



Fall for You

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Category: Romance, M-m Romance, New Adult

Description: Ethan Sutton came to the stunning revelation he'd fallen in love with his best friend, Sebastian Young. Although friends since childhood, Ethan vowed to keep his feelings for Sebastian under wraps and live the rest of his life with this one secret between them. He'd rather keep their friendship than risk a lifelong connection and never see him again. But when they move into their own place at the start of their junior year, can Ethan keep his feelings from showing when they live so close together?

Sebastian Young had an epiphany about Ethan at the end of last year. He moved them into a loft he'd found over the summer allowing him to be closer to Ethan. As they settle into their lives in a new place with such close quarters, ex-girlfriends, nosy downstairs neighbors, and Sebastian's own doubts could put their relationship in jeopardy before it even begins.

Can two best friends admit their feelings and fall in love?

Total Pages (Source): 34

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Chapter One

Ethan

Ethan kept his eyes on his phone during the entire trip. It wasn't as though he didn't want to speak to Sebastian, who sang under his breath at the song coming through the speakers of his older SUV. But whenever he'd been in an enclosed space with Sebastian, he caught his scent of pine and cedar mixed with a hint of mint, and each time he moved, it drifted over to him and drove Ethan crazy. Even from the other side, Sebastian's body heat surrounded him and he wriggled in his seat to adjust himself before his desire for his best friend became clear.

For years, the closeness he shared with Sebastian had been enough. It was he and Sebastian against the world throughout high school, and Ethan understood it would be the same in college.

But when they started their freshman year, Sebastian decided he would make up for lost time by dating his way through the female student body at the University of Oregon. Sebastian still made time for him, but it was rare during their first two years of college for Sebastian not to have at least one date on the weekend.

Ethan hadn't understood what the churning emotions were each time Sebastian talked about a new woman. Later, he recognized the feeling was jealousy.

There had been a time during his sophomore year, driven by those feelings of jealousy and his newfound awareness he was gay, he'd gone out. Most of the time, with a frequency that matched Sebastian's frenzied dating life. Ethan resolved to find

someone and forget about the man he most wanted, his best friend, so he headed to a well-known bar off-campus.

Although he'd gone home with guys, nothing progressed past blowjobs. For one, it solidified the fact he was gay. Despite knowing, Ethan had no clue what held him back from going further with the willing men he'd met, but something stopped him.

After his break-up with his long-time girlfriend, Sebastian became a constant in Ethan's life again. Their friendship had never strained during their first years of college, and they grew closer when Sebastian found himself single.

During the summer, they decided they wanted to rent an off-campus apartment and live together. Ethan believed they would request a room together in the dorms, but Sebastian wanted to ditch the dorms and find their own place. Their parents had agreed to it although it would be more expensive.

More than once, Ethan had wanted to look for a place before they were all rented, but Sebastian said he would handle everything.

“Don't worry. I've got it covered.”

And now they were moving in together, Ethan found himself nervous about having his feelings show at the most inopportune moments.

Their freshman year, they were assigned separate rooms in different buildings. And being so far apart from each other became a pain in the ass. More often than not, Ethan would stay at Sebastian's place, or Sebastian's at Ethan's. Unless Sebastian had a date.

It had been easy to hide his feelings then. He wasn't so sure his desire wouldn't show in such close quarters. But when Sebastian brought up living together, there wasn't a

reason not to, and he agreed. Hundreds of excuses became plain as they drove closer to their destination but Ethan didn't voice them aloud.

But his eyes kept being drawn back to Sebastian, his heart kicking in his chest as he took in Sebastian's tanned arm draped over the steering wheel. Each time Sebastian caught Ethan looking at him, he would give him that easy smile. The smile made every man want to be his friend and every woman fall in love with him.

Although their friendship was an easy one, Ethan sometimes wondered how they grew so close when they were so different.

Their parents were best friends in high school, and he and Sebastian had been born weeks apart. Their parents worried they would grow tired of each other after being forced together almost every day, but they surprised everyone by becoming even closer than their own parents. They depended on each other and that hadn't changed.

Sebastian was the outgoing one. The life of the party and he attracted people to him without effort. He was six three and towered over most. Along with short blond hair, he had a muscular body that reminded Ethan of a football player. Add good looks and a quick laugh, he had a lightness about him that drew people.

Ethan was about three inches shorter with black hair and dark green eyes. He was most comfortable with a computer or a book in front of him, and most of the time, he didn't care about what people thought about him. Although not cocky, he had confidence in who he was and what he wanted out of life.

When Sebastian had told him about his break-up, the simmering anxiety that had been his constant for years stopped. He had known he and Sebastian were closer than most friends. But it wasn't until those feelings had bubbled to the surface that he'd grasped how far beyond friendship he'd gone.

Although Ethan, excited to admit to himself what he'd denied for years, still had a major hurdle. The only hurdle that mattered.

Sebastian was straight.

He never made things easy on himself. Because of his feelings and knowing he would have no chance with Sebastian, he jumped at the opportunity to live with his friend.

Ethan wasn't paying attention and hadn't realized they'd stopped until Sebastian cut the engine and plucked the cell out of his hand.

"You've been ignoring me for two hours. What's so important on your phone?"

"I want to drop the stats class."

"No, you can't, man. I can't get through that required class without you. Please?" Sebastian turned his pleading hazel eyes toward him and Ethan laughed, shaking his head.

Ethan pushed at his shoulder but gulped when Sebastian reached for his hand and held it in his larger one longer than he expected. Ethan's focus stayed on their linked hands.

"Fine. I won't drop it, but you owe me."

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Sebastian beamed at him and changed the subject. “Ready to see our new place?”

Ethan nodded. He almost moaned at the loss when Sebastian squeezed his hand once before he let go. Sebastian opened the driver’s side door and Ethan copied the movement on his side.

“Let’s get our stuff after. I want you to see it first.” Sebastian’s excitement made Ethan smile.

Sebastian reached for Ethan’s arm and led him to the side entrance of the modern building. He shivered, surprised when Sebastian kept his warm hand on his arm, underneath his gray tee, skin-on-skin.

Sebastian turned to shoot him a smile of reassurance walking backward toward the door. Ethan couldn’t help but notice how the blue of Sebastian’s tee brought out the hazel of his eyes. Thinking he might have been staring a little too long, he glanced down and back up at Sebastian, who was still smiling at him.

Reaching back to open the door, Sebastian moved his hand out of the way in time to avoid being hit when it opened from the inside. Ethan darted his gaze to the entrance and contained his groan when he spotted the blonde exiting the building.

Well, it was nice while it lasted.

She was Sebastian’s type. Blonde, slender, and wearing a tight white tank top and shorts. He knew Sebastian wouldn’t pass up the opportunity to flirt with her.

Ethan tried to pull his arm from Sebastian's grip, wanting to avoid the inevitable, but found himself trapped when she turned and smiled at Sebastian. With a quick glance to see what Ethan was looking at, Sebastian turned back to him and raised a brow.

“Hi, I'm Sarah.”

Ethan was stunned silent when Sebastian gave her a quick nod in greeting before he dragged Ethan through the door and up the short flight of stairs. With one last glance behind him to make sure Ethan hadn't bolted, Sebastian unlocked the door to their flat.

“What?”

“That was the first time I've witnessed you not flirt with a woman. And she was a blonde.”

Sebastian laughed and shook his head, opening the door. “I'm partial to dark hair and olive skin.”

“Since when?” Ethan blurted.

Sebastian's smile grew wider. Instead of answering, he turned and walked inside the flat, leaving Ethan to follow.

As if on autopilot, Ethan walked in behind Sebastian, keeping his eyes on the wide shoulders in front of him, waiting to hear his explanation.

“After Amber, and others that came before her, I knew that I needed time alone to think about who I want to be with. And I've figured out a lot of things after I quit serial dating.”

His words, while doing nothing to clear up why he hadn't flirted with Sarah downstairs, struck him as sincere and serious. His heart beat hard and his hands went numb, unable to stop his thoughts from presuming that Sebastian felt more for him than friendship.

As quickly as they'd come, he dismissed his crazy notions that Sebastian would fall in love with him after all their years of friendship.

"I also missed spending time with you. That's why I wanted us to live together. You can't avoid me now."

It wasn't avoidance; it was self-preservation.

Shaking his head, Ethan smiled and his eyes moved from Sebastian for the first time since they ventured upstairs and entered their flat. His eyes widened as he took in the huge open space already furnished. It contained a brown leather couch, a TV that took up an entire wall, leather chairs scattered around, and two desks.

A fantasy about he and Sebastian on the couch flashed in his mind and he bit down on his bottom lip to stop the muffled moan from escaping. With a quick shake of his head, he moved away from his thoughts on sex.

"How... are we able to afford this?"

Sebastian laughed at Ethan's reaction. "Our moms helped when I told them of my plan. They found this place. The owner is living overseas, and he wanted someone he could trust to house sit. He knew my mom when she worked with him a couple years ago. So, we have the place until we graduate. The only stipulation is we can't throw any parties."

"Yes, I'm sure you're worried I would invite the entire campus over."

Sebastian ignored Ethan's snarky comment and placed both hands on his shoulders, turning him around and steering Ethan toward the door on the left. "Wait until you see this."

Ethan, already stunned silent by Sebastian touching him more in the last fifteen minutes than the entire year previous, reached toward the sliding barn door and opened it.

He felt his jaw drop as his eyes roamed over the ultra-modern kitchen. All the appliances looked new, including the two ovens and a colossal refrigerator. The area was tied together with a black granite island matching the countertops that wrapped around the room.

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All thoughts scattered when Sebastian stepped closer and pressed his chest against Ethan's back. Sebastian, the more tactile of the two, slid his arm around Ethan's waist and splayed his hand over his stomach. He pulled Ethan back against his body as if it were the most natural position in the world. Ethan loved the heat radiating off Sebastian's taller form.

Ethan had to clear his throat several times before he spoke. "I'm the one who'll be cooking?"

He turned to face Sebastian because his heat and scent were doing crazy things to his body. Sebastian sent him a pleading, yet half hopeful look, the one that had Ethan doing anything his friend asked.

"The place is too nice. If I cooked, I would burn down the kitchen."

Ethan looked at him with his eyebrow raised.

"Maybe? Okay."

When they were fifteen, Ethan had been sick an entire week with the flu and Sebastian pretended to be sick so he could stay home with Ethan. He tried to warm up soup when Sebastian knew Ethan was too weak to leave his bedroom. The scorch marks were visible above the hood of his parent's stove to this day. And despite Ethan trying to teach him, he hadn't improved.

"Okay, I'll cook."

Instead of answering, Sebastian's gaze roamed over the rest of the open space, not meeting Ethan's eyes. Then, he bit his lower lip and Ethan knew cooking duty wasn't what Sebastian worried about.

Sebastian reached for Ethan and pulled him into a hug.

“What's going on? Do you have a harem waiting for you in your bedroom?”

Sebastian shook his head, his chin moving on top of Ethan's head. He took a deep breath before he stepped back and reached for Ethan's hand, leading him to one of the other doors in the flat.

He opened the door with hesitation and Ethan blinked at the king-sized bed in the middle of the room. Ethan glanced around, confused for a long moment. But when he turned back to Sebastian, Ethan noticed a blush stained his friend's cheeks. He'd never seen Sebastian blush, even with the most brazen propositions he'd received, and the truth struck him.

“It's a one bedroom.” It wasn't a question, but it was all Ethan could choke out.

Again, Sebastian nodded.

A flurry of emotions ran through Ethan. Understanding he would have to share a bed with the one man he wanted beyond all others, left his brain sluggish as he tried for a reply.

“Huh.”

Elegant, Ethan.

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Chapter Two

Sebastian

Sebastian rocked back and forth on the balls of his feet as he tried to interpret Ethan's look and the meaning behind his one-word reply.

His gaze went back to the bed, and he surveyed the space he would share with Ethan for the foreseeable future. The bed where he would be sleeping. With Ethan.

Naked?

Fuck. Not helping.

Sebastian hated that they'd been growing apart since they had started college. And he took full responsibility for causing the distance between them.

Although Sebastian had looked at their newfound freedom as an excuse to party and date, a lot, Ethan had stayed the same. Ethan read more than anyone he'd ever known, having a book or tablet nearby at all times. He preferred staying in over going out with Sebastian, despite the many attempts he'd made to get Ethan to join him for a night out.

Sebastian had always been a little self-absorbed and tried to find himself through dating, some women he'd slept with, others he didn't. And Sebastian could admit, well, at least to himself, he'd acted like a complete jackass while on his own. Despite all he'd put his friend through, Ethan agreed to live with him and he wouldn't do

anything to jeopardize their friendship.

And something had decided for him late last semester and it changed how he looked at his friend.

He had been dating Amber for months longer than he should have. At the time he'd met her, the revolving door of women in his life grew old and he wanted to see if he could settle for one person.

But dating Amber had turned out to be one of the worst decisions he'd ever made. She complained about how Sebastian talked to, texted, and called Ethan more than he spoke to her. She had asked him to ditch his friend on more than one occasion, but he'd stopped any conversation that included Ethan. As the weeks progressed, he understood their relationship was over and debated the best way to break up with her.

An incident took decision out of his hands.

Sebastian and Amber were at a frat party on a random Friday night in March, the one place in college he tried to avoid. Amber loved the rowdy group, most of them exes of hers, and dragged him there. Sebastian stood in the corner of the living room, trying to avoid Amber and the stale beer coming from one of the many kegs stationed around the house when he spotted a familiar dark-haired man across the room.

Sebastian pushed off the wall and made his way over to his friend, but froze halfway across the room. As he watched on in shock, the one he was with pulled him into an embrace before their lips slammed together in desperation. The kiss grew heated, their bodies pressed together as fingers gripped his hips as they strived to get closer, oblivious to the rest of the people in the packed room.

As Sebastian continued to watch, all other thoughts ceased besides the two that throbbed in his brain. Ethan was being kissed by another man, and surprise when pain

flared deep inside his chest as his heart broke.

Sebastian hadn't realized he'd been holding his breath until the two men pulled apart for air and he had gotten a good look at the man he thought to be his friend. The air escaped from his lungs as he realized the man wasn't Ethan.

Clarity struck him hard and fast at that moment. Jealousy, something he'd never experienced before when any man flirted with his dates, seared in his chest. The truth at that moment was undeniable.

Shaking his head to clear his thoughts, he sought Amber.

"Amber, we're over. I have to go."

"What!?!"

The screech that came from her had Sebastian flinching back.

"You can't do that, you can't break up with me."

Sebastian hadn't cared about the crowd they were attracting, he needed to get out of there. "We're through, that's final. Have a good life."

Her hand darted out and tried to clamp on his forearm as she opened her mouth to argue, but he maneuvered away from her and left the party.

Sebastian raced across campus and ran up the three flights of stairs to Ethan's dorm room before he pounded on the door. Sebastian didn't care if he woke Ethan's other roommates or anyone else in the hall. He needed to know.

He held his breath as he waited for Ethan, wondering if he had been in denial at the

party and it had been Ethan there all along. Sebastian's gaze jerked up at the click of the lock and Ethan answered the door in the sweats and tee he slept in. He rubbed the sleep from his eyes at the same time Sebastian blew out a long breath.

Sebastian pushed Ethan back into the dorm suite without a word, slamming the door behind them, before he pulled Ethan into a bone-crushing hug. His body sagged in relief.

Ethan had known something had happened, but he didn't ask questions.

After several silent minutes of standing there, listening to Sebastian's heavy breathing in the silent room, Ethan gripped his hand and pulled Sebastian into his bedroom.

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Ethan slid under the covers and moved toward the wall. Sebastian took that for an invitation and burrowed under the covers next to him.

Several times, Sebastian opened his mouth and tried to explain why he had shown up on his doorstep, frantic. But he closed his mouth and burrowed his face against Ethan's chest and held the other man in his arms.

They both fell asleep without a word said between them. And it was the best sleep of Sebastian's life.

He spent the rest of the semester in Ethan's little dorm room, sharing his twin bed, and never once talking about what he'd seen at that party or about his realization.

And he would have kept it to himself for the rest of his life but the first week home for summer break, his mom had noticed his strange behavior and asked him about it. Without realizing he needed to talk, he confessed everything to her.

She smiled at him and told him Ethan was perfect for him. She encouraged the idea that he and Ethan share a place. And while he agreed to live together, he balked when she encouraged him to talk to Ethan about his feelings.

The last thing he wanted was to lose his best friend, the most important person in his life. He debated over and over about whether he should tell Ethan, but he came back to one crucial factor.

Did Ethan desire a relationship with him?

But he had noticed Ethan gaze straying toward him often and looking away when Sebastian caught him. There, visible on his face whenever Sebastian caught him, a slight flush on his cheeks. But he couldn't bring himself to ask Ethan about his reaction, and before long, he looked forward to putting the stain on his cheeks.

“Why would you rent a place where we would have to share a room?” Ethan's curious voice pulled Sebastian from his thoughts.

Sebastian shrugged. “It's not a big deal. Most of last semester, we shared your tiny twin bed. This time, we have a king size bed. It's worth it for the location and the space we have.”

Sebastian loved those nights, warming Ethan's body with his own as Ethan draped himself over Sebastian because he was always cold in the winter. Ethan had gone from wearing sweats and flannels to bed to wearing boxer briefs, trusting Sebastian to keep him warm.

Some nights, it took Sebastian several minutes to control himself before he wrapped Ethan in his arms and enjoyed holding him the entire night.

“I'm not sleeping on the couch when you have a date. You can go to her place.”

Unable to stay away from the man right in front of him, Sebastian leaned his chin on Ethan's shoulder and wrapped his arms around his stomach. Vanilla and citrus surrounded him as he breathed in Ethan.

Sebastian almost groaned aloud when he glanced down and spotted an exposed part of olive skin. He wanted nothing more than to explore Ethan whenever he wanted to. Along with his thoughts, his cock stirred when Ethan placed his hand on top of Sebastian's lying on his stomach.

“I’m serious about taking a break from dating. I realized something, several weeks before summer break. Something that rocked my entire outlook.”

Ethan turned in his arms and met his gaze, smiling when Sebastian’s arms wrapped around him again.

“When I’m ready, I want to talk to you about it.”

Without missing a beat, Ethan said, “Whatever it is, it won’t change anything between us. I’ll always be here for you.”

Sebastian wondered if Ethan heard his pounding heart and to distract himself, he moved his eyes down and stared at Ethan’s lips. He bit his own bottom lip to hold back a groan as he thought about exploring the contours of Ethan’s mouth.

Sebastian took a step back. He didn’t want to scare Ethan, and until Sebastian told him the truth, he wouldn’t kiss him.

Even if he wanted to more than he needed his next breath.

But that didn’t mean he would keep his hands to himself either.

“I’ve been thinking about something for a long time. When I’m ready, I want to tell you, too.” Ethan looked nervous, so Sebastian distracted him.

“Anytime you want to talk, I’m here. But in the meantime why don’t we unpack. All we have is our clothes, miscellaneous stuff along with our laptops and tablets. Then we’ll order out. I suppose I won’t make you cook tonight.”

Ethan laughed, and it sent a shaft of longing straight to Sebastian’s cock. He cleared his throat and tried to think unsexy thoughts, but with Ethan walking in front of him

as they headed for the door, his gaze zeroed in on his ass and he knew it would be hopeless.

He met him at the door and flung an arm around Ethan's shoulders and walked downstairs with him pressed to his side.

They spent the next few hours moving boxes upstairs and unpacking, both of them grateful the place came furnished. As he arranged all of their combined movies they'd collected over the years, his gaze drifted toward the kitchen doorway.

He glimpsed Ethan as he moved around the kitchen and rearranged the space to his liking. Sebastian glanced up when Ethan stood on his toes to put something on a high shelf, and he bit back a groan when Ethan's tee rode up, exposing the naked skin on his lower back to his view. He wanted to run his hands all over Ethan's bare skin to see if it was as soft as he imagined. Even wondering how he would taste if Sebastian were to...

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He shook his head trying to clear his thoughts.Or tried to anyway.

Sebastian thought he loved sex with the women he'd been with.But the thought of touching Ethan, kissing Ethan, heated his body faster and made every other experience seem distant and hazy compared to his fantasies about the man in the other room.And Ethan had done nothing, he was Ethan.

Ethan turned back toward the living room and caught Sebastian staring at his ass.Instead of looking away, Ethan licked his lips and Sebastian tried and failed to hold his groan in his throat.He flinched until he realized they had music playing in the background and Ethan couldn't hear the sound that escaped from his throat.

“Why don't you order dinner?”

Sebastian fumbled to pull his phone from his pocket when Ethan gave him a knowing smile.

“Hello?”

Sebastian stared at Ethan's lips until he heard a sharp voice.“Hello?”

Sebastian recovered enough to order Ethan's favorite, chicken tikka and several other dishes.He stuttered a goodbye when Ethan brushed his hand against Sebastian's hip as he passed by to sit on the couch.Sebastian's gaze never left Ethan as he moved.

“Are you going to sit?”Ethan patted the spot next to him on the couch.

Not wanting any space between them, Sebastian sat next to Ethan, close enough their thighs touched. Feeling Ethan's warmth as he cuddled against his side, Sebastian turned on the TV and flicked through channels as he became lost in his thoughts.

Ethan picked up the paperback he had been reading and the silence between them grew comfortable as they waited for their dinner.

Had Ethan been flirting with me earlier?

Before he could answer that question, there was a buzz from the intercom and Sebastian stood to answer it.

Sebastian still thought about the question as they ate dinner and throughout the rest of the night, but he still didn't have an answer to the question. He thought Ethan might have, but he couldn't be sure.

When Ethan yawned, Sebastian glanced at the clock and noticed that it was past midnight. He cleared the food and put the dishes in the dishwasher before he made certain they locked the front door.

He pulled Ethan to his feet before shutting off the TV, plunging them into darkness. Sebastian sucked in a quiet breath as Ethan leaned against him, his warm, solid weight sending his body into a frenzy.

As they got ready for bed, Sebastian smiled at how easy they maneuvered around each other as they brushed their teeth and washed their faces. They had done the same ritual many times before, but this time, they both shared the space instead of Sebastian crashing at Ethan's or spending the night in one of their old bedrooms at home. This time, there seemed to be an underlying tension and Sebastian wondered if it was on his side alone.

Shaking off his swirling thoughts, he ripped off his shirt and his sweats, leaving him only in his boxers before he slid over to the left side of the bed. Ethan preferred the right, and Sebastian didn't care as long as Ethan would be next to him.

Sebastian followed Ethan's gaze as it traveled over his chest and stomach but became distracted when Ethan whipped his tee over his head and shucked the sweats he'd put on before they'd unpacked.

The wave of desire that swept over him had him clenching his stomach and biting his lip so the moan stuck in his throat wouldn't escape.

Quiet stretched between them.

"Are you okay? I mean with this?" Sebastian's hand swept the room after Ethan got into bed.

Ethan switched off the lamp on his bedside table and turned to face Sebastian. "If I'm not showing my excitement about having our own place, I don't mean to, but I'm a little tired and sore from moving in. I think this place is great, and I never minded sharing a bed."

"You know I regret the way I treated you when we first came here. I've missed... us. I wanted to go back to how we were before college."

"There's nothing wrong with having fun. And we're still close. You worry too much."

"You're right." But Sebastian couldn't help but think about all those years he and Ethan could have discovered feelings other than friendship and built something more together.

Ethan's voice, low and deep, brought him out of his musings. "Goodnight, Sebastian."

“Night, Ethan.”

Sebastian watched Ethan’s chest rising and falling with each breath he took as he slipped into sleep. His face relaxed and Sebastian felt a surge of affection.

I will drum up courage soon.

As he stared at Ethan’s lips, he wanted to know how those lips felt pressed against his and what he would taste like. But most of all, he needed to know how Ethan sounded when he moaned with pleasure.

Yeah, I’m so screwed.

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Chapter Three

Ethan

Ethan shifted deeper under the covers when a chill swept over him, but he found it hard to get warm. A cold snap had come in the night before and he'd gone to bed shivering. That was until he found Sebastian's heat and pressed their backs together.

The man was a furnace.

After the warmth spread through him, he fell into a deep comfortable sleep. At some point, he must have shifted away from Sebastian, because the cold snuck underneath the blankets.

Ethan cracked one eye open and peeked at the clock. It was too early to get up, or at least he tried to convince himself he didn't have class soon. As he pulled the comforter tighter around him, he edged his way toward the other side of the bed.

He held back a gasp as Sebastian's warm arm wrapped around his waist and pulled him against his solid, naked chest.

Still half asleep and now warming up, he burrowed back against Sebastian, too tired to worry about giving away his feelings when he was this comfortable.

Sebastian's scent of cedar and warm man drifted closer before Sebastian's arm tightened around him, and Ethan knew these fleeting moments with Sebastian were all he had to look forward to. Sebastian wasn't his, but in these early mornings, he

could pretend.

For the past couple of nights, Ethan had worried he would find himself wrapped around Sebastian, unable to keep his feelings from showing if Sebastian woke up and caught him. Ethan liked to cuddle and thought he would give himself away if he didn't hide his reaction to his friend, so he opted to stay on his side of the bed. Until his unconscious mind took over and he found himself in Sebastian's arms when he woke.

As the morning sun rose in the sky and illuminated their bed, Ethan remembered the nervousness that poured from Sebastian when he had shown him their one bedroom.

Ethan was glad they'd gone back to their easy friendship, but Ethan was a realist. It would only be a matter of time before Sebastian broke from his self-imposed "no dating" rule. Until then, Ethan would savor the time he had with Sebastian, who buried his face against Ethan's neck, almost drawing a moan from him.

As Ethan warmed up, and he dozed off, Sebastian's voice brought him back to consciousness.

"Aren't you going to make me breakfast?"

Ethan smiled into the pillow as his heart leaped at the sound of his rough, husky voice. He turned in Sebastian's arms and noticed that his eyes were still closed. Sebastian pulled him closer and waited for Ethan's answer.

"I'll make you breakfast, forever, if you remember to turn the heat on before bed."

Sebastian's eyes shot open, and he threw his head back as he laughed, the sound echoed through their quiet room. When his laughter died down, he wiped his eyes and glanced at Ethan. "Why? I'm here to keep you warm, anyway."

Ethan's heart fluttered at Sebastian's words. He grew silent as he enjoyed their shared heat, but chuckled when Sebastian's stomach growled.

Ready for the cold, he took a deep breath before he darted out from under the covers and searched for his sweats and a hoodie. Ethan sucked in a breath as the cold clothing surrounded him, but soon his body heat warmed them.

He turned toward Sebastian, curious about what he wanted for breakfast, and the words stuck in his throat when he caught a flash of desire in Sebastian's hazel eyes. It soon disappeared, leaving Ethan to wonder if he'd imagined it.

Ethan cleared his throat when his words became stuck again.

Sebastian had chosen that moment to stand and stretch his arms above his head, bunching up the muscles in his back and emphasizing his tight ass encompassed in black boxer briefs.

Damn.

Although he'd seen Sebastian naked many times, this time was different. There was a spark of electricity between them, and although he wanted to deny it, an instinct told him not to ignore his hunch.

Once Sebastian dressed, Ethan led the way toward the kitchen, hoping he wouldn't trip as his thoughts moved back to the tight black underwear Sebastian had underneath his sweats.

Ethan opened the door to the refrigerator and peered inside to check what they had on hand for breakfast.

He felt Sebastian's body heat a split second before he pressed his chest against

Ethan's back. Instead of resting his hands on Ethan's shoulders, Sebastian gripped his waist and Ethan locked down his muscles in order not to react to Sebastian's touch.

"Would you like an omelet or pancakes and bacon?" Relieved when his voice didn't waver.

"Pancakes. I'll get the stuff from the pantry."

Ethan couldn't help it. He missed Sebastian's touch as soon as he moved away, but he busied himself with making breakfast.

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Ethan grabbed the eggs and cracked two into a bowl and whisked them until they were fluffy. Then he added the buttermilk and melted butter, whisking before he added his mixture to Sebastian's measured dry ingredients and stirred until combined.

The entire time he sensed Sebastian's gaze on him, but he concentrated on the task at hand; lining the baking sheet with foil before placing bacon slices on it to cook in the oven.

Sebastian moved closer as Ethan poured the first dollar-sized pancakes onto the griddle. When he reached for the plates in the cupboard next to him, Ethan bit his bottom lip as Sebastian's breath brushed against his neck.

Sebastian then reached for the silverware next to Ethan's hip, his hand brushed against his lower back and Ethan concentrated on not burning the pancakes.

It took a moment to realize that Sebastian was speaking, but Ethan paid attention to the way his mouth moved and not his words.

As Sebastian moved toward the coffee maker, different fantasies flittered through his mind, all with Sebastian's mouth somewhere on his body. He wasn't particular where.

But there was one fantasy that came to the forefront and it involved Ethan exploring Sebastian's body.

He imagined pushing Sebastian against the nearest counter and dropping to his knees. Ethan wanted to run his hands over his covered thighs and taut stomach to tease himself as he unwrapped his gift.

He would slide Sebastian's sweats and boxer briefs off until Ethan exposed his cock before exploring with his hands. Before long, Ethan would want to take Sebastian in his mouth until he begged for release and exploded down Ethan's throat.

With jerky movements, Ethan plated the last of the pancakes and angled the evidence of his desire away from Sebastian. He found it difficult as they sat down at the table for breakfast. Trying to think of unsexy things, he stooped to reciting multiplication tables until he'd succeeded in willing his erection down.

Well, almost.

When Sebastian moaned as he took the first bite of his pancakes, all the effort over the last several minutes evaporated. Ethan couldn't move his gaze from Sebastian's lips as he followed his tongue darting out to catch a drop of syrup that dribbled down his bottom lip.

Breathe, Ethan.

Not remembering he'd eaten or how it tasted, he'd glanced down at his plate to find it empty and he knew he needed an escape.

That, or beg Sebastian to fuck him on the kitchen table.

He gathered the dirty dishes and laid them in the sink, controlling his body for that small task. Without a glance at Sebastian, he walked toward the bathroom.

"I'll take care of the dishes after my shower," Ethan called over his shoulder.

Ethan breathed a sigh of relief when he walked past the threshold of the bathroom door and closed it behind him. He acted like a jackass and flinched as he'd thought about how he all but ran to the bathroom. He hoped that Sebastian hadn't been

watching him while they prepared breakfast or noticed his body's reaction when they sat down to eat.

Taking a few deep breaths, Ethan calmed himself enough to start the shower before stripping. He moaned as the hot water ran over his tense shoulders and Ethan could feel himself relaxing against the spray. He reached for his cock and thought about spending a few minutes relieving his problem before facing Sebastian again when the door opened and the man he most wanted walked in.

“Hey, Ethan. Can I brush my teeth while you're in there?”

Ethan tried to find his voice but ended up answering the question with an affirmative grunt that Sebastian had somehow understood. Soon, he heard Sebastian humming, as he always did when he brushed. Ethan closed his eyes and willed his erection away. By some miracle, he'd managed by the end of his shower.

Not wanting to take another chance at reacting to Sebastian's nearness, Ethan reached for a towel and dried before he wrapped it around his waist, securing it to his side.

“All yours.”

Without waiting for Ethan to leave, Sebastian stepped out of his clothes and walked toward the shower, leaving Ethan a perfect view of Sebastian's naked and hot-as-sin body. Ethan's gaze devoured the view of Sebastian's semi-hard cock, the prominent bones of his hips, and then the man's rounded, impeccable ass. Ethan cursed under his breath as his cock stirred.

Well, can you blame me? The man has a beautiful ass.

Ethan thought he'd been subtle in his perusal, but he closed his eyes and groaned when Sebastian's laughter echoed throughout the small room.

When he opened his eyes, he noticed Sebastian hadn't closed the curtain and stood in the shower with his hands on his hips. Ethan's eyes traveled down to Sebastian's hard cock pulsing against his stomach. He wanted to wrap his mouth around his beautiful cock, but when Sebastian cleared his throat, Ethan jerked his gaze up to meet Sebastian's, embarrassment heating his cheeks.

Sebastian winked at him before he drew the curtain closed, blocking Ethan's view.

Ethan turned and left the bathroom in a daze.

I am so fucked.

Chapter Four

Sebastian

Sebastian scribbled on the syllabus, not paying attention to the first lecture of the semester. His thoughts wouldn't cooperate with his need to concentrate on whatever the business ethics professor droned on and on about.

Every few seconds, his mind replayed Ethan stepping out of the shower with a flimsy white towel wrapped around his waist. Sebastian watched, mesmerized, as the water droplets Ethan had missed drying traveled down his chest. For the first time in his life, he had the desire to step forward and press his tongue against Ethan's warm flesh and lick him from his taut stomach up to his chest before he buried his face against Ethan's neck and breathed him in.

He had somehow thought this growing feelings for his best friend would somehow lessen once they lived together. During the two days they'd spent moving in and unpacking, Sebastian had had little opportunity to dwell on his attraction to his best friend.

But the nights were different.

It had taken all of his willpower not to kiss Ethan and see where his attraction led after the first night in their king-sized bed, after his defenses lowered from sleep.

Earlier that morning, it had been instinct when Sebastian had pulled Ethan close as a shiver racked over his body. Sebastian always ran hot and in his sleep induced state,

he wrapped Ethan in his arms and pulled him close, savoring the skin-on-skin contact. When Ethan tucked himself closer, Sebastian closed his eyes and savored being able to hold Ethan.

With each passing day, Sebastian's control eroded with each casual touch or innocent hug he shared with Ethan. He was the one man Sebastian found irresistible, and he wanted nothing more than to spend hours tasting Ethan, learning the contours of his lips and wondered if he would kiss him back with as much passion as Sebastian dreamed.

Ethan in a towel, a sight commonplace at that point in their friendship had done nothing but stoke his fantasies.

When he made the spur-of-the-moment decision to strip and walk into the shower, he was rewarded with a flash of heat in Ethan's eyes as they traveled over Sebastian's naked body exposed to his view. His cock grew at the sight and when Ethan left the bathroom, closing the door behind him, he leaned his head against the cool shower tiles and stroked himself. Heat licked up his spine and in no time, with thoughts of Ethan's hands on him and his mouth close to his cock, he released against the shower wall, containing his shouts of pleasure in his throat.

He'd never come so hard with only a fantasy to fuel his desire.

Sebastian glanced at his watch and bit back his groan. Five minutes to go in the longest class of his existence.

He'd rather spend his time with Ethan. He didn't care if they worked on homework, played the new first-person shooter they'd bought, or watched movies. Although he seemed popular and easy-going, there weren't many people Sebastian was comfortable with. He acted as the life of the party, but that's all it was, an act.

He was himself around Ethan.

His peripheral vision caught movement from his right, a flash of platinum blonde hair. He groaned, knowing Amber, his ex, was trying to get his attention, but he wouldn't give it to her. Sebastian regretted asking her out in the first place but most of all, guilt for continuing the relationship with her for as long as he did.

He had grown tired of dating women, finding no connection with any of them, and breaking up before moving on to the next one. So he stayed in a relationship with Amber until he figured out why he wasn't happy and thought it would be uncomplicated.

By the time he learned Amber was far removed from uncomplicated, it had been too late. She wouldn't accept their relationship was over. When he finally broke up with her, on the night of the frat party, a weight lifted from his shoulders.

Ethan was perfect for him. Ethan sensed his moods, made him smile by being himself, and above everything else, their relationship wasn't a challenge. It was as easy as breathing. He might have become complacent about their friendship during years past, but Sebastian had his eyes opened.

Sebastian should have realized the perfect person for him was in his life all along. It was only at this point in his life where he could admit his attraction to a man.

No, only Ethan.

That thought led inevitably to his fantasies about having sex with Ethan and instead of the faint stirrings when he fantasized about women, his cock swelled to full hardness in his jeans. And his desire for Ethan hadn't waned, only increased, in the time since his discovery.

He warred with himself about ways he could explain the change between friendship

into something more and wondered if Ethan could return his feelings. His plans swayed back and forth between the simple blurting out his desire for Ethan when they were alone and waiting for his reaction or kissing him and wondering if Ethan would kiss him back. But if Ethan kissed him back, would he be doing it because he wanted to or because Sebastian kissed him first?

And his thoughts swirled around in a continuous loop.

His professor ended class, and he packed up and stood, ready to leave. He was about to dash up the steps when a hand landed on his forearm and squeezed. Sebastian stopped and glared down at the familiar delicate hand with the pink nail polish until she snatched her hand away.

“Hi, Seb. There’s a party on Friday. Do you want to take me?”

Sebastian hated the shortened version of his name and despite various corrections, she refused to call him anything but that infernal nickname. He bit back a sigh and shook his head.

“No, Amber. I don’t. We broke up, and it’s over. No hanging out or parties anymore. You understand that, don’t you?”

He watched as a determined look came over her face and instead of arguing, he turned and walked away.

Knowing she wouldn’t accept it, he would have to do his best to avoid her. Sebastian smirked when he heard her cry of outrage at being dismissed and opened the door that led outside.

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He headed toward home, which brought back thoughts of Ethan.

After a few minutes walk, Sebastian rushed up the stairs and when he opened the front door, he spotted Ethan on the couch, reading a novel. He dropped down next to him and lay his head on Ethan's lap. He glanced up and smiled as he met Ethan's amused gaze.

Without thought, Ethan dropped his hand and ran his fingers through Sebastian's hair.

"How was your day?"

Sebastian sighed and replayed the short conversation he had with Amber.

Ethan tensed when he'd heard Amber's name, but relaxed as Sebastian admitted what he did. By the end, he was laughing. Sebastian loved when Ethan laughed.

"How was yours?"

"Good. I'm glad most of my classes for the next two years are sitting in front of a computer, coding, instead of listening to professors."

Sebastian closed his eyes as Ethan's fingers continued to slide through his hair. He listened to the familiar sound of Ethan flipping a page of his book every few minutes. Ethan had long, skinny fingers, but they were strong. They always seemed to be moving whether over a keyboard or tapping out a rhythm on the nearest surface that made sense only in Ethan's mind.

It was one more thing Sebastian loved about him.

Ethan knew who he was, comfortable in his own skin. Sebastian was the more outgoing one, but other than his relationship with Ethan, he hadn't a clue where he stood with other people. He learned in high school that some people only hung out with him because he was popular. Ethan knew everything about him, and despite that, liked him anyway.

“What’s for dinner?”

Ethan chuckled. “Lasagna. It’s already made, along with the cheesy garlic bread. Extra garlic, just the way you like. I have to bake them both.”

Reluctant to move from his spot on Ethan, he rose, already missing Ethan’s touch. “I’ll make the salad. What temp do you need?”

Ethan smiled and Sebastian felt his heart stutter in his chest. The salad was something easy he could contribute, but Ethan smiled like that when he believed Sebastian went out of his way for Ethan.

“375 and thank you.”

Sebastian nodded and walked toward the kitchen, pausing when he reached the doorway. He turned back to see Ethan, who had his head down as he continued reading his book with a smile on his face. Sebastian again found himself obsessed; wondering what Ethan’s mouth felt and tasted like.

When Ethan glanced up and smiled, Sebastian smiled back.

He knew Ethan wouldn’t turn his back on Sebastian even if there was no attraction on his part. But whatever happened, at least Sebastian’s secret would be out and they

could either rebuild their friendship or work on their new relationship.

All Sebastian knew was that he had to stop being such a chicken shit.

Chapter Five

Ethan

Although Ethan was a positive person, he wondered when the other shoe would drop.

The last few weeks were perfect for Ethan and Sebastian. The time they weren't in class or studying in the library, Sebastian spent time with Ethan, in their loft. They cooked dinner together, sometimes attempted homework, but most of the time they spent talking or watching whatever was on TV.

It reminded Ethan of the years they'd spent in junior high and high school, where nothing mattered more than hanging out and talking about everything and nothing.

But somehow, the past month of living together became intimate, at least for Ethan. They acted almost like lovers, only without the physical part of their relationship.

Ethan had woken up more than once in the middle of the night after a vivid dream about his friend, only to find himself wrapped up in the Sebastian's arms as the other man slept on without being disturbed. Ethan would have to maneuver himself off the bed without waking his friend to relieve himself in the bathroom. But most of the time, Sebastian wouldn't release his hold, so he had to take deep breaths and wait for his body to calm down before he tried falling asleep.

Most mornings, Ethan would wake cradled against Sebastian's chest, warm and relaxed. He would savor those quiet moments until Sebastian stirred, and then Ethan

would make himself get out of bed. He would shower first and then find one way or another to rouse Sebastian and push him toward the bathroom for his shower.

Ethan wondered if Sebastian thought if their nighttime ritual was strange. They would fall asleep on opposite sides of the bed but Ethan would inevitably wake in the middle with Sebastian holding him.

Sebastian never mentioned how they drifted toward each other in their sleep or hesitated before bed, so Ethan found himself eager for the day to end instead of worrying Sebastian would catch on to his feelings. Ethan believed they were plain to see if he looked hard enough.

After Sebastian showered and dressed, which meant he would pull on sweats before he stumbled toward the kitchen where he sat down and shoveled food into his mouth, Ethan would try not to stare at Sebastian's exposed chest.

But more often than not, Sebastian was still sleepy until he had his three cups of coffee, giving Ethan time for his gaze to wander over Sebastian's muscled, tanned skin.

But the afternoon after class and the nights were the best. They would spend most of their time together and although neither of them had come out and said it, Ethan understood that somehow Sebastian's feelings for him have changed.

Ethan's friend might not be as straight as he had once considered.

On that day, the Thursday before Halloween, everything had gone wrong from the moment Ethan woke. Their alarm hadn't sounded because the power had gone out during the night due to a rare ice storm. Ethan had roused Sebastian a half an hour before their first class, and that meant no caffeine or breakfast for either of them. It made Sebastian grumpy but left Ethan with a headache.

Ethan's late-morning lab ran an hour past the time it should have and the dull ache that had been there from the lack of coffee earlier in the morning had turned into a throbbing pain.

He sent a text to Sebastian saying he'd see him at home instead of the library, where they'd planned to meet, but Ethan hadn't heard from him. Sebastian preferred texting to speaking on the phone, so Ethan figured he was in the middle of something or had a class that ran late.

But as Ethan climbed the stairs to their loft, he heard the reason Sebastian hadn't responded. A woman's loud laugh came through the door as he neared it.

Well, shit.

Ethan's headache receded to a heavy thrum in the back of his head as a new pain ripped through his chest. He closed his eyes and debated whether he should head to the library and start on the essay that was due Monday. But Ethan was too tired to concentrate on his work and besides, he would have to deal with Sebastian's new relationship sometime.

Although he'd hoped Sebastian would see him as more than a friend, Ethan now understood it had been wishful thinking on his part alone.

Taking a deep breath, Ethan reached for the handle and opened the front door with as much noise as he could make without being obvious. Although he prepared for what he would see, Ethan sucked in a breath when he spotted a blonde, Sarah he remembered, sitting on Sebastian's lap with her arms draped over his shoulders as she played with his hair.

Out of patience and in pain, Ethan dropped his backpack on the floor next to the door. The noise startled Sarah, who glanced at him with wide eyes before she

scrambled over to the free spot on the couch next to Sebastian.

Ethan expected Sebastian to ask for some time alone with Sarah, but before he had the chance, Ethan walked toward the kitchen and away from the scene he'd come home to. Now the power was back on, he wanted to have his first coffee of the day and forget about everything.

He should've known better than to get his hopes up. He never had a chance with Sebastian. Lesson learned.

"Ethan." Sebastian's voice sounded panicked.

He glanced up and Sebastian's face flashed relief as he moved away from Sarah and strode toward him. Ethan wanted to turn and avoid the conversation, but at that moment, Sebastian moaned his name and he froze where he stood. And of course Ethan's cock liked the low, growling sound.

He waited for Sebastian to tell him what he wanted so he could escape. But when Sebastian came close enough, he banded one arm around Ethan's waist and with his free hand, cupped the back of Ethan's neck. Ethan's eyes widened as he watched Sebastian move closer to him.

The kiss was better than he'd ever imagined. A moan escaped Ethan's tight throat the first moment their lips touched.

It started as a brush of Sebastian's lips against his. But when Sebastian tilted his head and deepened the kiss, the shock of pure electricity passed through him and he clutched at Sebastian's waist. Ethan opened his mouth in time to swallow Sebastian's moan, which sounded drawn from deep in his chest, and Ethan lost all control.

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He pulled Sebastian closer and groaned when Sebastian's hard body leaned against his.

Inch by glorious inch their bodies pressed closer as they devoured each other's mouths until the heat of Sebastian's body jerked away from him.

Ethan blinked in confusion, desire for more from Sebastian clouded his thought processes, and he focused on Sebastian's face when someone cleared their throat.

The intensity of Sebastian's gaze on him stole Ethan's breath.

Sebastian moved closer and leaned his forehead against Ethan's. He ignored the scoffs and mumbling behind Sebastian's back, not looking away from his beautiful hazel eyes.

"About time," Sebastian murmured.

Ethan laughed and squeezed Sebastian's hips. The move earned him a low growl.

"Excuse me!"

Ethan flinched at the raised, irritated voice that filled their loft.

Sebastian sighed and pulled back. At first, Ethan thought Sebastian would pull away and try to charm the girl glaring at them, but he only moved to Ethan's side. Ethan forgot all about the horrible day when Sebastian wrapped his arm around his waist and pulled him close to his side.

“Oh, yeah.Ethan, this is our neighbor... I’m sorry, I’ve forgotten your name.She stopped by to introduce herself.”

“Sarah.My name is Sarah.”

“Right.Sarah, this is my boyfriend, Ethan.Ethan, our downstairs neighbor, Sarah.”

Ethan’s heart jumped at the word boyfriend.He opened his mouth, but before he could utter a word, Sarah growled at them and stomped her foot.

“You know what... never mind.Ethan, I think my brother is more your type.Sebastian doesn’t even look gay.So drop by if you want me to introduce you to Derek.”Without missing a beat, Sarah strode out the door and slammed it behind her.

Part of Ethan expected Sebastian to move his arm and walk away with a sheepish look on his face as the quiet settled between them.But when Sebastian pushed him against the wall, Ethan made an undignified noise that may have sounded a little like a squeak.He stood there, mesmerized by Sebastian intense gaze.

“To ensure our privacy.”Sebastian’s hand shot out flicked the lock on the door.

“She ambushed me when I opened the door, and she pushed her way in.I hadn’t remembered meeting her until she reminded me of the day we moved in.”Sebastian moved closer and pressed his chest to Ethan’s.“And if you ever take her up on her offer to meet her brother, I’ll show you how possessive I can be.”

Sebastian, without waiting for Ethan’s reply, captured his lips in a bruising kiss.Heat soared through Ethan and without hesitation, he flung his arms around Sebastian’s neck and kissed him back with equal intensity.Ethan shivered when he licked Sebastian’s bottom lip, knowing he was touching the one man he didn’t think he could have.Sebastian rewarded him with a moan, but it was when his tongue tangled

with Ethan's own, they both lost all control.

They broke apart when breathing became a necessity. Sebastian cupped his cheek and searched for something in Ethan's gaze.

"What?"

"I don't want you to have any doubts about this. About us."

"I..."

Sebastian waited. Knowing him as he did, Sebastian knew any hesitation meant that Ethan would take his time to reveal what he had to say. Ethan wasn't sure whether their friendship would survive the truth, but Ethan wanted Sebastian to know.

"When you dated Amber, I realized the truth about my feelings for you. And they were more serious than friendship. But despite how they changed, I would never interfere with your happiness."

Ethan raised his gaze to Sebastian's and with no hesitation, Sebastian cupped his face in his hands and kissed him. The firm warmth of Sebastian's lips had heat and desire shivering throughout his body. But it wasn't until Sebastian's tongue touched his in a fleeting brush that all his worries evaporated.

There was only Sebastian.

Breaths coming in pants, they broke away from the kiss and Ethan lay his head on Sebastian's chest. He smiled against his shirt when Sebastian tightened his hold on Ethan, keeping him close.

"Do you know why I broke up with Amber?"

Ethan shook his head, not moving from his arms.

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“We were at a frat party and I thought I spotted you kissing another man. I could’ve sworn that my heart stopped in my chest. When I noticed it wasn’t you and calmed enough to understand my reaction, I broke it off with Amber. It was never as serious as you thought. Then I ran across campus and pounded on your door. It thrilled me the moment you answered the door, half asleep.”

Ethan remembered that night. Exhausted and sick, he dropped into bed and fell asleep long before nine, although he had a program to code for his midterm project.

There had been panic etched on Sebastian’s face when he’d opened the door, but Sebastian sagged in relief at the sight of him. Without a word, Ethan dragged him back to bed and watched as the tension left Sebastian the longer they stared at each other. It was the next day when Sebastian told him he broke it off with Amber, but didn’t give a reason.

“I tried to tell you every day during the summer I wanted you, and only you, but I could never say it. Mom realized how I felt one night after you’d gone home and she was ecstatic, but I still had the problem of telling you. I should thank... shit, I forgot her name already.”

Ethan laughed, but it waned when Sebastian glared at the door.

“Have you... ever been with another man?”

Sebastian pressed closer and Ethan shivered at Sebastian’s touch while he tried to remember the question.

“I’ve never had sex with a man. But... I’ve...”

“What?”

“Blowjobs and hand jobs, with a few guys. Nothing more.”

Sebastian growled and closed his eyes. “Fuck. I’ve never felt this much jealousy before. But it’s fucking hot thinking about your cock in my mouth. All those months, years, wasted.”

As he brought his lips to Sebastian’s, Ethan whispered, “You can always take me to bed and make me forget.”

There was no hesitation when Sebastian captured Ethan’s mouth in a scorching kiss.

Without breaking away, he walked Ethan backward toward the bedroom, and Ethan’s thoughts scattered as he surrounded himself with everything Sebastian. His smell, his hard body, his touch.

When they needed air, Sebastian lowered Ethan onto the bed and followed him down. He nipped at Ethan’s ear before exploring his neck, sending shivers of pure desire throughout his body.

“Please, Sebastian. Touch me.”

“Anything for you, baby.”

Chapter Six

Sebastian

Sebastian grew addicted to Ethan from the moment he'd kissed him. His thoughts scattered and it left his body pulsing with desire. He should have known the simple act would be anything but all-encompassing. But he craved Ethan. His kisses, his touch. Most of all, his naked body pressed against his own.

Oh, fuck.

Sebastian groaned when Ethan slid a hand underneath his shirt and caressed his back, trying to press Sebastian closer. Every nerve ending came alive at his touch. And he wasted no time following Ethan when he scrambled back to lie on the pillows, positioning his body in the middle of the bed.

Sebastian straddled Ethan's thighs before he lowered himself down, pressed chest-to-chest, and captured Ethan's mouth. He wanted more of Ethan's soft lips and his wicked tongue.

When they broke apart several minutes later, Ethan moaned his name and clutched Sebastian tighter in his arms.

Sebastian needed more of Ethan, to assure himself that this moment with him was real.

He ran his eyes over Ethan's face. His eyes shuttered and lips red and swollen from his

kisses. There was a healthy glow to his olive skin and Sebastian knew he'd been the one to put that look on his face. His eyes traveled lower to Ethan's heaving chest, and his fingers felt heavy and stiff as he maneuvered them underneath Ethan's shirt.

"Too many clothes." Sebastian's words came out as a complaint instead of a suggestion.

Sebastian slid his hand further up Ethan's stomach, savoring each inch of hot, soft skin he encountered. As he ran his hands over Ethan's solid muscles, Sebastian groaned when Ethan sucked in a deep breath and let out a low, dirty moan.

"This is so much better than I dreamed." Sebastian's statement brought out another sound from Ethan's swollen lips.

Unable to wait another minute, Sebastian bunched the hem of Ethan's shirt in his hands and pushed it up until Ethan lifted. When he had the shirt off, he discarded it somewhere behind him.

He paused as he took in each inch of exposed skin on Ethan's chest and stomach. It was his dark nipples that drew Sebastian's eyes. They looked distended and ready for his mouth. But they could wait, because another idea blossomed in his mind.

Sebastian leaned forward and without warning, licked a long swath from Ethan's belly button to the middle of his chest. Ethan groaned and threw his head back, thrashing it back and forth on the pillow.

Instead of his original plan, Sebastian ached for the corded muscles on his neck. He licked and nipped the area, knowing there would be marks on Ethan's perfect skin in the morning.

When Ethan bucked up and their cocks brushed together, Sebastian buried his face

against Ethan's neck and let out a groan of pleasure.

Ethan panted, the sound loud in the silent room. But Sebastian continued to make up for lost time by marking every inch of him with his lips and tongue.

Blackness threatened the edges of Sebastian's vision whenever Ethan angled his hips against Sebastian's, rubbing their clothed erections together. He dropped his hips and pressed Ethan to the bed, not wanting this to be over before it began. Sebastian dropped his forehead to Ethan's and swallowed his breaths as he stared into those beautiful dark green eyes.

"I've been so blind. But I see you now and I'm never letting you go."

"And I've wanted you for years. You're mine, too, Sebastian." Ethan's voice, deeper than ever before, sending shafts of pleasure through his already primed body.

Without waiting another moment, Sebastian surged to his knees and reached back to grab the collar of his shirt. He yanked until the material slipped over his head before he tossed it aside. He sucked in a breath when their bare chests brushed together and without missing a beat, Sebastian kissed Ethan.

Sebastian thought a lot about touching another cock, which made him hesitate when he realized where their actions would lead. But he wanted Ethan's, both clothed and rutting against him sending delicious shivers throughout his body and naked, pressed to his own. Sebastian dropped his hips and shifted them up to grind against Ethan as he swallowed the sounds the man made as he clutched him closer.

Ethan broke the kiss and threw his head back as a shiver overtook his body. He clenched his teeth as if he needed to get himself under control. But the sound that escaped Ethan's throat sent heat licking up Sebastian's spine and a curse slipped from his clenched teeth.

Lost in the sensations and the sounds coming from Ethan, he jerked when Ethan's hands roamed over his back, splaying open on his shoulders and pressing him flush against the hard body below.

Ethan's eyes snapped open. "I need more... you, I need you."

That was all Sebastian wanted to hear.

He surged back and reached for the top button of Ethan's jeans. He spotted his hands shaking, but he glanced up and caught Ethan's gaze, asking for permission to continue. Ethan nodded and Sebastian let out a breath he hadn't realized he held.

Sebastian forced a manner of control over his movements. Instead of rushing to get Ethan naked, he took his time and savored the moment. Ethan groaned when Sebastian flicked open the top button with practiced ease. He bypassed the zipper and instead, his fingers traced over Ethan's still-covered cock. Ethan jerked under his touch, drawing Sebastian attention back up to Ethan's face.

"Is this okay?"

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Ethan nodded and Sebastian blew out a sigh of relief. His fingers continued exploring Ethan and a sense of rightness settled into Sebastian's chest. With his free hand, he roamed over Ethan's exposed stomach, drawing as much pleasure from his soon-to-be lover.

Ethan arched into Sebastian's touch.

"Please, Sebastian."

Sebastian shook his head to clear some of his clouded thoughts. He unzipped Ethan's jeans before he slid his fingers underneath the waistband of both his jeans and boxer briefs and revealed Ethan's sexy-as-sin body to his view for the first time. Sebastian knew he was staring, but Ethan mesmerized him.

By the time he shed Ethan's clothing, his focus centered on Ethan's swollen cock pressed against his stomach, hard and pulsing. He licked his lips when he spotted a drop of liquid that formed on the tip. Before leaning forward for a taste, Ethan reached for him and made quick work of Sebastian's tight jeans. When they became stuck halfway down his thighs, Sebastian barked out a laugh at Ethan's frustration.

"Little help?"

Sebastian somehow slid the jeans off but lost all train of thought when Ethan wrapped his hand around his cock.

"Fuck. Fuck. What do you need, baby?"

Sebastian pushed Ethan back onto the bed, breathing a sigh of relief when the action caused Ethan's hand to drop his hold on Sebastian's sensitive cock.

Sebastian crawled down Ethan's body. He surprised them both when he swirled his tongue around the head of Ethan's cock, tasting him. The warm liquid burst on his tongue and he savored the essence of Ethan. As he swallowed more of Ethan into his mouth, he groaned at the weight and taste of Ethan on his tongue.

He savored the sensations as they passed through him and wanted to spend hours tracing and memorizing Ethan, but the man in question had other plans.

"I want you to fuck me, Sebastian."

His head shot up, and he stared at Ethan, wondering if he'd heard him correctly. Ethan nodded and Sebastian lunged before he captured Ethan's mouth in a kiss that had them both moaning.

But the sensations drawn from him as their bodies pressed together caused Sebastian to rear up, moving away from Ethan's naked cock pressed against his own.

As his breathing settled back to a somewhat normal state, his thoughts halted. "Shit."

"What?" Ethan gripped Sebastian's waist and held him close.

"No lube or condoms."

"Where did you learn about lube?" Ethan sounded amused.

Sebastian swallowed. "Well, when you've been in the lab, I've watched a lot of porn. Gay porn."

Ethan's smile made Sebastian shiver.

But without looking away, Ethan reached into the bedside drawer and pulled out a bottle of lube.

"No condoms?"

"We're both clean and I want you inside without barriers."

Sebastian tried to force words past his tight throat, but failed. Instead, he gave Ethan a short, brutal kiss before he grabbed the lube from his hand and flipped open the cap.

He leaned back on his haunches and sat on his calves. Sebastian gently gripped the back of Ethan's legs and pulled him closer, until the back of his thighs draped over his outstretched knees. This opened Ethan up to his view and Sebastian shivered, running his hand over Ethan's exposed skin.

"You're gorgeous, Ethan. And all mine."

Ethan's chest rose and fell with his harsh breaths as his gaze raked over Sebastian's naked body. "Yes, yours. Please, Sebastian, hurry." Sebastian's skin prickled as if Ethan reached out and touched him.

Sebastian's gaze savored Ethan's naked, sprawled form. They traveled over his strong legs, his cock standing at attention, the cut of his hips, over his tight abs and muscled chest, before meeting Ethan's dark green gaze. He loved the trust that shone from Ethan's eyes.

"Sebastian."

That snapped him out of his stupor and he poured lube onto his fingers, taking the

time to warm the liquid as he rubbed his hands together. Sebastian's right hand reached for and wrapped around Ethan's cock while the fingers on his left explored Ethan's stomach and hips, before he moved his hand lower.

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Ethan's moans drove him insane, but when his fingers brushed Ethan's entrance, the keening sound he made went straight through Sebastian, leaving a trembling need in its wake. Ethan rolled his hips, moving Sebastian's finger closer and closer to where Ethan needed him the most.

Sebastian gripped Ethan's thigh and took a deep breath before he pressed his finger into Ethan. He gritted his teeth as Ethan's heat surrounded him and when Ethan relaxed, he pushed a little further.

His eyes never left Ethan's face, looking for any discomfort from his movements. But the only thing he spotted was pure desire. Ethan's moan echoed this as he blinked his eyes open and stared at Sebastian.

“More.”

He pushed his finger deeper. When he brushed against something inside Ethan, he was unprepared for when Ethan clenched down on his digit and shouted his name. Sebastian moved again, craving the same reaction as he swept over the same spot that had Ethan panting several seconds later.

Fuck, I love this. I'm inside Ethan.

After a few more strokes, Sebastian added another finger. Sebastian's cock leaked as Ethan shivered around him. Ethan's low moaning continued as Sebastian pleased him with his fingers.

His hand clamped down at the base of his cock when Ethan's next moan, an obscene

sound that escaped his mouth, almost had Sebastian coming. And then Sebastian's thoughts went to that exact scenario. Sebastian straddling Ethan's hips as he stroked both of their cocks to completion.

Not... helping.

Sebastian added a third finger and concentrated on Ethan and his gasps for more. But after a few strokes with three fingers deep inside, Ethan grasped his wrist and met Sebastian's gaze.

"I need you inside me, now."

Ethan shivered as Sebastian pulled his fingers from him with deliberate movements. Sebastian squeezed his cock once more for control, before he lubed himself, using plenty. He lined up with Ethan's entrance and swore that he heard his heartbeat in his ears.

Sebastian reached for Ethan's hand, lacing their fingers together. And with one final nod from Ethan, Sebastian took a deep breath and pushed.

He blew out the breath he'd held when the head of his cock pushed past the first tight ring of muscle. Sebastian grew light headed as Ethan tightened around him and thought he would drop from too much pleasure.

"Oh, fuck. Ethan... good... you?" Sebastian pushed the words through his tight throat.

Ethan squeezed his hand and wrapped his right leg around Sebastian's hip. Ethan brought Sebastian forward with the pressure on his hips. "Yes, please. So good, but I need more. I need all of you."

Their eyes met and without realizing he'd moved, Sebastian had pushed his hips

forward until Ethan surrounded him. Ethan wrapped his arms around Sebastian's shoulders and pulled him down for a scorching kiss, but when his cock throbbed inside Ethan, Sebastian swallowed his deep moan.

“Fuck me.”

Worried he would finish before Ethan, Sebastian concentrated on his movements and Ethan's pleasure.

Or that had been the plan.

His intentions disintegrated the moment he pulled his hips back and drove into the man beneath him. Ethan wrapped him up with both his legs and his arms, lifting his hips to meet Sebastian's thrusts.

He didn't understand Ethan's actual words because of the roaring in his ears. Sebastian knew the sounds escaping Ethan's throat drove him to move faster and fuck Ethan harder. But all thoughts scattered until there was nothing left other than the sensations of being inside Ethan and his feelings for the man who meant everything to him.

“Yes. Yes!”

Sebastian needed to get closer to Ethan, so he bent his elbows and balanced his weight on his forearms. He pressed his chest close and Ethan's moans vibrated through him.

“Touch me, Ethan. Please, baby.”

As if Sebastian's words unlocked his muscles, Ethan's hands roamed over Sebastian's back, down his sides, all the while leaving scorch marks on his skin as Ethan moaned in his ear.

He never enjoyed talking during sex, but each moan and plea coming from Ethan's mouth had Sebastian's primed body moving closer to the edge.

Sebastian buried his face against Ethan's neck as he pounded into the man wrapped around him. He was close, so close. He fought against his release as Ethan tensed against his body.

“More. Harder. Fuck me, harder.”

Ethan cupped Sebastian's ass in a tight grip. With one thrust, then another, Ethan's hips surged up to meet Sebastian's and with a shout, Ethan came between their bodies. The moment Ethan released his warm essence against his stomach and Sebastian lost all control.

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Sebastian pulled out long enough to flip Ethan onto his stomach. He raised Ethan's hips, gripping them hard enough to leave bruises before he plunged into Ethan. Ethan whimpered until Sebastian changed the angle of his thrusts on the next stroke.

“I love being inside you. This is where I belong.”

Ethan groaned and begged when Sebastian reached for his cock and stroked it in time with his thrusts.

“Fuck. More. Make me come again.”

Sebastian fucked Ethan with deep, even strokes. He loved that Ethan clutched the sheets with his fists, rocking back against Sebastian. When Sebastian ran his thumb over the slit of Ethan's cock before stroking down and back up, Ethan trembled against his body and he knew Ethan was close.

Sebastian draped his chest over Ethan's back and nuzzled his neck, never releasing his grip or changing the rhythm of his thrusts. Soon, Ethan moaned and came over Sebastian's hand, tightening around Sebastian's cock.

“Ethan?”

Breathless, he answered. “Inside. Come inside me.”

Ethan reached back and gripped his hip, keeping him close. After one final thrust inside, Sebastian roared as his release struck him hard and fast.

He wrapped his arms around Ethan and pulled him up. Sebastian pressed his face against Ethan's cheek, breathing him in as his release dwindled and his cock became sensitive from the power of his orgasm.

Then they both fell forward, Sebastian draped over Ethan as they struggled to get their breathing back to normal.

When his senses returned, he slowly pulled out of Ethan. The sensations rippled through him and licked up his back, making his cock jump inside Ethan, enough to draw a low moan. He rolled onto his side, next to the man who gave him pleasure beyond anything he'd ever experienced.

"No, don't go." Ethan flipped over to face Sebastian and reached for him, holding him.

Sebastian pulled Ethan until his head rested on his shoulder and draped Ethan's leg over both of his own as he held Ethan in his arms.

"I promise, I'm not going anywhere. I didn't want to crush you, but I lost myself there at the end and fell on you."

Sebastian kissed him and after a few minutes, Ethan relaxed. "I never lost control during sex before, I couldn't get enough of you, baby. I'm sure I never will."

Reaching for the blanket after Ethan shivered against him, he covered them both. Sebastian had no plans to leave the bed. Well, until they got hungry, but that wouldn't be soon.

He held his best friend and lover in his arms and listened to him breathe. He couldn't help the smile on his face when he realized he had worried all these months for nothing.

“In case there were any doubts, we’re exclusive, you and I.”

“I know.”Ethan yawned out the last word and snuggled closer to Sebastian.

Ethan’s lips brush the skin on his chest.

“And after dinner, maybe you could... well, fuck me?”

Ethan’s eyes flew open, and he stared at Sebastian.His mouth moved, but no sound came out.

“I want to know what it'slike to have you inside me.”

“Oh... Okay.”

Sebastian shook off the stirrings of desire when he thought about Ethan inside him.His eyes drifted shut when he heard Ethan’s breathing deepen and they both fell asleep as the day caught up to them.

Chapter Seven

Ethan

Ethan set his backpack down by the door and flipped the lock behind him after the door closed. He kicked off his shoes and hung up his jacket before he headed toward the kitchen. Glad to be home early, he decided he wanted to make dinner instead of ordering in. He busied himself with chopping vegetables and shredding a rotisserie chicken he'd bought for the dish, and he hummed to himself as he glanced at the clock, knowing Sebastian would be home soon. As he cooked the chicken and veggies for the enchiladas, his mind drifted.

He smiled as he remembered earlier that morning. Each time they made love, desperation for Sebastian's touch and the pleasure he drew from him had Ethan begging for more. Although they hadn't put a name to their relationship, the word boyfriend seemed childish to both, but Ethan still referred to Sebastian in that way. At least in his own mind.

They'd spent many a night laying in bed, talking about everything. Nothing had changed, except he could lean in and kiss Sebastian whenever he wanted. Before long, he drew Sebastian on top of his body and begged him until Sebastian made love to him.

Everything was out in the open.

He told Sebastian how his feelings developed into something more. He admitted jealousy as Sebastian dated, but that no matter what, he would always support

the decisions Sebastian made because he wanted the best for him.

Sebastian understood and apologized.

But Ethan waved it away, knowing they were together. Although their relationship was new, they often spoke about their future and Ethan realized Sebastian, while not quite admitting it aloud, was committed to Ethan and their relationship.

Every night, Sebastian would make love to him, despite the number of times Sebastian had asked for Ethan to be top. Greedy, Ethan had begged Sebastian to fuck him until he'd given in. They both loved every moment. Ethan knew someday he wanted to make love to Sebastian, but for the moment, he enjoyed the way things were.

And when they weren't together, Sebastian liked to text him during class.

Ethan would remind him he should pay attention, but Sebastian was brilliant and in reality, it took little effort for him to pass his classes.

He glanced at the clock before he put the assembled dish in the oven and set the timer. Sebastian would be home soon and after dinner, they had the entire night and weekend together. And despite Ethan waking Sebastian that morning with a little blowjob and then riding him until he shouted his name, Ethan's body warmed at the thought of Sebastian inside him again.

He walked toward the couch and picked up the crime thriller he had been reading. Before he settled against the arm of the couch, his favorite spot to read, there was a knock on the front door. He hadn't heard the buzzer or intercom and wondered if Sebastian had forgotten his key.

He peeked through the peephole and spotted a shock of platinum blonde hair. Ethan

groaned aloud, he debated whether he should open the door. But relief washed over him at the fact that Sebastian wasn't home yet and figured he should find out what she wanted.

Ethan drew a deep breath and let it out before he opened the door. He held the door against his shoulder and frowned at the fierce look that Amber had directed at him.

“Can I help you?”

Instead of answering, she hissed at him. “What the fuck do you think you're doing?”

Ethan leaned against the doorframe and tightened his grip on the door handle, blocking Amber from viewing inside their loft and giving her no room to barge inside.

“Well, I was cooking dinner. Since it's in the oven, I'm sitting down to read.”

“Don't be stupid. You know what I'm talking about.”

Ethan shrugged, having no clue what she was on about. “Nope. I need specifics.”

He watched as she grew angrier when she realized he didn't understand what she meant. He kept his mouth shut, not wanting to antagonize her and keep her on his doorstep for longer than necessary. She somehow got into the building, but he wasn't in the mood for her and whatever game she played that day.

Ethan's phone dinged, and he pulled his cell from the back pocket of his jeans. He glanced at the message and smiled.

I miss you. -S

Hurry home, then. I miss you, too.

What are you doing? -S

Your ex is yelling at me about something I've done.

Fuck. Be right there. -S

Ethan still had a smile on his face when he pocketed the cell and glanced at Amber, who hadn't moved from her spot right outside their door. She crossed her arms and tapped her foot on the floor, acting as though Ethan had the nerve to waste her time. He held back his scoff at her attitude and looked at her, waiting.

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“Seb broke up with me last year because of you. I have no clue what he sees in you, but I want you to tell him you don’t want him and then tell him to get back together with me.”

Ethan had no clue how to respond to that ridiculous request, so he stayed silent.

“What? You’re telling me he’s a fag now?”

Ethan was sure that everyone within a five-mile radius heard her hateful comment, but instead of flinching, Ethan stood and clenched his fists at his side. And for the first time in a while, he used his height to his advantage.

“That’s a small minded and hateful term, but it’s not like I expected any different coming from you, Amber.” Ethan stepped forward and glared down at her. “I’ll tell you this one time. I don’t give a fuck what you have to say about me because I don’t care about you or your opinions, but you will not disrespect Sebastian. So watch your fucking mouth.” The last few words came out as a growl.

Amber stepped back, processing his words as she blinked up at Ethan. The look she gave him was half-blank, half-concerned.

“I demand to see Seb, right now.”

“Wow, you’re stupid. He’s not home.”

Amber’s hand shot out, and he had time to grab her wrist, but he decided not to move. The sound of the slap echoed in the deserted hallway, but the force behind it

didn't register with Ethan.

What shocked him was the low growl coming from the door downstairs, growing louder as it Sebastian moved up the stairs toward him.

“What the fuck are you doing, Amber? You assaulted Ethan and if he wanted to press charges, I would stand behind him and tell the police I witnessed it.”

The change in Amber's demeanor was instantaneous, and it shocked Ethan more than the slap had. She giggled and turned toward Sebastian, who stood a few feet away from the front door. Sebastian radiated anger in waves and Amber ignored Ethan, happy she was getting what she wanted. When she moved to drape her arms over his shoulders, he jerked of her reach.

“Get the fuck away from me.”

She dropped her arms to her side and looked confused at Sebastian's obvious hostility toward her.

Sebastian passed Amber without looking at her again and wrapped his arm around Ethan's back, bringing his free hand to cup Ethan's unblemished cheek.

“Are you okay, baby?”

“Fine, love. No worries.”

Sebastian kissed him then and Ethan's thoughts scattered as sensation took over and he kissed Sebastian back. A shocked gasp registered with Ethan as he lost himself in Sebastian's scent and his firm lips pressed against his own.

Several minutes later, they broke apart and took deep breaths, and Ethan rested his

forehead on Sebastian's.

"Hi," Ethan breathed.

"Hi, baby. I missed you."

Ethan smiled, but out of his periphery, he watched Amber's hand latch onto Sebastian's arm as she tried to pull him away from Ethan. He smiled at Sebastian, who rolled his eyes before he turned to glare at her.

"I told you I wanted nothing to do with you, and tried to be nice, but that hasn't worked. Here's the truth. It was a mistake to ask you out. It's always been Ethan, not you. I broke up with you because I thought I saw him kissing another man. You cheated on me, which is why we stopped having sex after we got together. It was convenient to keep you around, but that was a mistake. I don't ever, and I mean ever, want to see you again. Get... out."

Sebastian gripped Ethan's waist with both hands and walked him back into their loft. His hazel eyes never left Ethan's dark green ones. He loved it when Sebastian took charge, in bed but sometimes out. Sebastian didn't speak as he slammed the door in Amber's face and locked it.

Sebastian whirled Ethan around until he pressed his back against the door. His mouth was devoured in a kiss that hardened his already half-stiff cock. His body shook with raw need by the time Sebastian broke off the kiss and they gasped for breath.

He spotted a spark in Sebastian's eyes and Ethan shivered from the intensity of that look.

"It's time, baby."

Ethan slid his hand over Sebastian's chest and flicked one of his clothed nipples with his thumb. When Sebastian moaned, Ethan ran his hands over the hard planes of his stomach and lower until his hand pressed against his hard cock straining in his jeans.

"Time for what, love?" Ethan smiled when Sebastian groaned at his touch.

"I want you to fuck me."

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His hand stilled and Ethan stared at Sebastian's heated gaze and swallowed, hard.

“What's wrong?”

Ethan swallowed again as his throat became dry. “Although I'm not a virgin... I've never...” He waved his hand to show what he meant.

“What? But those girls you dated, in high school?”

“Camouflage. My attraction was for you alone, but I didn't realize until we started college. The girls were friends.”

Sebastian stared at him with an intensity Ethan didn't understand. His blood sizzled in his veins and his cock pressed against the zipper of his jeans, ready to be free.

Ethan shivered when Sebastian moved and ran his hands underneath his shirt.

Sebastian caressed his back, before he brought his hands to his chest. When Sebastian flicked his nipples, which they'd discovered were one of the most responsive areas of Ethan's body, Ethan moaned at the sensations exploding through him.

“Please, Ethan. I need you inside me. I've waited weeks and I want you.”

Ethan's chest rose and fell with his heavy breaths and he nodded. “Let me know if you're uncomfortable. Okay?”

Sebastian, not giving him one more moment to change his mind, reached for Ethan's

hand and pulled him toward the bedroom. “Trust me, that won’t be a problem.”

Once they reached the bedroom, Ethan stripped and watched Sebastian unveil each inch of golden skin to his view. When Sebastian turned and bent over to push his jeans and boxer briefs down to his ankles, and then off, the perfect view of Sebastian’s rounded ass shaking back and forth as he taunted Ethan snapped the last of his resistance.

With controlled movements, he placed a hand on Sebastian’s back and directed him forward until his hands rested flat on the bed. The position exposed his beautiful ass and Ethan’s mouth watered at the sight.

He dropped to his knees and slid his hands over Sebastian’s smooth skin, drawing a loud moan from him. Ethan maneuvered underneath before he tilted his head back as he drew one of Sebastian’s balls into his mouth, sucking and licking, before moving onto the other one. Ethan moaned against Sebastian’s skin as he caught his masculine scent mingled with the subtle cologne he wore.

“Ethan.” Sebastian groaned, long and low.

He licked and tasted Sebastian as he moved toward the one spot Sebastian begged him to touch. His tongue swirled around Sebastian’s hole, licked and nipped at his ass cheeks, before pressing his tongue against his entrance and pressing inside.

“Fuck. Holy fuck.”

Ethan became relentless. He tasted Sebastian and loved that his actions gave them both pleasure as he continued with his unrelenting onslaught. When Sebastian begged for more, Ethan wrapped his tongue around his finger, leaving it dripping wet before he pressed the tip against Sebastian’s entrance.

Ethan caught Sebastian when his legs gave out.

He settled Sebastian on the bed, laying him on his back before Ethan crawled on his belly between Sebastian's outstretched legs, opening up the other man to his view. Ethan glanced up and caught Sebastian's gaze.

"Do you want me to stop?"

"No! No. Please, fuck me, Ethan."

Ethan nodded and reached for the lube in his bedside drawer. He applied the liquid to his fingers and warmed them before he circled Sebastian's entrance.

Ethan knew how he liked Sebastian to touch him and as he pressed in, he hoped Sebastian would like it, too.

Sebastian's ragged groan grew louder each inch Ethan pushed in, but when he crooked his finger, Sebastian sucked in a breath and exhaled Ethan's name on a moan.

"Do that... again."

Ethan did as he asked. "Good?"

Sebastian's ragged moan was all the answer Ethan needed. He slid his fingers almost all the way out before he lubed a second finger. When he pressed inside, Sebastian gasped and bucked his hips.

For the next few minutes, Ethan took his time as he memorized the areas on Sebastian's body he drew pleasure from. Ethan was trying to drive Sebastian crazy with lust by taking the time to stretch him with another finger until Sebastian begged

for more in between gasping breaths.

After Sebastian insisted again he was ready, Ethan removed his fingers from Sebastian, who whimpered aloud at the loss. Ethan noticed both of their cocks were leaking and he hoped he lasted once he was deep inside Sebastian.

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“Are you ready, love?”

A moan was all the answer he received. Sebastian reached for Ethan’s left hand. “Slow, please.”

“I will, love.”

Without releasing Sebastian’s hand, knowing both of them needed the connection, he poured lube onto his cock and stroked it twice.

When he was ready, he squeezed Sebastian’s hand as a heads up and pressed the head of his cock against Sebastian’s entrance. His eyes never left Sebastian’s face as he pressed inside with small movements.

“You okay?”

Sebastian moaned.

Ethan noticed his eyes were glassy and unfocused, but there was no sign of pain. Ethan pushed forward, taking his time as he clenched his teeth to keep himself under control, wanting Sebastian’s pleasure above his own.

He took a deep breath. Sebastian’s tight heat surrounded his cock, and they moaned in unison when Ethan twitched at the sensations rushing through him.

Sebastian leaned up and cupped the back of Ethan’s head. He devoured Ethan’s mouth and the longer Sebastian kissed him, Ethan found himself pushed closer to the edge.

He pulled his hips back and nipped at Sebastian's lips before he drove back into him. Ethan shivered when Sebastian moaned his name and on the next thrust, Sebastian dropped back down on the bed and raised his hips to meet Ethan's thrusts as Ethan slammed deeper into his lover.

Sebastian's hands were everywhere on his body; his ass, thighs, over his back, as his movements pressed Ethan closer to him.

Ethan bent and kissed him, his hips never stopping their constant back-and-forth movements. The action rubbed Sebastian's hard cock between their stomachs.

"Ethan, fuck me. Harder. Yes, more."

He buried his face against Sebastian's throat, he licked the sheen of sweat that erupted off Sebastian's skin.

"Touch me. So close."

Ethan pulled back enough to reach for Sebastian's cock and pumped him in the same rhythm as he drove into his lover. And without warning, Sebastian threw his head back and screamed Ethan's name as his cock pulsed and his seed spilled onto Ethan's hand and his own stomach and chest.

Inside, Sebastian squeezed Ethan and his orgasm struck with a frenzy that stole his breath. Sebastian's name was wrenched out of his throat as he continued to empty himself deep inside Sebastian.

Ethan watched Sebastian's chest rise and fall with deep breaths. He groaned when he clamped down on his cock, still buried inside. Curious, Ethan leaned forward and swiped his tongue against Sebastian's skin, tasting Sebastian's release from where it landed on his skin.

Sebastian whimpered his name at the sight, before capturing Ethan's mouth with his own, and they kissed long and slow.

Ethan held his breath as he pulled out, watching Sebastian's face for any discomfort, before dropping on the bed beside him. Ethan reached for some tissues they had placed on the dresser after their first encounter, and wiped at the come on Sebastian's chest and his own, before tossing them in the trash can.

Sebastian pressed him close, turning on his side and burrowing his face against Ethan's neck, and breathed Ethan in. At that moment, Ethan wanted to blurt out he loved Sebastian, but he bit his tongue. It was too soon for admissions of love.

"How are you?"

Sebastian gave one short, sharp burst of laughter. "I don't think I've ever come so hard in my life and with no warning beforehand. I want to do that again." He reached for the comforter and covered them.

"I didn't know if you would like it. Sleep a little and we'll eat." Ethan pressed a kiss against Sebastian's hair.

Ethan listened to Sebastian's breathing settle into long, deep breaths.

"I'm sorry I didn't realize what you and I had was all I needed. I shouldn't have dated Amber, or any of those women. Does your cheek still sting?"

Ethan reached for Sebastian's hand and pressed it to his mouth. "No, love, it never did. All that matters is that we're together now."

"Damn straight."

Ethan laughed and Sebastian joined in. They held each other until their laughter quieted into a comfortable silence. Ethan knew as long as he had Sebastian in his life, everything would work out.

Chapter Eight

Sebastian

The holidays had come and gone.

Ethan and Sebastian had surprised their parents by coming home for the holiday break. They had shown up holding hands to their annual neighborhood Christmas party. Although their families had gotten used to the closeness he shared with Ethan over the years, the simple gesture surprised them.

While they thought, more than once, that their relationship would turn into something more than a friendship, both Ethan's parents and his sat them down for a talk. They grilled them about everything from their living situation to how others saw them together. Sebastian understood they were preparing he and Ethan for the negative opinions that might come their way. But when Sebastian and Ethan reiterated their commitment to each other, all four of them expressed their eventual happiness at their new relationship.

After several days at home, they wanted some alone time without having to rush to classes or having homework they needed to complete, so they went back to their loft.

Although the sex was still incredible and their friendship continued to be as strong as ever, it was the intimacy they shared through fleeting touches and lingering kisses that thrilled Sebastian.

One reason he decided they needed their own place was because he missed his best

friend. Being able to touch and kiss Ethan whenever he wanted added to the depth of their established friendship and it solidified their relationship into something unbreakable.

Sebastian had been thinking about their future together. Marriage was never on his radar before, but each day he shared with Ethan made Sebastian want to wake up every day with the man he wanted to call his husband. From time to time, Sebastian would bring up the subject of marriage, but he never spoke about them specifically. So when Ethan answered, it was in a general sense.

Both had over a year left in school. They had even talked about what they wanted to do after graduation. Sebastian already had several offers as an acquisition specialist, even one from his dad, and Ethan already worked part-time as a programmer.

They talked about moving from the West coast, something familiar to both, and settling somewhere on the East coast where there were actual seasons. Plans stayed in the background since solidifying their decisions weren't pressing, and they enjoyed their time together.

Class started again that morning. Used to getting up late during the month-long break, it had taken Sebastian almost an hour to get out of bed and ready for the day. He dragged himself to his business ethics class and the moment he walked into the room, he sensed some tension.

Sebastian scoffed when he realized it was Amber and her group of friends. Although he was still pissed she'd slapped Ethan, he wanted nothing to do with her so he ignored everyone in the room and sat down in his normal spot. Class passed as Sebastian scribbled on his notebook as he fought to stay awake. Before long but not quickly enough, the class finished and Sebastian packed his books into his backpack with a sigh of relief.

He heard snippets of slurs being hurled his way, but ignored them. Sebastian wasn't the first man Amber and her lackeys have known to date another man, but with Amber egging them on, they felt free to call Sebastian names. He shook his head and slung his backpack over his shoulder, heading for the exit.

Sebastian forgot about class as soon as he stepped out the door and noted the time. He shot a quick text to Ethan and walked to meet him outside his lab.

I'm almost finished, handsome.

Sebastian smiled at the text. I'm right outside, waiting. -S

Ethan sent him a smile which had Sebastian grinning like an idiot. He leaned back against the wall, far enough from the door so he wouldn't get hit when it opened, and let out a breath when students filed out. He spotted Ethan, one of the last in class, and frowned when a man he didn't know reached for Ethan and swung him back into the classroom.

Sebastian moved from the spot and as he got closer, he watched as Ethan jerked his arm from the other man's hold. He tried to step back, but the man reached forward and cupped his hand around the back of Ethan's neck and pulled him closer.

"No." Ethan's voice was clear as he slapped the man's hand away.

"Why not?"

"My boyfriend wouldn't like it." Ethan glanced out the door while keeping the other man in sight, relaxing when he spotted Sebastian.

"What boyfriend?"

Sebastian reached Ethan and stepped in front of him. He was intimidating because of his size and Sebastian used it to his advantage. "That would be me."

"She said nothing about a boyfriend."

"Who?" Ethan asked.

Clarity flooded Sebastian, and he understood who "she" was.

"I'm sorry, I didn't know about your boyfriend. She said you wanted me but you were shy." The man, Sebastian didn't even get his name, hurried down the hall and out of sight.

Sebastian turned at the same moment Ethan stepped closer and their mouths met in a devouring kiss. Sebastian shivered when Ethan gripped his hips and pulled Sebastian closer. He loved it when Ethan expressed his need for Sebastian whenever he wanted.

And at that moment, kissing just inside the classroom, Sebastian understood how much he loved Ethan. He always had, but he'd been too blind to see it before.

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As joy surged through him, he slanted his mouth and deepened the kiss, swallowing Ethan's moan and holding him tight to his body.

His cock grew hard when Ethan surprised him and sucked on his tongue. With a quick movement, he had Ethan pressed against the wall and deepened the kiss. Soon, way too soon, he broke off the kiss to breathe.

“Let's go home.”

Ethan, his eyes glazed with desire, managed a nod. It was enough of a signal for Sebastian, who reached for his hand and smiled when Ethan weaved their fingers together.

On their way out they ran into Amber and two her ex-boyfriends. It dawned on Sebastian in that moment why she couldn't forget about their failed relationship. He'd broken up with her and with all of her other relationships, she had been the one who'd set the rules and broke it off first. Since she couldn't control Sebastian, could never control him, she sought revenge because she believed Ethan was the reason they broke up. It wouldn't dawn on her he didn't want to be with her.

He hadn't talked to her since she'd slapped Ethan. He blocked her number, but she continued trying to call with unknown numbers, which he never answered. As he looked at her, her face flushed with anger and her gaze locked on Ethan, he understood why the other men were there.

Regret filled Sebastian's chest, making it hard to breathe. He had chosen her, for a time, over Ethan. And because of his stupidity, he'd hurt Ethan. But so had Amber,

and he would never allow her to target Ethan again.

Sebastian squeezed Ethan's hand and when he glanced up, he nodded. Ethan understood they would ignore her and head home. They walked away and Amber moved and blocked their path.

"What you think you're doing, Seb. You're mine." Amber spit.

"Well, Amber, since I hate being called Seb and I've asked you countless times not to call me that, I'll keep walking."

She huffed. "Do you think people will accept you? They won't. You're gay." Her voice rose as each word shot out of her mouth. "But if you come back, I'll make everyone leave you alone."

Sebastian glanced at Ethan, who had a hand over his mouth as he shook with laughter, his eyes sparkling as he met Sebastian's gaze. Sebastian couldn't help but smile.

Before they could walk off, they ripped Ethan from his arms and he spotted two of Amber's exes surround him.

Amber's hand gripped Sebastian's wrist and dug her nails into his skin. "They'll show him not to mess with what's mine."

"You never learn, do you," Sebastian growled. He yanked his arm away from her and started toward Ethan, ready to kick someone's ass. He stopped a few feet away when Ethan smiled at the two, a vicious warning they didn't understand.

"It's best to walk away now." Sebastian smiled.

When they didn't listen, Sebastian pulled out his cell and recorded video, in case they accused Ethan of assaulting them first. Amber ran into the frame and shouted at them to attack Ethan.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you."

Amber turned toward Sebastian and her brows drew down, wondering why he hadn't stepped up to protect Ethan. But he shrugged, waiting to see if the two had enough sense to listen to their instincts and run.

Again, she demanded they attack Ethan.

Sebastian realized over the past few minutes, they had attracted quite a crowd. Sebastian continued to film as Ethan shifted onto his back foot, bracing himself for the attack.

One man charged. Ethan crouched down and with a sweeping kick, he knocked the feet out from under his attacker. Sebastian watched as the man landed hard on his back. The man wheezed, trying to get air back into his lungs, and based on how he moved, he was out of the fight.

Ethan stood and waited for the next attack. It came soon after.

A fist flew toward Ethan, but he moved behind the man and grabbed the attacker's arm. With quick movements, Ethan directed the attacker's fist back toward his own face, and he knocked himself out from the momentum of his own fist. Ethan stepped back as the man dropped to the ground, unconscious.

Amber screeched as she moved to blindside Ethan with a strike to his face, but he grabbed her wrist in his hand and pulled her close.

“You only get one shot, and you’ve taken it.”Ethan pushed her away from him.

The murmur of the crowd grew louder and realization dawned on Amber the fight hadn’t gone her way.She fled without a word or a glance at the two men who she’d convinced to fight a stranger.

Sebastian stepped over the unconscious one and pulled Ethan in for a kiss.There were whispers, but once someone whistled and another commented their kiss was “hot,” the kiss ended and the crowd dispersed.

“I don’t think they’ll bother us again.”

Sebastian laughed and pulled Ethan to his side.“I’ve never been so turned on in my life, watching you move like that.Wanna head home and you can fuck me?”

Without a word, Ethan grabbed his hand and hurried them both toward their place, making Sebastian laugh.

Ethan turned and with a serious look on his face, spoke.“I’m going push you against the front door and drop to my knees.Then I’m going to pull your cock out and suck you until you come down my throat.Then, and only then, will I take you into our bedroom and fuck you until you scream my name and come all over my chest.”

His laughter turned into a groan.“Fuck.”

Ethan laughed, and he knew, Sebastian knew, he wanted Ethan forever.

Chapter Nine

Ethan

They burst through the door and Ethan barely had enough sense to shut it behind them. Ethan heard the click of the lock being thrown before Sebastian pressed him against the door and kissed him. Despite Sebastian wanting Ethan to fuck him, Ethan had changed his plans on the walk home.

Each time they kissed, Ethan experienced a surge of excitement. And he couldn't get enough.

Sebastian devoured and explored Ethan's mouth with both his tongue and his lips. For long minutes, Ethan became lost in the sensations only Sebastian drew from him. But when his hand encountered the hot skin of Sebastian's back, desire swept through him and he pulled desperately at Sebastian's shirt only to groan when his jacket got in the way.

With reluctance, he slid his hand from underneath Sebastian's shirt. He helped Sebastian off with his jacket, his movements jerky, and breathed a sigh of relief when it hit the floor. Sebastian's shirt was next and Ethan whipped it off, tossing it to the side forgotten.

Sebastian's hand were busy sliding all over Ethan's skin, not bothering to take off any clothing, until it impeded his way. At that point, Sebastian pressed his lips against Ethan's neck, sucking on the sensitive spot that drove Ethan crazy. The action distracted Ethan, so when Sebastian reached for the neckline of his shirt, he didn't

think twice when Sebastian grabbed fistfuls of his collar before he ripped the material in half.

“Fuck.” The word slipped from Ethan’s tight throat.

Sebastian pressed his mouth to Ethan’s and swallowed the tail end of his curse. Ethan tangled his fingers in Sebastian’s hair and pressed him close. He loved kissing this man, his man, and would never get enough of Sebastian.

Ethan’s mind clouded when Sebastian thrust his hips forward and their clothed cocks brushed against one another. Ethan tightened his hold and broke the kiss.

“Fuck me against the door, the wall, wherever. I need you inside me, now.”

Ethan moaned again when Sebastian’s body shivered.

Sebastian pulled back far enough to catch Ethan’s gaze, still keeping his body close and radiating heat in waves. Ethan glanced down as Sebastian’s fingers hovered above the button on his jeans. When he flicked it open with practiced ease, Ethan pulled his bottom lip between his teeth awaiting what was to come and shivered.

Entranced by Sebastian’s strong fingers in the same vicinity of his cock, Ethan stared at them, willing them to move.

“Ethan.”

Ethan jerked his head up and looked at Sebastian. He shivered when he could see the hunger reflected in his hazel gaze.

“If you want me, baby, get naked.”

And with Sebastian's growled words, Ethan snapped out of his lust induced daze and shucked his jeans and underwear. He stood there, his cock naked and pulsing, in time to see Sebastian bending over to push his own clothing out of the way.

Ethan swallowed.

Each time Sebastian stripped for him, Ethan knew he was the luckiest man on the planet.

"You are the most beautiful man I've ever laid eyes on. It's one of the many reasons I love you."

Ethan's eyes widened and his breathing turned choppy when he realized what he'd blurted out. He glanced up, observing Sebastian's reaction to his words, and his breath caught in his throat when Sebastian looked as stunned as he must have.

Over the last few months, they had grown closer as lovers, deepening their friendship along the way, but they'd never spoken about their feelings.

Sebastian was it, the one man for him. The one he would love his entire life if he had the chance. He wanted to show Sebastian, in big ways and small, how much he loved him.

But now he'd blurted out what he'd been thinking about telling Sebastian for months, maybe even years, and he wasn't sure if he ruined their relationship.

Ethan's mouth opened and closed without another sound escaping.

Sebastian stood in front of him and he cupped Ethan's face, giving him the most brilliant smile he'd ever seen.

“You... love me?”

Ethan nodded, dumbfounded at Sebastian’s smile and easy acceptance of his words. Well, he wasn’t freaking out and running away, so Ethan admitted everything.

“I thought about you as more than just a friend soon after the start of our senior year of high school. We spent the entire year together, despite Amanda and several other’s vying for your attention.”

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Ethan remembered back to the days of uncertainty, wondering when Sebastian would choose someone else over their friendship.

“They approached me and wanted you to notice them. At the time I’d refused, thinking if they weren’t brave enough to ask you out, they didn’t deserve you. That is when I realized. Instead of telling you, I kept it to myself. And later, when I realized I lost you, I watched you date and have a good time, all the while, hiding my feelings for you.”

Sebastian kissed him. A desperate meeting of lips and hands that dragged another deep moan from both of their throats. Sebastian pressed his naked, hard body against Ethan’s.

Ethan broke the kiss and rubbed his hand up and down Sebastian’s back. “And to answer your question. Yes. I love you. It’s always been you.”

Sebastian moved then. He devoured his lips as he lifted Ethan’s left leg and draped it over his hip, pressing him tighter against the wall. Ethan bucked up against Sebastian, asking for more, for all of Sebastian. Seconds later, Sebastian’s slicked finger circled his entrance before pressing inside.

Ethan wondered fleetingly about where Sebastian got the lube but stopped caring as soon as acute pleasure pierced his body. Sebastian stroked his prostate again and a keening noise escaped from Ethan’s throat as his head dropped back against the wall.

Sebastian kept driving him crazy with his talented fingers, and Ethan whimpered when Sebastian pressed his body closer and buried his face against Ethan’s neck.

As Sebastian added a second finger and rutted against Ethan's leaking cock, every thought fell away until all that existed was the pleasure he received from Sebastian's touch.

By the time he added a third finger, they were both panting hard and Ethan's hips were straining closer to Sebastian's. Ethan wondered if he could come only with stimulation from Sebastian's fingers, but when Sebastian rubbed the spot again and Ethan let out a whimper, he knew he needed Sebastian inside him.

Sensing this, Sebastian brushed his soft lips against Ethan's ear and spoke. "I will fuck you up against the wall, hard and fast until you scream my name and come all over my chest. When I feel you pulsing around my cock, I'll shout your name and come deep inside. You want that, baby?"

"Fuck, yes," Ethan begged.

Sebastian clutched Ethan to him as he pulled out his fingers, leaving Ethan to shiver and clamp down onto Sebastian's shoulders.

"I'm not going anywhere."

Both of Sebastian's hands traveled down over Ethan's hips to the back of his thighs. Ethan almost chuckled when he wondered if Sebastian could hold his weight, but at the next request, his thoughts scattered.

"Jump up, baby. Wrap your legs around my waist."

Ethan did as Sebastian asked and moaned when he found Sebastian's leaking cock close to his entrance. He loved Sebastian's weight pressing against him and his fingers sinking into the flesh of his thighs as Sebastian held him up.

“Ready?”

“Yes. Sebastian.”

Ethan’s head dropped back against the hard surface and Sebastian pushed inside him. He moved an inch and Ethan tried to drive his hips forward, to take all of him, but Sebastian’s weight held him in place.

“Fuck me.”

Sebastian kissed him at the same time he pressed all the way in. He loved Sebastian’s big cock and although he should have been used to his size sliding inside him, Ethan shivered at the stretch and the fullness.

Words Ethan wouldn’t be able to remember tumbled out of his mouth, hoping they encouraged Sebastian to take what he wanted. They cut off when Sebastian, keeping one hand on his thigh, angled Ethan’s hips until the end of Sebastian’s cock brushed the area that had Ethan screaming and jerking against Sebastian when he drove inside.

Sebastian paused after several, mind-altering strokes and glanced at Ethan. Ethan raised his gaze and met the intense hazel eyes he loved.

“You... okay?”

Sebastian lowered his mouth to Ethan’s and this time, their kiss was different.

“I love you, too, Ethan.”

Affected by the sincerity of Sebastian’s words, Ethan’s body shook in Sebastian’s arms, causing them both to moan. He squeezed Sebastian’s cock, asking him to move

as Ethan's heart swelled.He would never forget this moment.

“Fuck, baby.I can't get enough of you.”

“Me... either.”

Each stroke in the next few feverish minutes drove Ethan out of his mind with pleasure.His entire body was one live wire, each stroke had Ethan's mouth open in a silent scream.

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Sebastian kissed him and reached for Ethan's cock, swallowing the moan that followed. Ethan's incoherent babble turned into a long, low, dirty moan when Sebastian pulled out and snapped his hips forward.

“Come for me, Ethan. Come.”

Ethan, unable to deny Sebastian anything, clenched against Sebastian's moving cock before he erupted onto both his chest and Sebastian's. Ethan's hands clamped onto Sebastian's shoulders as he rode out his fierce orgasm, murmuring Sebastian's name over and over again. He shivered, his body sensitive when Sebastian thrust into him one last time before he pinned Ethan with his body and released deep inside. Sebastian held onto Ethan as he came down from his high.

Ethan hadn't realized he lost consciousness until he blinked open his eyes at the floating sensation taking over his body. He glanced up at Sebastian, who held him in his arms and carried him to bed.

He almost whimpered aloud at the loss of contact between them for a long moment until Sebastian slid under the covers and pulled him close. Ethan smiled into Sebastian's skin as he pillowed his head on Sebastian's shoulder.

They held each other as their emotions settled. If he hadn't heard the words, he would have known something shifted between them from the way Sebastian cradled him in his arms. Ethan loved the touch of Sebastian's lips as he pressed gentle kisses on his eyelids, cheeks, and his lips.

“I'm sorry I didn't see it sooner.”

His release muddled Ethan's mind as he cuddled into Sebastian's side. "What do you mean?"

"Each time we're together; whether we're making love or holding each other on the couch and watching a movie, one we've both seen a hundred times, it reminds me of all the times I missed."

He kissed Sebastian's lips, before he pulled back to look him in the eye. "Our friendship makes me appreciate our relationship. Being able to express ourselves makes our connection much more intense. We will always have our friendship, but there's so much more between us and I don't think I would change any of it because we're together now."

"You know you're it for me. There will be no one else but you." Sebastian kissed him.

Ethan swallowed the sudden lump in his throat. "I want you, just to be with you. I love you, Sebastian."

Exhaustion from the day caught up with them.

"Sleep. I'll get up in a few hours and cook dinner."

Sebastian smiled into his hair. Soon, he fell asleep wrapped around the one man meant for him.

Chapter Ten

Sebastian

Sebastian paced the floor of their living room and wondered for the millionth time whether he shouldn't have begged off class because right at that moment, he needed a distraction. Instead, he'd worn out the floor with his constant back and forth as he waited for Ethan to get home. And when he thought of Ethan, his hand traveled to his pocket and he blew out a breath.

As he turned to start back the other way, his mom stepped in front of him and placed her hand on his chest stopping him in his tracks.

Although she was a foot and a half shorter than he was, she was scary if she wanted to be. Many times over the years, a well-placed flick of her finger thumping against his forehead and he would fall into line every time. But this time, there was nothing but a smile on her face.

Sebastian had invited both his and Ethan's parents for dinner. Over the past few weeks, he had spoken to both couples about his and Ethan's future, and thought they should be here for another milestone in his and Ethan's lives.

The night they confessed their love for each other, a plan had formed in Sebastian's mind, only to solidify into a certainty the following day. Never had something been so right before and the decision about their future had been easy to make.

"Are you sure, Sebastian? You two are just starting your lives. You haven't even

graduated yet.”His dad asked him.Again.

“Ethan is essential to me, like I am to him.Although our relationship is new, our friendship isn’t.I think it’s always been him.And with the certainty he loves me as much as I love him, I want to make it official.”

“They’ve always been inseparable, Scott.We’ve known since they were old enough to crawl.I, for one, give my blessing, Sebastian.”Emily stood up from the couch and hugged him.

Sebastian hugged her back and the tightness in his chest lessened.

“I second that.”Ethan’s dad Cameron said.

He smiled at Cameron and then glanced at his parents.They nodded and his dad spoke.“You’re right.It’s been the two of them.All I ask is that you make each other happy.”

“We already do.”

The nervousness come back, and he paced again.He wondered if he should wait to propose after dinner, or before when they were all settled at the table?Should he take Ethan out for dinner and ask him then?Thoughts continued to swirl around in his head, but he knew he wanted to propose sooner rather than later.He’d already been planning for a month.

Ethan’s text tone sounded, and he glanced down at the message.

I’ll be home soon.

:)

Tears pricked his eyes and his mom squeezed his arm again. “Mom, what if Ethan says no. He means everything even if I was too stupid to realize it before? I... can't lose him.”

Before his mom spoke, Ethan opened the door and took in the scene in front of him with a smile. Sebastian's heart beat faster in his chest at Ethan's smile and remembered too late his eyes were wet with unshed tears.

Ethan dropped his bag by the door, his normal routine when he came home, and walked straight to Sebastian. Ethan cupped his face and brushed a kiss against his lips.

“What's wrong?”

Sebastian blew out a breath and pressed his forehead to Ethan's. “I'm nervous about your reaction.”

“To what? Our parents dropping in on us when all I want is you, spread out on our bed as I ride your cock?” Ethan whispered.

Although only he heard Ethan's words, Sebastian's cheeks heated. He shook his head and smiled.

“Later tonight, okay? But first...”

Sebastian reached into his pocket and when his hand closed around the box, Sebastian pulled it out and dropped to one knee in front of Ethan. When he glanced up to gauge Ethan's reaction, the shocked look on Ethan's face had him reaching for Ethan's hand and linking their fingers together.

The room was crowded with their family, but Sebastian caught and held Ethan's gaze. He tried to convey it was only the two of them and nothing else mattered. When

Ethan squeezed his hand, Sebastian spoke, forgoing the prepared speech he'd gone over until he had it memorized.

“Ethan, it's taken me a few years to understand, but now I know you are the one man essential to my happiness. I want to make you as happy as you make me every day.” Sebastian had to pause for a moment to clear his throat after he spotted Ethan's beautiful dark green eyes blink back tears. “I promise to love you more each day and would love nothing more than to be your husband. Will you marry me?”

There was a split second of silence before Ethan threw himself into Sebastian's arms and buried his face against Sebastian's neck. His arms wrapped around Ethan, holding him close. If it weren't for Ethan's mouth positioned close to his ear, he would have missed the next words from Ethan.

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“Yes. I would love to marry you.”

“Thank fuck.” Sebastian breathed out.

At that moment, Sebastian wanted to take Ethan to bed and love him until they were both boneless and clinging to each other, but he had time to slide the band around Ethan’s finger before they were pulled into hugs by their parents.

The next few hours seemed to drag for Sebastian. As everyone sat around the kitchen table, they told stories about when Ethan and Sebastian were younger. And all he wanted was Ethan alone, but Sebastian made himself relax because they were celebrating their engagement.

Many times, Sebastian caught Ethan looking at the ring and then to him, the smile never leaving his face. It was enough to have Sebastian reluctantly join the conversation. He breathed a sigh of relief when their parents called it a night before they were pulled into another round of hugs.

When they shut the door and locked it, leaving him alone with Ethan for the first time that night, Sebastian glanced at his fiancé before he pressed him against the door and kissed him breathless.

When they pulled back, Ethan gripped his hand and led them toward the bedroom. “I have something for you.”

Sebastian didn't have a clue what Ethan could have gotten him. He was mesmerized by the smile etched on Ethan’s face as he walked over to his bedside drawer. Once there,

he grabbed something Sebastian couldn't see. Ethan stood and reached for Sebastian's hand and held it up, placing a box on Sebastian's outstretched palm. When he gazed down, his eyes widened as he noticed the box was similar to the one he'd given Ethan.

"I was wondering if you would wear my ring, too?"

Ethan opened the box and took out the ring, giving him a brilliant smile. Once Sebastian nodded, Ethan slid the ring on his finger.

Before Sebastian had thought to move, he started forward and kissed Ethan, swallowing his loud moan. When they pulled back for air several minutes later, Sebastian glanced down and looked at the solid weight on his finger. He loved Ethan's ring on his finger.

"I love you," they both said at the same time.

"I've changed my mind," Ethan said.

Sebastian sucked in a breath of panic before Ethan continued.

"I want to make love to you."

They made quick work of their clothing and fell into bed. Sebastian crawled onto his hands and knees, wanting Ethan's weight on him.

Ethan kissed and nipped at Sebastian's neck, traveling down his back, until he had Sebastian panting for more. Sebastian shivered with each touch and before long, his cock was leaking onto the sheet below and he was begging for Ethan.

He sucked in a breath when Ethan ran his hands over his hips and one moved around

to grip his hard cock. He groaned as Ethan ran his thumb along the slit of his cock before sliding his hand down causing Sebastian to buck back against him.

The next minutes were nothing but pleasure as Ethan drove Sebastian out of his mind. Not missing an inch of exposed skin as he explored with his mouth and hands.

Without warning, Ethan cupped Sebastian's ass and spread him apart as his tongue prepared Sebastian for what was to come. Sebastian whimpered as heat licked up his spine.

“Please, Ethan.”

Before Sebastian could blink, Ethan had flipped their positions so Ethan was on his back and Sebastian straddled his thighs. As Sebastian blinked down at his fiancé, Ethan's hands continued to touch his chest, tweaking his nipples, taking his time as he explored each inch of skin.

Sebastian sucked in his stomach as Ethan's hands traveled lower, waiting in anticipation for more. Ethan captured his mouth in a kiss that had their cocks brushing together, leaving Sebastian panting and begging for more.

Ethan was a very attentive lover and never stopped touching Sebastian. He grounded himself by clutching Ethan close, not moving as he stretched to grab the lube. And he smiled as Ethan's chest shook with laughter when Sebastian's thighs tightened, preventing him from moving more than a few inches. But needing Ethan inside him more than his next breath, Sebastian reached for the bottle and placed it in Ethan's hand before he stole a kiss.

His breath rushed out of him when Ethan gripped his ass and moved him forward until he sat on Ethan's hard stomach. And he groaned when Ethan's long, lean finger circled his entrance before he pressed in. His moaning grew louder and Ethan slid

further inside.

Without warning, Sebastian dropped onto Ethan's chest, burying his face against Ethan's neck. He whimpered and his body shook with need as Ethan stretched him and made his body taut like one giant nerve ending exposed and strumming with pleasure.

After several minutes and two more fingers, Sebastian wanted Ethan inside him. He pulled back and rose to his knees. When Ethan followed him as he sat up, he kissed Ethan, long enough to make him breathless.

He broke off the kiss and slid back down onto Ethan's thighs, taking the time to snag the lube that lay discarded on the bed. He spread the liquid over his fingers before he reached for Ethan's cock, stroking him up and down, and savoring the long, low moan that escaped Ethan's throat.

Raising onto his knees and keeping a grip on Ethan's cock, he positioned Ethan at his entrance and lowered himself until Ethan filled him. Ethan's hands gripped his hips to hold him in place as they breathed deeply.

"I'm so in love with you, Sebastian."

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The words pierced his chest and triggered him to move, and he loved the sensations Ethan drew from him. The first thrust of Ethan's hips met Sebastian's downward movement and had them both moaning. Sebastian rubbed his thumb against Ethan's lips and he never faltered as they both drove toward completion.

Ethan surprised him when he sucked his thumb into his mouth and Sebastian's orgasm roared through him, leaving him speechless and panting. He dropped onto Ethan's cock, letting the pleasure take over as he leaned his head back, secure in Ethan's hold.

"I want you. All of you, baby."

Sebastian's body throbbed and a moment later, Ethan breathed his name. His cock swelled deep inside and he felt Ethan's hot release.

There were no sounds as they came down from the high of making love. Sebastian shivered when Ethan's cock slipped from him, and he dropped onto the bed, smiling when Ethan's strong arm draped over his waist.

"When do you want to get married, love?"

"I was thinking the Friday before Spring Break, two weeks from today. We could take a trip for our honeymoon after."

Ethan kissed him, smiling against Sebastian's lips. "I would love to."

"You make me happy, Ethan. I'm glad I realized that before I lost you to someone

else.”

Ethan scoffed. “That would never happen. I’ve wanted you too long to give up on you. I can’t wait to get married.”

“Soon, baby.”

They came together, and this kiss was gentle, loving.

Ethan settled his head on Sebastian’s shoulder as they snuggled under the covers and he kissed Ethan’s cheek. He heard Ethan’s breathing even out and smiled when he realized Ethan had already fallen asleep.

He’d gotten so lucky. And he knew he would do everything in his power to keep Ethan happy.

Chapter Eleven

Ethan

Ethan glanced back and laughed as he watched his new husband drag himself up the stairs to their flat.

They had just arrived back from their mini-honeymoon. At least that's what Sebastian had called it. Although they would have liked more time on the beach and away from the responsibility of school, Sebastian had a paper due in two days he hadn't started and Ethan had a test he had to study for.

Married for a week and a day, each time Ethan glanced down and spotted the ring on his finger, he couldn't help the smile that bloomed on his face.

Their parents had been their only witnesses to the ceremony. They had a simple and uncomplicated wedding, and although they had gotten married at the courthouse, they had both worn their tuxedos. Sebastian looked gorgeous in his black tux and a dark blue vest, the dark colors bringing out the hazel in his eyes.

Ethan didn't remember the actual words that bonded them together, too busy listening to the hard beat of his heart thumping in his ears. But when the judge pronounced them husbands and signed the marriage certificate making their union legal, he'd never been happier.

He was now Ethan Sutton-Young.

Ethan turned around after he'd unlocked and opened the front door, watching with a smile as Sebastian huffed at him as he dropped his bags near the door. He then wandered over to the couch. Dropping down, he lay back and opened his arms, waiting for Ethan to sprawl out on top of him.

He pushed both of their suitcases toward the laundry room down the hall before he walked over and dropped on top his husband. His husband's kiss scorched him, making him shiver in his arms and Ethan wiggled closer for better access to Sebastian's mouth. Sebastian took the opportunity and stripped off Ethan's tee before their lips pressed together in a searing kiss.

"So, having sex on an hourly basis and never leaving our hotel room the entire week wasn't enough for you?" Ethan had been teasing, but he sobered when he caught the serious look on Sebastian's face.

"I will never tire of you. It's as if I'm growing more addicted to you. The best day of my life was when you married me."

His husband's words strummed at his heart and unable to stay away from him a moment longer, Ethan captured Sebastian's mouth and explored every inch with his tongue and lips. Ethan's need for Sebastian grew out of control, which happened every time Sebastian touched him, and he felt himself shaking.

"Please," Ethan begged.

His husband understood his need.

"We haven't done it on the couch yet."

An old fantasy he had when they'd first moved in popped into Ethan's head. His body flushed as he thought of Sebastian bending him over the couch and driving into him,

hard and fast.

Without restraint, Ethan slid his hands underneath Sebastian shirt and pulled it up and over his head. His hands explored each inch he uncovered, the heat of Sebastian's skin searing his palms.

“Sebastian. Fuck me, right here.”

Sebastian groaned and gripped Ethan's hips, holding onto him as he sat up, maneuvering Ethan until he straddled his lap. He jerked his hips up and when his covered cock brushed against Ethan's, he growled into Ethan's mouth. Ethan watched as Sebastian opened his eyes, but before he either of them spoke, there was a loud knock on their front door.

“Are you expecting anyone?” Sebastian's growl sent shafts of pleasure through Ethan.

“No, ignore them. Where were we?”

Ethan tilted his head and deepened the kiss, drawing a loud moan from Sebastian. They drove each other closer to a frenzy when another series of loud knocks sounded at the door.

Ethan almost groaned when Sebastian wrapped him up in his arms and stood. In a tight hug, they let their bodies relax, before they dressed and walked to the door. Ethan didn't care who it was, but he wanted them gone. He wanted to be alone with his husband and closed his eyes, ignoring whoever was at the door when Sebastian opened it, trying to get his anger under control. Instead, his head jerked up at Sebastian's sound of disgust.

Outside their apartment stood Amber, the men that tried to attack him, Sarah from downstairs, and a stranger he'd never met before.

“Where have you been, sweetheart?” Amber asked Sebastian.

Sebastian’s arm tightened around Ethan’s waist and pressed them together until there wasn’t an inch of space between them. They remained silent, waiting for whatever ploy Amber would use this time. Ethan watched as Sebastian pulled his phone from his jeans pocket, his finger hovering over the home button.

“I met your downstairs neighbor and her brother. I thought Ethan and Derek should meet and get to know each other better while you accompanied Sarah and me to a party tonight.”

Ethan sighed and ran the fingers of his free hand over his forehead, willing the start of his headache to disappear. He just wanted to make love to his husband. Sebastian pressed a kiss to the top of his head before he pulled back and they looked at each other, communicating.

Before either of them spoke, Derek laughed. When Amber shot him a glare, he only pointed at their wedding rings.

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Again, Ethan and Sebastian waited for her to understand and when her face screwed up in anger, they didn't have to wait long for the explosion.

“How dare you get married, Seb?”

“Well, considering you aren't in my life at all, it's none of your fucking business. Stay out of our lives, Amber. You are no longer welcome, and if you attack Ethan or me again, we'll slap you with a restraining order and I'll have our lawyers take you for everything you or your future spouse will ever make throughout your miserable lives.”

Ethan felt someone's gaze on him and when he glanced over, Derek gave him a long perusal. “Do you guys have an open marriage?”

He rolled his eyes, and Ethan glanced at Sebastian who squeezed him tighter.

“No.” Sebastian's voice dropped in warning.

“Well, that sucks. Ethan's fucking sexy. Too bad you got to him first.”

Sebastian's loud curse had the people on the landing take a step back. And having enough of the circus, Sebastian pulled Ethan back into the flat.

“Leave us the fuck alone.” Sebastian slammed the door in their shocked faces.

Ethan shivered with desire at the fierce protectiveness that radiated out of Sebastian in waves. The moment he locked the front door, Ethan stripped.

Sebastian froze as his eyes raked over Ethan's naked chest, but Ethan dropped his shirt to the floor as his fingers started on the button of his jeans.

“If that pretty boy—”

Before Sebastian finished that ridiculous sentence, Ethan kissed Sebastian and shoved his hands down the back of his jeans to cup his naked ass.

“No, you fucking turned me on. It's sexy to see you get possessive of me when the stupid ones won't take a hint. When your voice dropped low like that, my cock leaked. I want you now, Sebastian.”

Ethan dropped his jeans and boxer briefs and turned in search of the lube. It'd been a week since they'd been home and he didn't remember where they'd left it. But Sebastian's loud moan had him turning around, and he smiled when his new husband's gaze never moved from his bare ass.

Turning back to the task at hand, he bent down and searched underneath the couch cushions and shouted in triumph when his fingers closed around the bottle.

When he tossed it toward Sebastian, he moaned. “Sebastian. I need you.”

Ethan's plea snapped Sebastian out of his stupor and he stripped his clothes off. Ethan's gaze roamed over each inch of skin he exposed and breathed a sigh of relief when Sebastian walked over and pressed their naked bodies together.

Sebastian kissed Ethan until he lay back on the couch. He ran his hands over Ethan's arms, over his chest, before reaching behind him and cupping Ethan's ass.

Without Ethan realizing, Sebastian had poured the liquid over his fingers and without missing a beat, he circled Ethan's entrance with his slicked finger before pressing

inside, drawing a long, low moan from Ethan's throat. He hooked Ethan's right leg in his grip and draped it over his hip, and while Sebastian stretched Ethan, his mouth continued to explore Ethan's skin. Ethan moaned with abandon and his body shook with need.

"Are you ready, baby?"

Ethan pushed at Sebastian's hold and flipped around, planting his hands on the back of the couch while his knees rested on the cushion. He wiggled his ass, enticing Sebastian.

But Ethan was the one who almost came when Sebastian ran his slicked, hot cock over Ethan's ass, drawing a low moan from both of them. Ethan pressed back against Sebastian, his breath held, waiting for what was to come.

Sebastian circled the head around Ethan's entrance. He teased him for a few more seconds before he pressed inside. The action left Ethan moaning and wriggling back, pressing Sebastian deeper inside him.

When Sebastian settled inside him, his arms banded around Ethan's chest and pulled him until Sebastian's chest pressed against his back. Sebastian leaned toward his ear, nibbling on his neck and leaving a mark that would be sure to show up the next day.

"Each time we make love it's more intense than the time before."

Before Ethan responded, Sebastian moved. He pulled back, and they both moaned aloud when he slammed back inside. Ethan forgot everything besides the pleasure Sebastian drew from him. With each thrust, Sebastian brought him closer to the brink.

"Close, love. I'm..."

Ethan sucked in a sharp breath when Sebastian reached for his cock and squeezed him. Sebastian pressed his lips to against his neck, his movements never wavered as he spoke.

“Come for me, baby.”

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Ethan's orgasm rushed through him with a ferocity that stole his breath and had him shaking. He whimpered Sebastian's name before he came over his husband's fist.

“Oh, fuck. That's it. Squeeze me, baby.”

Ethan shivered at Sebastian's deep voice rumbling in his ear and his hands reached behind and cupped Sebastian's ass, keeping him close. When his finger brushed over Sebastian's hole, Sebastian groaned his name and released deep inside.

It took several long minutes to get their heart rate back to normal, all the while, Sebastian never let go of Ethan. Breathing deeply, he dropped his head back onto Sebastian's shoulder and savored the strong arms around his chest.

“I love you.”

“You are my entire life, baby, and I love you, too. I'll show you every day how much you mean to me.”

As Ethan pressed their lips together, he knew Sebastian would keep his promise. He always had.

Epilogue

Sebastian

He opened the front door and smiled when he heard Ethan singing from the kitchen.

“Sebastian?”

“Yeah, baby. It’s me.”

Sebastian sat his briefcase next to the door. He had wanted to leave work early because they were celebrating their fifth anniversary, but his boss pulled him into a last-minute meeting, ruining his chance to sneak off.

Although they were both busy with their careers, he and Ethan made time for each other. They never worked late and made it a point to spend their free time together.

Sebastian still felt like a newlywed and thanked a higher power he kissed Ethan for the first time all those years ago. And once they married, something indefinable solidified their relationship, and they were more inseparable than ever.

They would have lunch together every day, taking turns going to each other’s offices before heading out to whatever restaurant they’d chosen. He’d meet everyone Ethan worked with and vice versa.

At night, they liked to cuddle on the couch and watch TV, most of the time talking through whatever they were watching, before heading to bed and making love for

hours.

Sebastian loved his life with Ethan.

After their marriage had become news across campus, the rest of their junior and senior years had passed without incident. And throughout that time, their parents told them the first year of marriage would be the toughest. But as they grew busier senior year, Ethan was his rock, and he was Ethan's. They never fought and because of their strong friendship, they settled into marriage with ease.

Each day, Sebastian fell more in love with his husband. Ethan was Sebastian's constant, the love of his life, and he tried to show Ethan every day how much he meant to him. And he never failed to tell him how much he loved him.

When he walked into their kitchen, Sebastian pulled Ethan into a kiss. Ethan's arms wrapped around his shoulders as he kissed him back. The first kiss after a long day always centered Sebastian and everything else faded into the background. He lost himself in the sensations of his husband's mouth and touch. Ethan deepened the kiss for several minutes before they pulled back to catch their breaths.

"How was your day?"

"Better now."

Ethan smiled at him, the smile that never stopped making his heart beat hard in his chest.

"I'm glad to hear it because I have a surprise for you."

Sebastian's body flushed with need and he wriggled his eyebrows at Ethan. "You, naked, lying on the bed as I have my wicked way with you?"

Ethan laughed. “That’s after dinner, but first...”

Ethan pulled something from his pocket and placed it in Sebastian’s hand. His brow raised in question, but Ethan shook his head and nodded toward the envelope. He glanced down and blinked when he opened the flap, noticed plane tickets and the itinerary with their destinations typed on the paper.

“We’re going on a European vacation? For a month? Tomorrow morning?”

Sebastian looked at Ethan, who shifted from one foot to the other, biting his lip and looking nervous.

“I’ve missed those days where it was just us. So when I got my last promotion, I planned a way where we could go somewhere without worrying about work or family.”

Sebastian remembered their celebration for Ethan’s promotion eight months previous and blinked again, stunned that he’d been planning this trip for that long. Ethan grew nervous as Sebastian remained stunned silent.

“Then I contacted your dad and explained my plan, and he gave you the time off. Happy Anniversary!” There was a long pause. “Please say something.”

Ethan sounded hurt by his silence and Sebastian snapped out of his astonished state. He backed his husband against the kitchen counter and cupped his face in his hands. Without hesitation, he devoured Ethan’s mouth and swallowed Ethan’s moans. His body reacted and loved it when Ethan clutched him closer.

Sebastian broke the kiss, he pressed his forehead against Ethan’s, holding him tight. “When was the last time I told you I loved you?”

“Two minutes before you stepped through the door when we were on the phone.”Ethan chuckled and pressed his lips to Sebastian’s.

“I don’t say it enough, but I love you, Ethan.I love you more than anything or anyone else in the entire world.And the best day of my life is every day we’re together.I’m looking forward to this trip and I won’t want to come back, but as long as I’m with you, I’ll go anywhere.Thank you, baby.”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 8:02 am

Ethan brushed a kiss against his lips, teasing. "It was for selfish reasons."

"I love it when you're selfish. Oh I got you something, too. Happy Anniversary, baby." Sebastian slid the envelope from his back pocket and placed it in Ethan's hand. Ethan looked up, his curious gaze searching Sebastian's he pressed through the envelope to find out what it held inside.

"Remember the house on the lake you fell in love with?"

Ethan nodded. There was a secluded two-story colonial dotted by beautiful tall pines, acres of land surrounding the house, and a private lake a couple miles from their current home.

When Ethan spotted it, he thought it would be perfect as their dream house.

They had asked the owner about buying the property after they spotted a rental sign out front, but they refused to sell it. Ethan's disappointment bothered Sebastian, and he'd been working on being the first one to bid if they ever put it up for sale. They had even gotten to know the couple who owned it and last week he'd received a call.

"Well, I agreed to buy it this morning."

Ethan launched himself at Sebastian, who wrapped him close and breathed him in. Ethan's hot tears dropped against his neck, and he pulled back far enough to see Ethan's face and wipe away his tears. He smiled at his sentimental husband.

"Are you happy?"

Ethan laughed. "You have no idea. I wish I could tell you how much I love you, but words can't express what I feel inside. You make me happy, Sebastian. Thank you."

"No, baby, thank you. For loving me."

"You're easy to love, Sebastian."

"So are you, baby."

Sebastian lifted Ethan into his arms and carried him into the bedroom, both laughing until Sebastian captured Ethan's mouth and kissed him breathless.

"We still have to pack for tomorrow." Ethan's grip tightened around Sebastian.

Sebastian nodded and kissed him again. "But first, I get to make love to you and then we eat and pack. What time's the flight?"

"Ten."

"Plenty of time. And whatever we forget, we can always buy when we get there."

Ethan laughed and pulled Sebastian closer.

Sebastian held his entire world in his arms. It had taken him years to realize how much Ethan meant to him, but he was the luckiest man in the world because of the man he shared his life with.

As they lost themselves in the sensations of loving each other, Sebastian knew taking a chance on Ethan was the best decision he'd ever made.

The End