To be continued

25

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 25

I know Lyn or Chelsea had something to do with me being shot. They are the only people who literally do not like me. I don't know if it's because I'm with Eric but If they want really want him so bad they why break up with him? I can't believe they would go to an extent of trying

to kill me just to be with Eric. I'm still with Lyn I asked everyone to give us some space so it's just me and her in the room.

"What did you just say" Lyn asks

"How sure are you that the wine isn't poisoned?"

"It's poisoned" she asks

"Maybe!"

"What?" she drops the glass on the floor "Is that why you called me here? So you could kill me?"

“Maybe! But don’t worry you won’t die well at least not yet”

“Why are you doing this” she asks

“My baby is dead because of you”

“I had nothing to with it Bella” she replies

“I didn’t even say anything”

“I had nothing to do with you losing your baby” she says

“Then who?”

“I don’t know” she answers

“I think it’ll be best if you tell me truth and I give you the antidote before the poison kills you”

“You really poisoned me” she asks

“Why not? After all you did kill my baby”

“I didn’t know anything about the shooting I swear” she
cries

“You’re the only one who doesn’t like me in the family”

“I don’t like you but I’d never kill any innocent child” she
says

“Fine if you don’t want to talk then you can leave and die
in peace”

I walk away just as I was about to go up the stairs she stops me.

“It was Chelsea!” she says

“What?”

“It was Chelsea she planned the whole thing” she whispers

“And you were also part of it?”

“Partly but we weren’t trying to kill you I swear” she answers

“But you wanted to kill my baby?”

She nods I can’t believe they would be so heartless

“What do you think Eric will say if he found out about this?”

“Please don’t tell him Bella” she knees guess she’s more scared of him than me.

“I won’t tell him but I want you to leave the country leave and never come back”

“I can’t just leave Bella my whole life is here” she says

“You should have thought about that before you shot my baby”

“Are you going to give me the antidote” she asks

“If I poisoned you you’d be dead by now and I’m not heartless like you” I walk up the stairs to the bedroom.

I thought maybe the pain would go away when I found out who shot me but it's still there. I still can't get over losing my little one. Just because they wanted Eric my baby had to pay for it. Honestly I didn't know it was her I just followed my instinctive and I was right Lyn and Chelsea had a hand in my shooting. Someone knocks on the door then lets themselves in that can only be Nick.

"Are you ok" he asks

"Yeah I'm fine!"

"You weren't supposed to find out" he says

"You knew?"

“It’s my job also my job to watch over you and I failed if there’s anyone to blame for all this it’s me” he says

“You weren’t even there does Eric know?”

“Do you think if he knew Lyn would still be alive? He’s being occupied with you being in a comma then his condition” he says

“Everything is going to be fine I’ve found him a donor”

“How and who” he asks

“It doesn’t matter what matters is that he has a donor now”

“If you say so!” he answers

“Is Lyn gone?”

“Yeah! I’m surprised you handled this so calmly” he says

“Well it’s not like it’s going to bring back my baby”

“I’m really sorry” he says

“Well I can still have other kids so there’s hope”

“Yeah you can still have soccer team if you choose to”

“What about you? When are you going to have kids” I ask

“When the ocean run dry and the mountains grow wings”

“Come on who doesn’t want kids” I ask

“What do I do with a kid?”

“A lot of things” I answer

“Maybe in the future not now”

The door opens and Ella walks in. What’s with the people in this house what happened to waiting to be told to enter? Or knocking for that matter.

“Hey!” I say

“Hie! Nick hie” she says

“I’ll be downstairs if you need me” Nick leaves the room

“Are you two fighting or something” I ask

“No why?”

“You acting like total strangers

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did you two break up” I ask

“We didn’t we just disagreeing on something”

“Do you want to talk about it” I question

“Actually I do!”

“Okay sit down” I say

“Why are you and Nick so close?”

“We are?” I answer

“Yes! You’re always talking to him and always laughing with him”

“So you two are fighting about me” I ask

“Is there something going on or because you two are too close?”

“I love your brother very much and Nick is just someone who watches me. Yes we are close but not as close as me and Eric. Plus I don’t have anyone to talk to except Nick and Eric asked him to watch over me so we spend almost all the time together” I answer

“I’m sorry!”

“It shows that you love him but don’t be the insecure type they don’t like that plus if he wanted to cheat he wouldn’t cheat with someone so close to you” I say

“I’m sorry I shouldn’t have accused you of being with him”

“You can talk to me Ella after all we are going to be family soon” I say

“I know and I’m sorry please don’t tell Eric about it”

“Why is everyone so afraid of him” I ask

“That means you’ve never seen his angry”

“And I wish not to” I answer

“I almost forgot your Bugatti is here”

“Larry just loves being extra I told him there was no need” I say

“Let’s go give it a test drive”

Finally Eric comes back from his so called business trip I don’t get why he doesn’t just tell the truth. If I’m going to be his wife then he shouldn’t keep things like this from me.

“You’re quiet today” Eric says we are sitting on the bed with his head on my lap

“I’m sorry!”

“What’s on your mind” he asks

“I’m thinking about how much I love you”

“Aren’t you sweet” he smiles

“I have something I have to tell you”

“What is it” he asks

“Actually I have two things to tell you bad news and good news”

“Are you okay” he asks

“Yeah I am fine it’s about us well you mostly”

“Okay!” he says

“I got you a donor”

“A donor? How” he asks

“I told you I’d find you one”

“I love you” we kiss

“And I love you more you’ll be doing the transplant on Monday”

“That’s in 4 days” he says

“Yeah!”

“Wow! I don’t know what say” he perks my lips

“Promise you won’t ever drink alcohol”

“I promise! And what’s the bad news” he asks

“I’m leaving for South Africa!”

“What why” he asks

“I miss my family but I promise I’ll be back before you know it”

“Why now Bella? Can’t it wait until after the transplant” he asks

“I had already called my family”

“Bella what are you not telling me” he asks

“I know I should be with you during the surgery but I’m scared Eric I’ll come back after the transplant”

“You realize you’re not making any sense” he says

“My love I’ll come back!”

“You shouldn’t be going in the first place Bella you’re my fiancé” he’s getting angry

“Please Eric you have to understand”

“You want to go? Then go Bella” he gets off the bed

“Eric please don’t be angry”

“You’re leaving me Bella and expect me to be calm” he asks

“I have to”

“Fine go!” he walks out of the room.

Eric is mad at me he literally ignored me the whole day. He shouldn't be mad he should be happy that's he's finally got a donor. He refused to shower with me today I guess he's that mad. I get out of the shower and find him on the bed busy with his phone. I get on the bed and start massaging his shoulders.

"Please don't be mad" I say

"Put yourself in my shoes"

"I know Eric but I have already lost the baby and..."

"You are not making any sense Bella what does this have to do with the baby?" he says

“I just need some time away so much has happened in these past months”

“What are you saying” he asks

“I just need sometime alone”

“Why” he asks

“I need to think”

“Think about what Bella what are you saying” he asks

“I’ll come back after the transplant I promise I’ll be the first person you see when you wake up”

“How long have you planned this” he asks

“For some time now”

“You can go Bella” he says

“I’ll come back”

“Whatever!” he leaves the room

To be continued

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 26

I know Eric is mad at me but soon he'll understand why I have to leave soon everything is going to make sense. I know if I tell him the truth he won't let me go Eric is very stubborn and it's hard to reason with him. 5 days to his transplant he should be happy this is no time to be mad over silly things.

He won't talk to me during dinner he was all quiet and he went to bed without even talking to me. I have noticed he never yells or says anything when he's angry he just goes quiet It's 12am now and I can't sleep I can tell he also can't sleep by how he keeps tossing and turning.

“Michael!” I whisper he doesn’t answer but I know he’s not sleeping.

“I’m sorry! I didn’t mean you upset up” I say

“You’re leaving and expect me to be happy?”

I knew he wasn’t sleeping.

“I’m not leaving you I’m just going away” I answer

“What’s the difference?”

“It’s not like I am going forever Michael” I say

“Why do you have to leave in the first place?”

“Like I say I need some air” I reply

“You don’t need to leave the country to get air”

“Just 3 days is what I need sometime away then I come back” I say

“Am I crowding you? Is that why you need air? Are tired of me already?”

“My love no! I love you I love you with all my heart” I sit up he does the same

“If you love me then why are you leaving? Especially now when I need you more than ever?”

“I wouldn’t leave if it wasn’t necessary” I answer

“There’s a beach house about 600km from here you can go there if you need some air. You don’t have to leave the country”

“That’s fine with me and I love you” I smile

“I love you too and thank you for finding me a donor”

“I’d give my own life for you” I kiss his lips

“I don’t want you give your life for me Bella always know that. I don’t want to lose you”

“I don’t want to lose you either” I smile

“So when are you leaving?”

“Tomorrow morning” I reply

“That’s too soon leave tomorrow night”

“Why tomorrow night” I ask

“So I can make love to you the whole freaking day”

“Okay!” I bite my lip

“I don’t want you to go”

“I don’t want to leave you either but I need some time
some fresh air” I say

“You still not making sense but promise me you’ll be
there when I wake up?”

“You don’t have to ask me” I get on top of him

“It’s past midnight are you sure you want to do this?”

“What do you mean” I chuckle

“We both know you’re a screamer and we don’t want to wake the others”

“I don’t care about the others why would they be listening in the first place” I answer

“Since when don’t you care because during the day you’ll be buddies having lunch with the helpers?”

“Who do you want me to have lunch with I’ll be all alone in this mansion plus they cook a lot of food there’s no way I can finish all that” I say

“You’re too kind!”

“That’s why you love me” we kiss

“Just try to keep it down” he flips me over

They say time flies when you're having fun just like that it was the following day and I'm packing to leave I'm leaving in 3 hours with Nick. I know Eric must be acting cool but he doesn't want me to go and he won't get his hands off me.

“Why don't you leave tomorrow morning” Eric hugs me from behind

“I can't! I have already packed”

“You know you don't have to pack

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there's a mall nearby" he says

"I won't get the chance to go shopping!"

"And what will you be doing" he turns me around to face him

"I should get my...."

He stops me

"You said you'll be busy what you going to be busy with"
he asks

“Did I say that? Maybe it just came out wrong”

“Bella why are you leaving” he asks

“I told you I need some air”

“What kind of air? That you can’t get here at the house”
asks

“Eric I thought we had already talked about it”

“I don’t understand why you have to leave especially
now that I have found a donor” he says

“Eric I wouldn’t leave if it wasn’t necessary”

“Is getting air necessary” he asks

“For me it is?”

“What are you hiding from me Bella” he asks

“I am not hiding anything”

“Then tell me why you have to get air days before my transplant” he questions

“I just need some time alone”

“Why” he asks

“You’re crowding me Eric! I just need some air okay. I need a break from everything I need a break from you”

“You need a break for me Bella” he asks I didn’t meant to say that it came out wrong. I don’t answer I just look down

“You need a break from me” he repeats

The door opens and Ella walks in she does not look happy at all and doesn't she knock we could be naked.

"Ever heard of knocking" Eric yells. Eric does just yell he must be angry

"I'm sorry but I need to understand one thing why does Bella have to go with Nick?" - Ella

“Ella this is my fiancé ok show her some respect and you can’t just barge into our bedroom and start yelling” – Eric even when he’s angry at me he’s still defending me.

“I want to know why she has to go with Nick there are a lot of people in this house that can watch over her why Nick” Ella asks

“Because Eric asked him to watch me and I trust him” I answer and Eric quickly looks at me.

“Is that why he won’t say where you two are going and why?”- Ella

“Wait you’ve already talked to Nick about this” Eric asks

“Michael come on what’s the big deal?”

“The big deal is that my boyfriend hides things from me because of you” Ella yells

Jealousy will kill her Nick is like brother to me

“Boyfriend? You’re dating Nick” Eric asks and she doesn’t answer “Ella leave us for a moment and don’t leave I’ll deal with you later”

I don’t like the sound of this at all I’ve prayed never to see him angry and now he is. I just hope he doesn’t get violent because that’s a deal breaker for me.

“Eric listen...”

“No you listen Isabella you better start talking before I lose it. What are you not telling me” he orders

“There is nothing going on between me and Nick”

“I know that but I want to know what you’re hiding from me” he says

“I’m not hiding anything”

“You’re bad liar Bella why do you have to leave and don’t you dare say you need air because we both know that’s a lie” he says

I can’t tell him knowing Eric he won’t let me. This is all Ella’s fault she just had to be jealous I don’t even like Nick like that or maybe I should have just left in the morning. I’m trying to cook up a lie but nothing is coming to mind.

“What are you not telling me Bella” he asks. I look down he pulls me close to him lifts my chin and making me look at him putting me in a position where I can’t lie to him.

“What is going on” he asks I shake my head

“Okay sit down!” he makes me sit on the couch then sits on the table in front of me.

“Bella I’m not accusing you of anything but if you don’t start talking I’m going to start thinking otherwise” he says

“I’m not with Nick I swear I’d never cheat on you”

“Okay I believe you but why do you have to leave” I asks

“I need some air”

“You’re already keeping secret now what’s going to happen in the future” he asks

“Eric!”

“You’re going to be my wife soon and we shouldn’t be hiding things from each other” he says

Maybe he’s right I shouldn’t keep secrets from him. I take a deep breath.

“I went to the doctor’s”

“Why” he asks

“I wanted to know why I can’t get pregnant”

“And?” he says

“I also wanted to see if I’m fit to be your donor so I did the tests and we have the same blood type”

“I know we have the same blood type Bella” he replies

Say what?

“You know?”

“Yes I found out after the OP when you were in a comma” he replies

“I want to be your donor”

“No Bella I can’t let you do that” he says

“But I want to”

“And I saying no” he answers

“Why Eric you’ve finally found a donor you should be happy”

“You’ve already been cut 2 times trust me you won’t survive the third” he answers

“The doctor said it’s fine”

“I can’t let you do that I’m sorry!” he says

“Eric stop being stubborn the doctor said it’s fine”

“He forgot to mention it’s risky you were shot 4cm near the heart Bella trust me cutting you up is the last thing you need” he says

“And if I don’t you’re going to die”

“I’ll rather die than risk you dying trying to help me” he says

“Maybe I shouldn’t have told you maybe I should have just lied” I walk out of the room

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By Catherin

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Chapter 27

I never wanted Eric to know about me being the donor I knew he wouldn't let. I don't see the big deal because people do organ transplants all the time not no mention woman give birth by C-section which means getting torn up so how this this any different.

Eric is just being stubborn and now he's going to die because of his stubbornness only if he puts his pride aside and lets me help him. Now I'm the one who's not talking to him since I'm no longer leaving might as well unpack

"Bella!" Eric calls I don't answer I just continue it's my turn to be mad at him now.

“Are you mad at me” he holds me

“Don’t touch me!” I push him off me

“Bella this is just stupid”

“So it wasn’t stupid when you were mad at me for leaving” I ask

“It’s different Bella I love you”

“Are you saying I don’t love you” I ask

“I know you love me and I love you more that’s why I can’t let you do this”

“I can decide if I want to do it or not because it’s my body” I say

“I can’t risk losing you”

“I can’t risk losing you either” I answer

“I said no Bella!”

“Whatever don’t talk to me” I continue unpacking

“My parents are coming to see you”

“They are coming to see me or you” I ask

“They are coming to see us”

I don’t answer

“Bella!”

“I heard you Eric” I answer

I’ve never called him Eric well not when he’s around. I walk out of the room and head to the kitchen might as well start cooking for his army of a family that is coming. I’m so frustrated right now Eric only cares about himself only if he could put his pride aside and let me help him but no he can handle himself. So in other words he wants to die? He wants to die and leave me what if we had a kid he wanted to leave me to raise a kid by myself?

“Bella!” Ella calls

Then there’s this one who can’t keep her insecurities to herself. She’s the reason behind all this only if she wasn’t so jealous.

“Hie!”

“Are you mad at me” she asks

“Yes!”

“Eric told me everything and I’m sorry” she says

“Did he also tell you to apologize?”

“He did but I’d also like to apologize” she says

“Nick is just someone who watches me Ella!”

“I know! It’s just that I love him” she answers

“That’s the problem you like him too much and trust me it’s going to turn you into a psycho”

“I shouldn’t have lashed out at you I am very sorry” she looks down

“Now because you your brother is going to die”

“Is there any way I can fix all this” she asks

“You can start by convincing your brother to let me be his donor but hey we all know how stubborn he is”

“I’m really sorry Bella” she whispers

“I’m the one who’s sorry! I shouldn’t be so hard on you”

“Well I deserve it” she shrugs

“I understand you you love him”

“So you forgive me” she asks

“How can I stay mad at suck a pretty face!”

“I’d ask to help you but I’m not good around the kitchen”
she says

“I’m sure you can peel and chop”

Everyone can peel and chop

“Sure will do that” she smiles

“Are we good?”

“Yeah!” she grabs an apron

“I don’t mean to get between you and Nick but your
relationship with him is.....”

“I know! Eric already talked to me” she replies

“I know you love him and unloving someone is hard because feeling don’t just fade overnight. But if you want to be with him you can be with him”

“Eric won’t let me” she answers

“Nick is a great person and he really loves you just stop being insecure and you’ll be fine. He loves you and only you. If you want him then be with him”

“And Eric” she asks

“I’ll handle Eric don’t worry”

“Thank you” she hugs me

“And next time you accuse me of being with Nick

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just stop being insecure and you'll be fine. He loves you and only you. If you want him then be with him"

"And Eric" she asks

"I'll handle Eric don't worry"

"Thank you" she hugs me

"And next time you accuse me of being with Nick we are going to have some serious trouble"

“Noted” she smiles “So what are you going to do about the donor thing?”

“I’ll think of something”

“Again I am very sorry” she says

“You didn’t know!”

“By the way Jordan is coming back today” she says

“Coming from where?”

“Jordan has been out country for eight months now” he answers

“When did he leave?”

“The night of the engagement before you got shot” she says

“Sometimes I forget I was in a comma for 6 months”

“So have you fully healed now” she asks

“Yeah when I woke up I was fine”

“Whoever did that deserves to rot in jail” he shakes her head

“Yeah! And use the peeler not the knife”

Rich kids!

“Told you this is not my thing” she chuckles

“You’ll learn don’t worry”

“You’ll teach me right? How to cook” she asks

“Sure!”

Finally Ella and I finish cooking well I was cooking she was just watching me then I went and took a shower. Mr Eric looks good as always but I’m still not talking to him.

“Still mad” Eric asks

Who asks a person in they are still mad? And I’m struggling to put the Goddamn necklace it’s like it wants me to talk to Eric which I do not want right now. He’s just watching me struggle with the necklace it’s like he wants me to ask him. Finally he walks upto me.

“Let me” he says

“Thank you!”

“You know everyone is going to notice that we are not talking to each other” he says

“Who said we are not talking”

“Well you’re ignoring me” he says

“Very couple fights they’ll understand”

“Are we fighting? Because to me it’s just a silly misunderstanding” he asks

“Yes! I’m mad at you Eric”

“I’m sorry!” he holds me

“Stop touching me”

“What can I do for you to forgive me” he asks

“Let me do this one thing for you”

“No! But thank you” he kisses me on the cheeks and walks out of the room.

My phone rings and its Lorain:

Lorain: Hey little sister

Me: Hey you!

Lorain: Are you okay? You're usually happy when I call

Me: It's Eric! He so stubborn

Lorain: What did he do?

Me: He's sick! And won't let me help him

Lorain: Sick? I don't understand

Me: He has Liver Cirrhosis

Lorain: What? When did you find out?

Me: He's always been sick

Lorain: So you want to help him how?

Me: I did the tests and I'm a match

Lorain: Bella you were just operated months ago do you think this is a good idea

Me: I really want to do this but he won't let me.

Lorain: I think you should listen to him Bella we've almost lost you once and Mum will die if anything happens to you

Me: Nothing will happen to me

Lorain: How sure are you?

Me: What if he dies? If I don't do this

Lorain: There's still time to find a donor

Me: It's almost 2 years now

Lorain: Don't lose hope

Me: I can't just let him die

Lorain: He's not dying Bella stop saying that

Me: I love him

Lorain: It won't do any good when you're dead

Me: I won't die what if I make it.

Lorain: You can't gamble with your life

Me: Bye!

Lorain: Bella don't be childish

Me: You won't understand the love of your life isn't dying

I hung up and throw the phone on the bed. Why won't she understand? If I don't do this he might die this is so frustrating. I head out of the bedroom. Eric can't decide for me It's my body and my life. I don't even want to go downstairs because I know I will lash out and the next person I talk to.

“Should I ask or leave it?” Jordan says as I bump to him in the corridor. A part of me wants to shout so bad.

“Leave it!”

“Walk with me” he takes my arm

“Where are we going?”

“To get some air” he smiles

“Okay!”

“So what’s wrong” he asks

“Nothing why”

“It’s can’t be nothing because when I ran into you were ready to kill anyone that talks to you” he chuckles

“Rough day that’s all”

“What did he do” he asks

“Nothing!”

“Don’t lie to me” he says

“It’s Eric he won’t let me help him”

“Everyone knows Eric is stubborn” he says

“But what if he dies”

“We bury him” he chuckles

“I’m serious! He really needs help and soon”

“Come to think of it I didn’t know he needed a donor until weeks ago” he says

“They didn’t tell you?”

“Like Eric will tell anyone mum told me weeks ago” he says

“You have to help him find a donor”

“I did the tests” he says

“And?”

“I’m a match!” he answers

“So you’re going help him?”

“Only if I get you” he winks

“What”

“I’m just kidding he’s my brother and I’ll help him” he replies

“You will?”

“Yes! Now cheer up” he smiles

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 28

Finally some good news! This would have been solved long ago only if Eric wasn't stubborn he had a donor right in front of him and he didn't even notice. I just pray he lets his brother help him we all know my fiancé is stubborn as hell. Jordan and I are still outside come to think of it I haven't been outside since the day I got shoot.

"We should get back inside" I say to Jordan

“What’s the rush beautiful Bella?”

“I’m sure Eric is looking for me now” I answer

“Eric is a big boy he can handle himself. Plus he sees you everyday”

“I have to go help inside” he interrupts me

“They will handle things inside so relax. That’s the helper’s job and you’re not a helper”

I don’t answer!

“You look prettier compared to when I last saw you” he says

“I was also pregnant when you last saw me”

“About that I am sorry” he says

“We shouldn’t just be sitting alone outside we should go to the others” I say

“We are not alone we have the guards watching us”

“Plus we still have to tell Eric the good news” I answer

“Sit down Bella! We’ll go in a sec”

“I’m getting cold” I say

“Here! Take my jacket!”

I’m running out of excuses here can’t he see I just want to leave?

“Heard you have a fiancé now” I clear my throat

“There was no way Eric was going to get married before me of course I had to get a fiancé”

“Are you guys in a competition or something” I snigger

“Who knows?”

Okay!

“We should go” I stand up and he holds my hand

“Did I tell you look beautiful?”

“You did and thank you!” I shift my hand

“Am I making you uncomfortable?”

A lot! But I don't answer

"Eric has always been good when it came to choosing his women" he rubs my chin and I shift back

"I'm going back inside"

"Isabella relax I'm just messing with you" he says

"Still I think we should go back inside"

"Rumor has it that you're just Eric's surrogate and this is all fake" he says

What is he on to? I forgot he's buddies with Lyn of course she told him

"Would he propose if it was fake?"

“I don’t know! But I wish the rumors are true” he chuckles

I should leave right away.

“Thank you for agreeing to help Eric I’ll go tell him” I walk way heading towards the house and he runs after me.

“I don’t think we should tell him yet”

“Why” I ask

“What if I change my mind?”

“But he’s your brother why would you change your mind” I ask

“And we are talking about cutting me up here what is I don’t wake up? I’ve seen many cases like that”

“So in other words you’re not going to save your own brother your own blood” I ask

“I really love my brother and I can do anything for him but this is risky and if I’m going to do it then I need something to motivate me”

“And what is that” I ask as I open the door luckily they are not yet at the table.

“I need something to look forward to that way I won’t die”

“Who said you’re going to die” I shrug

“But the chances are 80/20”

“And your brother is on 10 percent” I reply

“Let’s make a deal”

“What deal” I ask

“If I help Eric I’m going to need something in return”

“Excuse me? You need something in return for helping your own brother” I chuckle

“Yes!”

“And what do you want” I ask

“You!”

“You want me” I laugh

“Yes you Bella”

“I am engaged to your brother and you also have a fiancé” I shake my head this is just madness

“I don’t want her I want you”

“Excuse me!” I try to walk away and he pulls me back

“Only I’m allowed to touch her Jordan thank you” – Eric

Where did he come from?

“Relax we are just talking” Jordan says

“Well hands off” Eris says

I remove Jordan's jacket and hand it to him.

"She's pretty!" Jordan says before walking away

"I know!" Eric answers then turns to me "You okay?"

"Yes!"

"What was Jordan saying" he asks

"He was just being Jordan"

"Don't take some of the things he says to heart Jordan is just mentally disturbed" he says

"I'll keep that in mind"

“Are you still mad at me” he asks

“No!”

“I don’t believe you” he says

“I’m no longer mad Eric”

“You called me Eric which means you’re still mad” he replies

“I’m not mad at you Michael. Happy?”

“If you’re not mad then give me a kiss” he says

“Okay!”

I peck his lips

“You call that kiss” he pulls me closer

“We should go to the table” I giggle

“They can wait”

We are not even minding the people around us God knows I really love this man. We join the others on the table

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I can't stop thinking about what Jordan said. Was he serious or it was just a test to see if I really love his brother? Because if he thinks I'll be with him so he can help Eric then he's clearly out of his mind. Finally everyone leaves except Jordan and his so called fiancé Jenna I feel sorry for the fiancé really having a husband like Jordan. Ella left too since Nick is on his day off so we all know where she is.

"Isabella!" Eric touches my thigh snapping me out of my thoughts we are now sitting by the fireplace

"Did you say something?"

"You're too quiet are you ok" he asks

"Yeah I am fine"

"What's bothering you" he asks

“Nothing really I’m fine”

“So how long have you two been engaged” Jenna asks

“I’ve lost count Bella how long has it been” Eric asks

“Eight months!”

“We have been engaged for three” - Jenna

I just want them to leave already I don’t like the way Jordan is looking at me.

“So when are you two making it official” Jordan asks

“Soon!” I answer

“And I’ll be the best man or the groom” - Jordan

“Okay enough on the alcohol” Eric snatches the glass from his hands

“Or we can have a double wedding” Jenna says

“Nah I want to be the only one on the spotlight” I answer

“Babe we should go” Jenna says

“Yeah it’s getting late” I say

“I thought you guys missed me” Jordan laughs

“We have seen you and that’s enough plus my fiancé and I want to get busy” –Eric

“Hey” I hit his shoulder

“They don’t mind” he chuckles

“Can I have a word with Bella before I leave” Jordan asks

I don't want to talk to him especially in private but I can't say no either

“Jordan stop bothering my fiancé” – Eric

“I just want to talk to the future Mrs Michaels and we want to discuss you so we can't talk in front of you”
Jordan replies

I don't want to be alone with him I look at Eric and nod
guess that's a yes.

“Fine but if he bothers you just shout” Eric says

“Jenna watch him for me” I say as I stand up

“The way you two love each other is out of this world” –
Jenna

“And where’s my kiss” Eric asks

“You guys live together for Christ’s sake”- Jordan

“Let the kids be in love” Jenna says

I follow Jordan out of the room let’s hope he didn’t ask to talk to me so he can say rubbish like he was doing earlier.

“What do you want” I ask

“You know what I want”

“I don’t so kindly remind me” I say

“Did you think about my proposal?”

“Yes and I’ll pass” I reply

“I thought you said you love him”

“I do that’s why I’m not agreeing to this madness” I
answer

“So you don’t care if the love of your life dies?”

“He won’t die and if he does it’ll be on you because you
couldn’t help your brother” I say

“He never asked me”

“He doesn’t have to you should voluntarily do it” I reply

“Then do it for him if you love him so much”

“I will” I answer “What kind of brother are you” I walk away and he pulls me back. Pins me to the kitchen counter

“Don’t talk to me like that”

“And what are you going to do” I ask

He’s really twisting my arm.

“I see you want act touch”

“Jordan let go of me or I’ll scream” I try to break loose

“Maybe Lyn should have aimed for the head you don’t deserve to live”

What? Don’t tell me he knew about the shoot? And please don’t tell me he was also involved.

“Jordan let go of me” he lets go

“Eric doesn’t deserve you you’re supposed to be mine”

“Too bad I’m not!” I answer

“He’ll die soon and guess who’s going to be there comforting you” he tries to touch me and I shift back

“Next time you touch me I’m telling your brother”

We hear a scream coming from the dining and I rush there. Eric is on the floor Please not today!

“Jenna what happened” I ask

“I don’t he just started coughing then...”

“Don’t tell me he took alcohol” I ask

“Not that I know of we were just talking” she answers

“He’s dying Bella!” Jordan says

“Shut up and call the ambulance”

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

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Chapter 29

“I don’t want you to die for me Bella” that’s what he said to me when I told him that I loved him enough to give my own life for him. You see when you love someone life is nothing compared to your love for them you can even take a bullet for them. When you love someone you open up your heart and if you love someone and you’re not afraid to lose them then you don’t really love them. I wish I could turn back the hands of time back to the time when we were happy and just freeze the moment.

I’m trying to be strong but I’m scared! What if Eric dies? It’s been hours and still no update from the doctors. We are at the hospital the whole Michael’s family is here I know now is not the time to think negative but I keep thinking what if? What if he dies? What if I lose him? The funny thing is that I didn’t even shed a tear I’m more scared. I have always been the strongest in my family I never cry.

“It’s my fault Bella! If he dies it’s my fault” Ella cries

“He’s not dying not today” I answer

“They say he was coughing blood this my fault”

“It’s no one’s fault and Eric isn’t dying” I reply

“I’m sorry Bella only if I had let you help him now he’s dying. I can’t lose him Bella I can’t lose another brother”

Another brother?

“He’s not dying Ella he’ll be fine” I answer

“You have to help him Bella!”

“We’ll find him a donor let’s wait and hear what the doctor says first” I say

“Okay!”

“Why don’t you go home and rest” I say

“I can’t leave you alone!”

“The family is here I’ll be fine” I reply

“You should rest too”

“I’ll come home when the doctor tells us what’s going on” I say

“Please call me when you hear from the doctor”

“I will Nick will drive you home” I say

I don't know if Eric is going to be fine Nick did say that he's getting worse. I'm scared really I don't want to lose him. If Jordan continues with his crazy talk I'm going to do this myself I'm going donate my liver to Eric even if it kills me I don't care as long as he survives. Everyone starts to leave one by one what kind of a hospital is this I mean we should have gotten some news by now. Now it's just me Jordan and his parents.

“Do you want some coffee” Jordan asks

“Don't talk to me”

“About earlier I didn’t mean to say what I said” he says

“Then why did you say it?”

“I don’t know and I’m sorry!” he answers

“You have to save him Jordan! Please save him for me?”

“I really like you Bella” he whispers

Seriously! What does that have to do with saving Eric?

Finally the doctor walks up to us what kind of hospital is this we have been here for hours and isn't the Michaels family rich they should use their power and influence

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anything I just want to know what is wrong with Eric?

"Is Eric okay" I ask

"And you are?" - The Doctor

"I'm his fiancé what is wrong with him?"

“We are still running some tests on him but for now he’s out of danger” - Doctor

“So all those hours you were just running tests on him?”

“Isabella can you let the doctor talk” - Jordan

“Anyways we are still examining him I suggest you go home and come back in the morning” - Doctor

“And how long does it take to examine someone what kind of a doctor are you” I yell

“Bella!” –Jordan

“Don’t Bella me am I the only one who cares about Eric. He was coughing blood and want to know what’s wrong with him” I yell

“Calm down Mrs Michaels I suggest you go back home and rest we are doing everything we can but I suggest you find him a donor ASAP”

“Which morning? Because it’s already morning to me” I ask

“Come with me” Jordan pulls me aside a little far from the rest of the family

“What is wrong with you?”

“Let go of me this is all your fault”

“And how is it my fault” he asks

“If you had not asked to talk to me Eric would be fine who knows what you and your fiancé did to him”

A slap lands on my cheek.

“Do not speak to me like that” he warns

I look down.

“I’m sorry!” he whispers “I did not do anything to Eric okay he’s my brother”

“Then what happened to him? He was fine when I left him?”

“I don’t know Bella but please don’t be sad!” he says

“How can I not be sad when my fiancé is in there fighting for his life? You have to help him Jordan”

“Bella it’s risky!” he replies

“He’s your brother Jordan you even said so yourself”

“I know Bella but...” he pauses

“Do you love me?”

“More than anything” he answers

“Then please do this one thing for me? If you really love me like you say then help Eric for me”

“Please don’t ask me for something that is impossible!”
he walks away

I didn't even get the chance to hear what the doctor was saying.

"Hey child!" –Mrs Michaels (Senior)

"Hello!"

"You should go home and rest!"

"I'm not tired!" I answer

"I know you love him I love him too he's my son but I think you should go rest"

"I want to see him first" I say

“The doctor said we can see him tomorrow so go home and rest”

“Okay!” I whisper

“Eric is a fighter ok! Nothing is going to happen to him and we will find him a donor”

Don't tell me I'm the only one who knows about Jordan being a match?

“Okay!” I nod

“Jordan will drive you home okay!”

“Nick said he'll come to get me” I answer

“It's okay I'll drive you!” – Jordan

“Are you ready to go Miss Jacobs” Nicks asks

Thank God he’s here

“Nick will drive me thank you!” I say before walking away

We drive home I’m not in the mood to talk to anyone. I went straight to the bedroom. How come when everything is going fine something always happens and ruins everything?

I remove the dress I was wearing and put on Eric's shirt. I know I said I was strong but I can't be strong any more. Why does Jordan have to be so heartless this is his brother? I would jump in front of a train for my sisters.

I really I do not want to lose Eric I love him too much. If he dies I will kill myself also that's how much I love him. It's hard not to think about him when everything in the room reminds me of him.

I just slept for 3 hours and woke up at 6 prepared to go to the hospital.

"You should eat something" Nick says

“I’m not hungry! Take me to the hospital”

“Bella please! Eat something first” he insists

“I got an apple now let’s go!”

“Eric is going to be fine Bella!” he says as he opens the car door for me

“I’m going to be his donor”

“Eric made it clear that I should never let you do that” he says as he starts driving

“I do not need anyone’s permission”

“I’m sorry but I made a promise to Eric that I wouldn’t let you do this” he answers

“Then try and stop me”

“Bella I mean it” he stops the car

“If I don’t do it he’s going to die!”

“And you might die also” he says

“Why did you stop the car?”

“I’m just following orders I can’t take you to the hospital”
he replies

“And I’m ordering you to drive me to the hospital”

“How do I know you won’t do anything reckless” he asks

“Drive me to the hospital Nick!”

“I’m sorry but my job is to watch you and make sure you’re safe Eric would kill me if anything happened to you” he says

“What are you saying?”

“You’re going to have to forgive me for this” he says

Well that’s the last thing I remember the next thing I wake up in my room. Don’t tell me he drugged me? The door opens and Nick walks in.

“What did you do to me” I ask

“Nothing harmful”

“Take me to see Eric” I order

“Eric said I shouldn’t bring you there so no”

“What? Eric told you that? Is he fine now” I ask

“That’s what he wants”

“I want to see him” I say

“He said I shouldn’t bring you to the hospital is he was to get serious”

“I’m going to see him” I get out of bed

“Please don’t make things harder than they already are and don’t make me use force so don’t push me. Eric specifically told me not to let you near him if he was to get sick”

“But I’m his fiancé I deserve to see him” I say

“Just following orders sorry”

“Why won’t he let me see him” I ask

“I don’t know but he said he never wants to see you hurting because of him”

“You and your boss are crazy do you hear me” I say

“You should eat something”

“I’m not eating I’m going to starve myself until you let me see Eric” I fold my hands

“I’ll leave the food here and I’m locking the door behind me”

“Am I a prisoner now” I ask

“I can’t risk you leaving the house”

“Is he dying” I ask

“Yes Bella he’s dying” he sighs

“Please let me help him”

“I’ll come check on you later” he says

“Is he awake?”

“No!” he answers

“Can you please call Jordan for me?”

“Okay!”

Jordan is my last choice if I really want Eric to live then I have to convince Jordan to help him. If Nick won't let me see Eric then it might mean his condition is worse he even took my phone which means I can't call other relatives to ask about Eric.

“You asked to see me” Jordan asks it didn't take long for him to get here. Pervert!

“You said you want me right? Save Eric and I'm all yours”

“DEAL!”

To be continued.....

30

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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Chapter 30

I really meant it when I said I would do anything to save Eric. Since Nick won't tell me how he is nor let me see him might as well take matters into my own hand and handle things myself. Eric is going to have to forgive me for the decision I'm about to make.

"So you're going to help him right" I ask Jordan

“How do I know you’re going to keep your word?” -
Jordan

“Like I said before I’m going to do whatever it takes to save Eric no matter the cost. You just have to trust me on this one”

“You know I’ll do anything to have you” he answers

And I’ll do anything for Eric

“Eric will hate you for this I’m his fiancé after all”

“He’s a big boy he’ll get over it” he answers

“Why me?”

“Eric always gets what he wants he’s mum and dad’s favorite. He has his own company I had one thing that I

loved and he just had to take that from me why does he have to have it all. They even let him get away with it when Peter died” he answers

“Who’s Peter?”

“Our brother him and Eric decided to sneak out of the house to go to a party and they had a car accident Peter died on the spot and guess who was blamed? Me! Because I wasn’t there to watch over them that was my crime” he answers

So that’s what Ella meant by ‘I don’t want to lose another brother’

“And where do I come in all this?”

“You didn’t meet Eric at an Art gallery because Eric hates Art you two were just lying. I first saw you at the airport” he replies

“I don’t understand!”

“We first saw you at the airport when you were doing a story about the vice President. I loved you first Bella and he went ahead and courted you” he says

How is this possible that they saw me on the same day?

“Look Jordan it doesn’t matter who saw me first I’m going to be yours that’s what matters”

He looks at me guess he wasn’t expecting me to say that.

“Are you going to keep your word” he asks

“I give you my word save Eric and I am yours. We can get away from here far away from everyone and just start a new life”

“Thought you said you love Eric” he asks

“I do! That’s why I’m doing this”

“Okay!” he answers

“You have a fiancé what are you going to do with that?”

“Let me handle Jenna” he answers

“Then we have a deal”

“Deal!” he moves closer and I shift back

“The house has cameras and Nick watches me all the time”

I don't want him to touch me

“Okay but you'll see me before the operation right” he asks

“I'd love to but as you can see Nick has me locked in here”

“I'll talk to Nick” he says

“Okay then I'll come see you”

“I should get going” he says

“When are you going to do it?”

“Tomorrow! The sooner we do it the sooner we get out of here” he says

“Okay!”

“Aren’t you at least going to give me a hug” he asks

“Okay!” I move closer and hug him

That should get him motivated. He leaves the room I start eating the food that Nick left for me. I just want to see Eric at least say goodbye.

Later that day Nick comes to check on me as he promised earlier. He should at least give me my phone back.

“I brought you food”- Nick

“I’m not hungry I just ate”

“Why did you want to talk to Jordan” he asks

“And how is it your concern”

“You shouldn’t be around Jordan” he replies

“Why?”

“You shouldn’t be around him” he answers

“And what if I want to?”

“Bella you’ll get between two brothers and trust me you won’t like the results” he says

“Too late because I’ve already sold myself to him”

“What do you mean” he asks

“Jordan is going to be Michael’s donor”

“He is? How do you know that” he asks

“He told me so himself and said he’ll help Eric”

“What’s in it for him? There has to be something this is Jordan we are talking about” he says

“Me! He helps Michael and he gets me”

“And Eric” he asks

“He’ll get the chance to live”

“But he loves you” he says

“That won’t mean anything if he’s dead and since he won’t let me help him so this is my only choice”

“This is what he was avoiding losing you” he says

“At least I won’t be dead!”

“Bella you should have talked to me first” he says

Too late

“I have a question? Is Jordan mentally disturbed?”

“No why” he asks

“Eric said he is”

“Maybe he meant he just says whatever he likes” he replies

“Who liked me first between the Michaels brothers?”

“Why are you asking me” he says

“I want to know plus you know everything about everyone”

“Jordan but he never told Eric” he replies

“But he told you”

“Yes!” he answers

“So when I was introduced to him

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plus you know everything about everyone”

“Jordan but he never told Eric” he replies

“But he told you”

“Yes!” he answers

“So when I was introduced to him he already knew me?”

“He didn’t recognize you right away but he asked me about you after the Awards when you went with Lyn and Eric” he answers

“Okay!”

“Eric is going to be hurt if he finds out about this” he says

“But I’m saving his life!”

“To him you matter more than his life” he answers

“It’s done! I’ve already made the deal with Jordan”

“Eric will hate me for this!” he says

“At least he’ll be alive”

“Here’s your phone!” he says before walking out.

I do not want to come between two brothers that's one thing for sure. But I had no choice either Jordan wasn't going to help Eric until I agreed to be his woman. Eric will also be torn if he find out I did this after all he did say that he doesn't want me to give my live for him but that's not his decision. I dial my sister Lorain she always knows how to make me feel better.

It's like she was waiting for me to call.

Me: Hey!

Lorain: Hey little sitter! Are you ok?

Me: Yeah! (I sigh)

Lorain: What did you do?

Me: Eric is sick he's dying

Lorain: Don't tell me you're still thinking about being his donor

Me: His brother is also a match

Lorain: Great then he'll help him

Me: At a price!

Lorain: What price?"

Me: He wants me

Lorain: Eric's brother? Like his blood brother?

Me: Yes! He said he can only help him only if he can have me

Lorain: What! And you what did you say?

Me: What choice do I have?

Lorain: This is his brother Bella he doesn't need to be begged to save him

Me: I know but it was either that or Eric dies

Lorain: Are you sure these people are blood related?

Me: Even I'm starting to question

Lorain: I'm sorry

Me: I'll do anything to save him right now

Lorain: Eric will fix all this when he's fine

Me: Yeah he will!

Lorain: I have to go one of the kids is not feeling well

Me: Okay bye!

Ella is here I guess she's come to ask why I didn't show up at the hospital. At least now I can get out of the bedroom but I'm still not allowed out of the house.

"Hey!" I say as we hug

"Are you okay?"

“Yeah why” I ask

“I didn’t see you at the hospital”

“Long story how is he” I ask

“No change but we have great news”

“What great news” I ask

“Turns out we had a donor all this while and didn’t even notice Jordan did the tests and he’s a match”

“Wow that’s great news!” I smile

It would have been greater if I didn’t know.

“Eric is going to be fine!” she says excitedly

So the transplant went very well there were no complications during the operation. Jordan was also fine no complications whatsoever. It took about 4 weeks for Jordan to fully heal but at the hospital he was discharged after a week. Eric is also fine but still at the hospital. I have seen him since the transplant nor talked to him. He's been asking for me but I don't know how to face him. How do I tell him that I sold myself to him brother so that he could help him?

"Are you ready" Nick asks

"No!"

“Come on Bella it’s been 4 weeks and he’s been asking to see you. Plus he’s getting discharged any day from now” Nick states

“Remember the plan?”

“And I still think it’s a bad idea Bella” he replies

“Stick to plan Nick!”

“Fine!” he starts the car we are going to the hospital to see Eric this is the first time I’m seeing him since that dinner the night when everything went south.

We final reach the hospital I’m nervous as hell

“Hey Michael” I murmur

“Finally you decide to come see me come here!”

I walk up to him and kiss him.

“How are you” I ask

“Fine now that I’ve seen you”

“I’m glad!” I reply

“What’s wrong?”

He knows me too well

“Eric I can’t do this anymore” I whisper

“What are you talking about?”

“I want out I no longer want to be in a relationship with you” I say

“Is this a prank or something?”

“I can’t have kids anymore and I know you love kids so much so I suggest you find someone else that will carry your kids” I say

“Bella I do not want kids I want you”

“I don’t love you anymore! I’m leaving for South Africa and I came to say goodbye” I say

I’m trying by all means not to cry

“Bella what’s going on?”

“Bye Eric” I remove the ring and hand it to him

“Bella no!”

“I’m sorry and bye!” I walk out of the room this is the only option. I can hear him calling my name but I have to do this. A part of me wants to run back to him and hug him but I can’t.

To be continued.....

The Surrogate

By ***Cathrine Phiri***

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Chapter 31

“Are you sure about this” Nick asks we are still at the hospital but in the car. I can’t be with Jordan. I know I gave him my word but I also know it’ll hurt Eric if I got with his brother and I do not want Jordan I want my Eric but like they say: sometimes you can’t have it all.

“Yes! From now on I’ll be dead to the Michaels family”

“Bella are you sure” he asks

“I can’t be with Jordan and I can’t come between the two brothers either”

“Eric will be hurt and so is Jordan you did give him your word” he says

“And he was stupid enough to believe me”

“I still think you should stay let Eric fix things” he says

“I don’t want them fighting over me like I’m some trophy and from the looks of it Jordan is seriously if he was willing to donate his liver to Eric just to have me then I might mean a lot to him”

“At least give me some time to figure something out he say

“Something like what? Soon Jordan is going to start looking for me and I can’t have that”

“So you’re leaving” he asks

“Yes!”

“Okay if that’s what you’ve decided then ok” he answers

“Promise to keep Eric safe for me?”

“I will and I’ll miss you a lot everyone will miss you at the house” he says

“Don’t worry Eric will move on soon and you’ll forget about me”

“You’re the only one who used to eat with us I doubt we’ll forget you” he says

“We should get going Eric is calling and I can’t talk to him”

“Bella if you love him don’t leave” he says

“I can’t Nick you of all people should understand me”

“Eric will talk to Jordan please don’t go” he says

“Let them fix things on their own without me. If I’m here it’ll only make things worse”

“They will still want to look for you there’s no way they are going to just let this go” he says

“That’s when the plan comes in you just burn the Bugatti Larry bought for me and say I had a car accident. I’ll be dead to the Michaels”

“And if they do an investigation” he asks

“They don’t do must in cases like this they are just going to look for DNA to see is I was really in the car and there’s a lot of DNA there”

“Still I’d know you’re alive” he says

“And you’re going to keep your mouth shut”

“You’re putting me in a tough position you know my loyalty lies with Eric” he replies

“Even if you tell him you won’t find me”

“What do you mean won’t find you” he asks

“I can’t tell you that”

“Is there anything I can do to change your mind” he asks

“No but you can take me to the airport”

“You can use one of the Michaels jets I’m sure Eric won’t mind” he says

“So you guys can drug me and take me back I learnt my lesson the last time”

“We are going to miss you Bella I’m going to miss you” he says

“I’m going to miss you too”

“Promise to call me if you need anything” he says

“I’ll be dead remember!”

“Stop saying that” he replies

“Here’s the phone!”

“You can keep it” he answers

“It obviously have a tracking device so take it”

“You really thought about this didn’t you” he chuckles

“I did!”

“I can’t promise I won’t tell Eric” he says

“By the time you tell him I’ll be long gone”

Yes I left Spain! I just need some time alone time to focus on me because I've noticed its something I haven't done in a while now. I'm not leaving so I can be with Jordan but because I want to. A lot has happened in the past 14 months. I was a forced into carrying a billionaire's child I ended up falling in love with him I carried and lost his baby I was shot and stayed in a comma for 6 months all in 1 year.

Home sweet home

Sponsored

I was shot and stayed in a comma for 6 months all in 1 year.

Home sweet home I missed this place. As soon as you land you know that you're home after all they say there is no place like home. The last time I was home everyone thought I was crazy. To everyone I was the journalist who wrote a lie about the Minister of finance's wife. I take a cab to my sister's house Lorain.

"Bella!" she says as soon as she opens door

"Hey big sister!"

"You're here!" she hugs me

"I'm back!"

"How's Eric" she asks

“He's fine I guess how have you been where are the kids?”

“Your ring! Where is it” she asks

“With Eric! We are no longer together”

“What? What happened” she asked

“I broke things off it was the right thing to do”

“Right thing for who Bella Eric loves you and I know you love him too” she says

“Eric and I are no longer together Lorain so I suggest we don't talk about him”

“So you're just going to forget about him just like that” she asks

“Lorain what choice do I have? I gave Jordan my word get was going to hate me if I didn’t keep it”

“You weren’t supposed to leave Bella you were supposed to let Eric fix things with his brother” she says

“You won’t understand!”

“Then makes me understand little sister why did you leave Eric” she asks

“I didn’t want them fighting over me”

“And who said they were going to fight? Bella you’re Eric's fiancé” she says

“Lorain I know what I'm doing ok”

“And what are you doing? Hurting yourself thinking you’re doing the right thing” she questions

“I’m leaving!”

“Of course you are you think leaving things is the answer just like you left Eric and just like you left the baby thing” she says

“Leave my baby out of this Lorain”

“Why Bella? You lost a baby pretending it didn’t happen doesn’t help” she says

“What do you want me to do? Scream and shout to the world that I lost a baby is that what you want”

“Crying doesn’t mean you’re weak Isabella you’re human you can’t always be right and stop trying to fix everything” she says

“You don’t understand!”

“Then make me understand little sister you had a man that loves you and you loved him too. You just had to leave him in the name of not wanting to ruin his relationship with his brother. I get it you feel bad that you used Jordan but sometimes we need to tell a little lie sometimes we have to be a little selfish” she replies

“So you think I should go back?”

“Yes go on the next plane and go back to Spain” she says

“But I told him I don’t love him anymore”

“But he loves you otherwise he wouldn’t have called me and told me that you left him” she says

“No wonder you’re scolding me like this”

“I’m scolding you because you are my little sister and it’s my job to help you when I see you going the wrong direction” she smiles

“Fine I’ll go back and fix things with my fiancé”

“Good girl!”

“But first I have to see mum will take the first flight tomorrow”

“I’m glad I knocked some sense into you” she laughs

“I’m glad you did too”

“Love those jeans I want them” she says

“Lorain you took some of my clothes when you came to Spain”

“You can always buy more after all you have a billionaire fiancé” she laughs

“Yeah I owe him an apology!”

“You do” she replies

“You’re not even taking it easy on me”

“Sometimes you just need to hear the truth as it is” she answers

“I know and I admit I made a wrong decision thinking I was doing the right thing”

“And that is why I'm here to help you when you go astray” she says

“Thank you! How’s Maya?” (Our older sister)

“She’s out of town with her husband” she answers

“In the middle of the month”

“Well you know how extra she can be and before I forget next time you decide to leave Eric know that we don’t have the money to pay him back his money” she says

“What money?”

“Your lobola money Mrs Michaels” she answers

“He paid lobola for me?”

“Yes! Well he asked how we do it in our tradition and I told him so he did it the time you were in a comma” she replies

“He did it even though he wasn’t sure I was going to wake up?”

“Shows that he really loves you” she says

“And I love him too”

“Then why did you want to leave him” she asks

“I seemed like a good idea at time”

“Well its not” she replies

“Being a mum is messing you up I'm going to see mum I've had it with you scolding me”

“It’s because I love you don’t take it to heart” she calls as I head out. Maybe I should have listened to Nick when he told me to let Eric handle things.

To be continued on the *_FINALE_*

Finale

The Surrogate

By *Cathrine Phiri*

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FANALE

After leaving my sister's place I checked into a hotel I will see my mother the following day. I'm tired and don't have the energy to start explaining why I am back home.

And may I say it was the best sleep I've ever had since Eric was admitted at the hospital. Speaking of Eric I miss him! I miss his kisses I miss him touching me and I miss making love with him.

He treated me like a queen he never lost his cool no matter how angry he was. He never yelled at me or wronged me all he ever did was love me. He might not have been good with words but his action screamed it out loud for him. I really owe him an apology I had a perfect man in front of me and just had to ruin things with my stubbornness.

I'm woken up by a loud noise more like the door closing quickly sit up. Was that the door or I was dreaming? The rings I check the screen and it's just an alarm. I'm still at the hotel that's a relief but how did this phone get here? I hear a knock on the door its 7am and I didn't order anything. I slowly walk to door and open it. It's Lorain! How did she even know I was here?

"If it's not the billionaire's surrogate"

"His name is Eric and did you know I was here" I ask

"You told me you were checking into a hotel yesterday"

"No I told you I was going to see mum and still I never told you the room number" I answer

"You told me Bella maybe you just forgot! Go bath and let's go out"

“Since when do you ‘go out’ because last time I checked you preferred playing your kids” I ask

“The kids are with mum I'm allowed to have a little fun for just 2 hours”

“Then being a mum sucks” I answer

“Go shower already and what kind of woman wakes up at 7”

“And what time am I supposed to wake up” I ask

“At 5am!”

“At 5? That’s too early plus I didn’t have a watch” I call from the bathroom

“You have a phone don’t you?”

“I don’t! I gave it to Nick before I left Spain” I answer

“And this one?”

“That’s not mine” I answer

“Whose is it?”

“I don’t know when I woke up it was there” I reply

“Was it there when you got here?”

“I don’t know I was tired just got here and slept” I reply

“Are you done yet?”

“Lorain I just walked into the bathroom” I say

“Wait till you’re a mother you won’t have the time for a 30 minute bath”

“Having kids has nothing to do with bathing Lorain and you please find me something to wear” I call

“Ok a dress or denims?”

“A dress I hardly wear denims Eric hates them” I say heading out of the bathroom

“So he loves you in skirts?”

“Yes he says he likes seeing my legs and if I'm in a skirt it's easier to undress me” I bite my lip

“To much information I did not need to hear all that”

“Come on don’t act like you don’t have sex with your husband” I say

“We hardly do these days with the kids screaming left right and center”

“You can always send them to their grandmother” I say

“Still I'm always tired Bella I'll be chasing the kids around all day playing wife and Mark will be at work then he comes back giving me attitude”

“How can he no give you attitude since you became a mum you’ve given up on yourself look at you not even wearing a bra” I say

“I am wearing a bra okay!”

“Well it looks like you’re not anyways you should let the kids sleep over at mum dress up and look sexy for your husband and stop looking like a mum” I reply

“Hello I am a mum”

“And so is Shakira or Beyoncé but have you seen how they look” I say

“Sex isn’t everything in a relationship”

“It is in mine Eric and I have the best sex ever” I answer

“Can we stop talking about sex?”

“No!” I laugh

“I’m not wild as you ok I’m not into that fifty shades thing”

“Sometimes you gotta spice things up” I say

“Only if you knew how weird this sounds coming from you”

“Take my advice trust me he'll be all over you like a rash”
I say

“Can we please go?”

“Almost done” I say putting on my shoes

A girls day out is exactly what I needed

Sponsored

it's been long since I've had this much fun. I was saving money back when I was in Spain so I'm loaded. Lorain and I went to the Spar did our hair and nails then we went lingerie shopping mostly for Lorain. We also visited our parents they were very happy to us. Then we went to Lorain's

"I still think it's stupid" Lorain says she's trying on the lingerie.

“It’s not stupid trust me he’ll like it. Put a gown on top then wait for him to walk in drop the gown on the floor and ask him if he wants dinner or dessert”

“What did Eric do to you you’re weren’t like this” she laughs

“I should go rest I have flight to catch and a fiancé to get to”

“I’m going to miss you!” she says

“You’ll see me soon when you come to my wedding”

That’s if there’s going to be one.

“Before I forget I have a ticket to the art gallery” she says handing it to me

“For me? Thank you!”

“I know you love art” she smiles

“I’ll sleep later I’m going to Art gallery. Can I shower here?”

“Sure!” she answers

I bath and put on one of Lorain’s mum dresses but looks better on me since I’m thicker than her. Then head to the Art gallery. I love Art I don’t know why but I just do and I also love learning about history. I’m standing in front of a painting for some reason I get lost in my thoughts. I’m thinking about Michael I’m smiling by myself.

“Do you like it?” says a voice and I quickly turn I need to know if my ears aren’t deceiving me.

“We can get it if you want” he adds

No way!

“Oh sorry to be rude I’m Eric Michaels” he smiles.

I can’t contain my excitement I attach him with a hug.

“Somebody missed me” he holds me tight

“I’m sorry Michael! I'm sorry I left”

“It’s ok but still you should have told me” he says calmly he’s always calm compared to me.

“I didn’t want to come between you and Jordan”

“But still you should have told what happened to telling each other everything. No secrets remember” had asks

“I know I made a mistake and at the time it seemed like a good idea”

“And you wanted to fake your death of all the things I thought you were smarter than that” he says

“I'm sorry!”

“I love you Bella you're mine and I'm yours there's not leaving now” he says

“I know and I was going to come home tomorrow and apologize. I am really sorry!”

“We can go back to the hotel and you can show me how sorry you are” he smiles

“Don’t tell me that was you in the morning?”

“We slept on the same bed and you didn’t even notice you sleep like a dead person” he replies

“How did you get here so fast and when did you get discharged from the hospital?”

“Nick came to me after leaving you at the airport and did you really think I was just going to let you go just like that?” he says

“I’m glad you’re here”

“Let’s get out of here I’m tired of looking at these hideous picture” he says

“They are not hideous”

“Plus you owe me an apology” he replies

That’s the thing with me and Eric we never go to bed mad at each other. We might fight or get angry at each other but we don’t go to bed mad. That’s where the make-up sex comes in.

So everything is fine now Eric said I should leave Jordan to him so I’m going to do that. For now I'm just going to focus on us. It’s nice having to wake up in his arms for the first time Eric usually leaves before I wake up. I don’t regret agreeing to be his surrogate and he didn’t ruin my life he made it better than it was. He’s still sleeping and I’m just watching him i wonder if Anna was going to be cute as her father.

I scratch my eye that's when I realize I have a ring in my finger but this one is different from the one I had. I look at Michael who's still sleeping and smile.

"You're not thinking about killing me are you" Eric asks

"And why would I want to kill you?"

"Who knows you women are dangerous" he answers

"You gave me another ring?"

"I was tempted to glue it on that way you can never take it off but I stopped myself" he says

“I won’t take it off!”

“I know you won’t I have a proposal for you” he sits up

“What proposal?”

“I want you to carry my child for me” he says

“Michael you know I can’t get pregnant we tried for months remember”

“How can you get pregnant when you were on the injection” he says

“I was?”

“You were getting attached and I was dying Bella there’s no way I was going to leave you alone with a kid” he replies

“Let me guess you injected me while I was sleeping?”

“Yes and told the doctor to tell you that you can’t have kids” he says

“Not cool Eric!”

“I know and I’m sorry” he says

“You should have told me”

“With your stubbornness you wouldn’t have listened to me” he answers

“True!!”

“So what do you say Miss Jacobs do you want to carry my child for me” he asks

“Am I allowed to say no?”

Reminds me of the time we first met

“No!” he chuckles

“Okay then let’s do this try to keep up”

“I just came out of the hospital” he laughs

“Don’t worry I’ll take it easy on you” I giggle

The End!!!!

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