



Saved by the Game

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Category: Sport

Description: After years of being in an abusive relationship, WNBA player Kybella, finally finds the courage to escape. With just the clothes on her back she flees her hotel room; colliding into NBA superstar Adonis – A kind, intelligent gentleman who offers his help.

An instant connection sparks between the two; something Kybella hasn't felt in a while. Adonis' gentle touch and patient nature awakens her hope to find love again. However, as their bond deepens, so does her fear. Kybella's been conditioned to believe love comes with pain, and she can't shake the feeling that her past isn't done with her yet.

When her ex tracks her down, Kybella is faced with an ultimatum – Return to the man who once broke her, or take a leap of faith with Adonis, who promises her a love built on trust and safety. Will Kybella let her past dictate her future, or will she finally choose the love she deserves?

Find out in this fast-paced instalove story, *Saved by the Game*!

Total Pages (Source): 17

Page 1

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire (Bella)

“Help! Help!” Bella screamed.

The lobby was full of people, but no one heard Bella.

She slowly limped into the hotel lobby from her hotel room she shared with her boyfriend, with blood gushing from her face.

The pain was too much to handle, and she fell to the ground from light-headedness.

Everyone in the busy hotel lobby overlooked her in pain but Adonis.

Adonis, the NBA shooting guard of the Dallas Mavericks, standing six feet, six inches, with a solid, muscular build.

He wore a neatly trimmed beard and his hair in a clean fade.

He had a quiet confidence about himself, and he looked like a leader.

Seeing she was distressed, he quickly ran to help her.

He introduced himself, “Hi there, my name is Adonis. Ma’am, are you okay? Please tell me what happened?” He leaned in and asked me, anticipating my response.

“Please, help me.” Bella replied without looking at the man helping her.

“I’ll call 9-1-1 for you.” Adonis began to take his phone out of his pocket to call for help.

My stomach lurched.

“No, don’t call the police. He’ll kill me.” Bella whispered in Adonis’s ear as he held her up, her body trembling.

No response.

He reached out and gently removed my black sunglasses, looking in my disoriented eyes.

Her eyes were discolored and beaten so badly that she could barely see out of one of them.

“Please, just get me out of the lobby, sir.” Although Bella couldn’t completely see who was helping her, she loved the way he smelled.

Bella smelled the scent of Dior Sauvage on him.

From her experience, any man that wore Dior was fine.

He approached her in the most calm and sincere way.

She had to trust him to help her escape because there was no other choice.

As he picked her up, she wanted to cry in his arms.

A wave of dizziness washed over her, and the room seemed to spin, leaving her grasping for stability.

She threw her arms around him.

It was something about his spirit that calmed her tingling nerves.

“Before I leave with a stranger, can you at least give me your name?”

“My name is Adonis Ferguson. Most people call me Game. I’m the star guard of the Dallas Mavericks.”

My heart skipped a beat as I realized it was really him, my favorite NBA player, holding me.

“Hi, Adonis, I’m a big fan of yours! If it’s not too much trouble, would you mind helping me get away? I’m sure that if my eyes weren’t swollen and beaten, I would’ve recognized you.”

Page 2

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire (Bella)

Bella could hear the gasps and whispers as Adonis carried her from the lobby of the Ritz-Carlton hotel.

She hoped no one recognized her.

Although she was disguised well with a midnight navy baseball cap, black shades, and a black leather jacket.

She was a WNBA basketball player.

Kybella Vonshire played guard for the Wizards, a professional basketball team.

God blessed her to be the first draft pick for the Wizard s after graduating college in 2023.

At twenty-three years old, she was living the life of her dreams.

Everyone was shocked when she was drafted to play for the WNBA because she was redshirted her senior year in college.

Basketball was her passion, but she also loved children.

Her academic goal was achieved as she graduated college with a bachelor's degree in child life studies.

Bella came from a basketball family.

Basketball was in her blood.

Her father, Devin Vonshire, played for Kansas State University before being drafted to the New York Knicks in 1980.

Her mother, Sandra Vonshire, played for the University of Pine Bluff, where she won two national championships.

She also worked as a middle school basketball coach for twenty years.

Her older sister, Samantha, was also an elite basketball player.

She played for the University of South Carolina.

Since she was around the game at an early age, it allowed her to have a high basketball IQ.

Now her sister Samantha works as a college basketball coach.

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While her mom is away living in a vacation home in Arkansas that her parents invested in many years ago.

Bella didn't have anyone back at home in Dallas because all her family lived in other states.

Once she could escape her abusive boyfriend, Brian, she could go back.

The only problem was she had to decide where she would live in Dallas, because she refused to go back to the shared mansion with Brian.

She needed to produce an escape plan quickly.

She was only in Paris to support Brian for the USA Olympic basketball games.

Bella's mother always told her that once she'd had enough mistreatment from a man, she should leave.

The time had come where she'd had enough of Brian's abuse.

The thoughts of violence caused her chest to tighten.

She took a deep breath and shook the stiffness from her neck to bring her back to reality.

Adonis's hotel room was located on the second floor, so it didn't take long for them to make it to his room safely.

He held Bella in his arms as if she were light weight for him.

She only weighed one hundred and fifty pounds, but she was a lanky petite woman, five feet and nine inches in height.

He looked like he lifted two-hundred-pound weights in the gym every other day.

Adonis pulled Bella's long black hair from her eyes to wipe more blood from her face with a towel.

Her face was scratched and bruised up like she'd lost a fight.

The t-shirt that she wore had a Wizards logo on it and blood stains all over it.

He placed Bella on the bed, allowing her to calm down.

“Thank you for helping me. I’m sorry to have bothered you Adonis.” She said in a strangled voice.

“You didn’t bother me and I’m happy that I could help you.” Adonis took a closer look at Bella’s face.

Once she removed her shades and outerwear, she was more recognizable.

“Aw, I can’t believe it’s you. Don’t you play for the Wizards?”

“Yes, I do.” She reluctantly admitted.

Her mouth went dry.

She looked down to avoid the feeling of judgment from him.

“Please tell me what happened to you. Who did this to your face? Promise me that you’ll press charges. You’re too beautiful for anyone to hurt you.” Adonis said as he stroked my cheekbone.

I immediately flinched when he touched me.

Adonis shook his head slowly in disbelief, pulling away from me in agitation.

“Okay, I’ll explain. My boyfriend got upset with me because I told him it was over. I’m tired of the abuse. As I was leaving, he attacked me. He beat me up last month and I called the police on him. He’s in the NBA but got cut from the Buck’s after the

owner of the team found out. His sorry ass has been on five different teams in his short career span. I didn't want to go through that again, so I'm not pressing charges this time. He just got traded to a new team, the Pelicans.

"I got you.

I'll make sure he won't hurt you again.

Look at what he did to your gorgeous face.

You have cuts on one eye and the other is severely swollen.

Don't you know how pretty you are?

You can't let nobody mess up your beautiful face.

" He pleaded with Bella while looking over her ugly scars.

"Thank you for the encouraging words. I know he isn't good for me and that's why I was trying to leave him." With open body posture, Bella breaths became a little easier.

"Honestly, I just wanted a relationship like my parents. I've always admired my parents' marriage. Both my parents had successful basketball careers and successful children. Then I got with a man that was as passionate about basketball as myself. Only he wanted to show his love to other women and his friends, while I gave all my love and affection to him. Instead, all I got was slaps in the face and kicks in my ass. I couldn't change Brian or make him be a part of my fairytale relationship. I've just been terrified without family around and without anywhere to go."She explained with her eyes watering.

Adonis shook his head at me and stepped away.

He paced back and forth.

“I want to find Brian and give him the beating he deserves. At the same time, I want to keep you safe.” He announced.

Adonis bowed his head and prayed silently to God.

After praying he approached Bella in a happier mood.

“So, are you hungry? Do you need me to get you anything to drink? I want to do all I can to help you.”

“I’m good. I’m just stressed.”

“Here, drink some of this juice. It always makes me feel better.” Adonis handed her an Ocean Spray cranberry-apple juice.

“Thanks, this is my favorite drink.” She gushed as she took a sip of the juice and wiped her mouth.

“We have something in common. I keep stock of that cranberry-apple juice with me everywhere that I play.”

“Same.” Bella replied with a satisfying smile.

“I know that you said you’re good, but I’m hungry. What kind of food do you like to eat? It’s a little after lunch time, aren’t you hungry?” He asked with concern.

“Yes, I’m a little hungry.”

“Okay, I’ll order some room service. I’m vegan but you can order anything you’d like.”

“I’ll take a Caesar salad with fruit.” She replied.

“I see why you’re so fine. I’m sorry, I meant to say fit.”

“Thank you,” Bella giggled.

“I try to stay on a strict diet. I want to get my position back on the team.” Adonis didn’t pay attention to her last statement.

She was hoping he didn’t hear it.

She would provide him with more information about her career later.

He’d already turned his back to her to call room service.

“Hello, this is Adonis in room two sixty-four. I would like to place an order for mushroom soup, one roasted pumpkin salad with balsamic vinaigrette, and a vegan egg salad. Then a large cup of fruit and a large Caesar salad. Make sure you provide extra flatware. Thank you.” He hung up with a smile on his face.

“The food should be here shortly. They’re usually quick with bringing my orders.”

“Okay, thanks.” Bella solemnly replied.

“Are you always this quiet?” He responded, waiting patiently for her to share more about herself.

“No. I was just in a traumatic experience. I don’t really have much to talk about right

now. I'm embarrassed to meet one of my favorite basketball players after getting beat-up by my man. It's not how I imagined meeting you."

"Aw, baby trust me, I'm not judging you. I believe that you're the most stunning woman I've ever laid eyes on. You don't deserve for a man to put his hands on you. I just want to help you and keep you away from that monster."

Bella laid her hand over her heart.

She couldn't help but blush.

In the moment, she couldn't help acting star struck.

Adonis was fine and handsome to her.

She was shocked to be sitting next to him.

Bella wasn't a groupie or anything, but she'd always wanted to meet Adonis.

They were both in the league, but they'd never played in the same city before.

God was funny with how he arranged things.

Meeting Adonis in the hotel lobby during her time of need had to be fate.

"There goes that adorable smile. I'm happy to see you're no longer as stressed as you were before. There was a knock at the door. "I think that's room service.

" Adonis announced.

"I'll go freshen up in the bathroom while you grab the door." Bella suggested

offering a fake smile.

As he discreetly opened the door, she snuck in the bathroom.

It was clear she didn't want anyone to see her in the room with him out of fear that someone would report it to the blogs.

Bella didn't want to risk it.

While in the bathroom she washed her hands and face with a warm washcloth.

As she looked in the mirror, she couldn't help but cry from seeing the many bruises and cuts that Brian gave her.

She cried and prayed, God protect me from Brian.

Put a hedge of protection around me and keep me safe as well as my new friend, Adonis.

In Jesus name, amen.

After a deep breath, she left the bathroom.

As she entered the room, Adonis stood beside the chair, waiting for her to sit at the table.

The food came plated nicely.

While she was in the bathroom, he had room service set up the dining area.

There was jazz music playing, and room service had the candles lit in the hotel room.

“Everything looks lovely in here.” Bella spoke as she looked around at the sophisticated scenery.

The television was playing the Men’s Olympic games.

“I can’t believe that you aren’t playing in the Olympic games. You’re one of the best players in the NBA.”

“Yeah, you know how the politics are in the league. It’s unfair, but what can I do about it? I love my job, fans, and the game, but hate politics. I share my love for Christ every game and I’ll continue. I believe the reason I wasn’t invited to play in the Olympic games is because I’m a bold Christian.” Adonis expressed.

“I hope that’s not the reason. You inspire a lot of people and you’re helping to bring people to Christ every time you speak about God. It’s unfortunate that you’re not playing in the Olympic games, but don’t let it stop your game.”

“Trust me, it won’t. For as long as I live, I’ll profess my faith aloud. God gave me my gift and I will proudly spread his word.”

“How did you get your nickname, Game?” Bella asked.

“I was given that nickname in middle school when I made the game winning shot in the championship game. Everyone told me that I had game . Then from there I was called Game.”

“I like it. I think it’s cool.” She looked at him and cracked a smile.

“What about you? Why aren’t you playing in the Women Olympics? I’ve seen you play, and I must say you’re my favorite WNBA basketball player.”

She began to cry as disappointment filled her mind.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to make you cry, beautiful.” Adonis got up and ran to the bathroom to grab some tissues.

“Here, please take these tissues and wipe your eyes.” He announced as he offered her a light rub.

“I’m sorry, but the Wizards waived me the last game of the season. So, now I’m unemployed.” Bella said as she wiped her eyes.

“You must think that I come with a whole lot of baggage, huh? I’ll just eat my food and go.” She insisted.

“Why are you leaving? Please don’t go. I told you that I want to help you.” Adonis replied as he took her hand and walked her back to her seat.

“I’m sure you’ll land on another team soon. I can talk to my agent and have him set you up with some team try-outs.”

“Really? You would do that for me?”

“Yes, beautiful. I want to see you happy. You deserve everything your heart desires. What other hobbies do you have?”

“I love to bake. I bake all types of sweets, like cakes, cupcakes, cookies, and candy. I plan to open a bakery one day. Although, my ex took the fun out of my love for baking. I used to bake at home often. He would throw my desserts against the wall every time he was angry.” She shook her head in recollection of the violence.

“Still, I love making delicious treats for others to enjoy. My mother taught me how to

bake and she gave me all her recipes. I promised her that I would never share her recipes with anyone else, but I think she wouldn't mind if I sold the desserts from them." Bella replied with a soft tone.

"Yummy. I can just imagine your cakes now." Licking his lips and rubbing his hands together.

"I bet your desserts are good. I can't wait to give them a try. Whenever you're ready to open your bakery let me know. I can help you make it happen. Plus, your ex is weak for throwing your desserts. I would never do such a thing. I was raised to never disrespect a woman. So, I just don't understand when a punk does it. It's absurd to me." He replied shrugging his shoulders.

"Would you like to see some of my treats?" She asked as she pulled out her phone with trembling hands.

Bella's hands trembled, haunted by the echoes of a past filled with pain and fear, each shake was a silent reminder of the abuse she once endured.

"Yes, let me see your work, baby."

Adonis eased closer to Bella as she opened her Instagram page and showed him all her posts.

"I usually bake for friends and the girls on the team. Here is a gender reveal cake I did last week for my teammate, Olivia." She showed him a big three-tier cake with blue on one side and pink on the other.

There were two miniature baby bottles in the middle to reveal that she was having twins.

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“Damn, girl that cake looks delicious. You’re talented. Is it okay if I check out your other pic?” He asked.

“Sure, go ahead.” She replied with an uplifted spirit.

He was allowed to look through all her Instagram pictures.

As he continued to scroll, he seemed intrigued, but he stopped with a look of shock.

As his fingers scrolled aimlessly on the screen, a sudden message alert popped up, cutting through the silence with a sharp chime.

Adonis glanced at her and immediately put the phone down.

She cleared her throat, “What’s wrong? Why did you put my phone down?” She asked frantically biting her nails.

Adonis could visibly see the tension in Bella’s shoulders and arms.

He began to rub her arm.

“I loved all your work, but I just saw a threatening message from your ex-boyfriend. You might want to block him baby.”

“Excuse me? What did the message say?” Without waiting for a response from Adonis, she took her phone to view the message.

I will kill you when I find you.

She had already blocked him on her cell phone.

So, after reading the Instagram message she immediately blocked and deleted her ex's Instagram account.

"There. I've had enough of his harassment." She was exhausted, mentally and emotionally drained, tired of his constant harassment that never seemed to end.

"I'm not scared of him though. He's blocked. I have screenshots of it for my records just in case I need it for a police report."

"God got you Bella. She nodded gently, confirming with a smile as Game recited, "In God, I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

" from Psalm 56:4 King James Version (KJV).

It says, God is on the side of the oppressed and abused.

The scripture expresses God's desire for a transformation for those who are burdened or unjustly treated.

Don't worry about that guy.

He is obviously a coward.

I will pray for him.

Although I'm a praying man, I will protect you when needed.

I'm trained in boxing, and I'm licensed to carry.

You have nothing to worry about when you're with me.

Everything will be alright.

I promise you.

”

“I appreciate you, but I don't want to put you in my drama. I'll get far away from him and keep you out of my mess.” She responded while rubbing her throbbing head.

The sudden harassment made her blood pressure rise, causing a headache.

“Bella, please sit back down.” He pulled her toward a seat at the table.

“You can't hide for the rest of your life. You have a life to live. You have a gift inside that the world needs. Girl, you have too much talent to let that guy make you lose it all. If you don't use it, then you're doing the world a disservice by leaving your gift wrapped up.”

“You're right Adonis. I feel everything you're saying. As a fan, I always admired your talent, but I had no idea you were so wise until speaking with you today.” Bella said.

Neither of them go around to finishing their dinner.

Her eyes were low from exhaustion.

She was exhausted from fighting and all she had the energy to do was rest.

“I can tell that you're tired beautiful. Would you like to lay down on the bed and take

a nap? I promise I won't touch you." Adonis said as he threw his hands up as if surrendering.

"Actually, I wouldn't mind laying down in your king size bed. My body is aching and I'm sleepy. I don't believe I've gotten a full night's rest in days." She replied, rubbing an eyebrow to ward off her headache.

"Why haven't you been able to sleep?" He asked.

His posture and the look in his eyes gave cues that he wanted to touch her, but he was a pure gentleman.

"I haven't been in good spirits. My ex-boyfriend Brian wasn't doing anything but insulting me. His coach was giving him a tough time at practice and benched him, and of course he took all his frustrations out on me. I was everything but a child of God to him. It's exhausting being verbally, emotionally, and physically abused every day." She folded her hands across her chest.

Adonis fluffed up his pillows and pulled the white duvet back.

"Please lay down and relax. Here's the remote. Put the television on a movie to help you fall asleep. I'll stay here if you need me. Okay, sweetie?" There was silence in the room.

A mental comparison between her ex and Adonis came to mind.

All she could think about was the times Brian would curse her out and make her go to bed.

Adonis's approach was much different than Brian's.

She smiled and agreed to Adonis's offer to let her rest in his bed.

She nodded her head and took his advice.

Then she relaxed in his comfortable bed.

It didn't take long before the television was watching her.

Even though Adonis was a stranger, it was like she'd known him for years.

He made her feel comfortable and loved.

The feeling he gave was one that no one else had given her.

They vibed.

He loved the Lord as much as she loved him.

They were grounded in the same principles.

Page 3

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Adonis Ferguson (Game)

He sat beside Bella until she fell asleep.

It didn't take her but ten minutes to do so.

Adonis was happy that she was able to relax in his room.

Earlier today, when he first met her, she was hurt, now he felt happiness in his chest to see her settled.

It was like God sent him an angel, but with broken wings.

He couldn't help but try to fix her.

He'd always been a fixer.

Which is why he chose to major in engineering at Harvard University.

Harvard insisted that he help with the NASA program at the MIT Media Lab.

His mother always told him that he was born to fix things.

He's now the recipient of the largest contract ever awarded in the NBA.

The contract pays him three hundred and four million dollars.

He was having his way in life at the age of twenty-seven, the only thing he was missing was a wife.

Before he gave his life to Christ, he'd had his fair share of Instagram models, but they were just fun girls.

Adonis was looking for someone to settle down with.

Bella came into his life at the right time.

He couldn't put his finger on it, but he felt like she was the missing piece in his life.

Since she was sound asleep, Adonis snuck away to go for a swim in the hotel pool.

He put on a pair of swim trunks under a pair of basketball shorts, along with a white t-shirt.

He grabbed his bag and headed out the door.

He usually didn't go swimming after eating but he needed to clear his head.

Each stroke through the water washed away his stress and allowed his thoughts to drift into calm.

It also helped him stay in shape.

His lean, muscular frame was a testament to hours spent gliding through the water and sprinting across the basketball court.

His endurance and agility honed by both sports.

He didn't smoke or drink alcohol.

Since he'd already put up shots in the morning, swimming was his next option.

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As he made it to the lobby, the staff greeted him.

"How is your stay Mr. Ferguson?" The alluring, inexperienced front desk clerk asked with a flirtatious smile.

"It's great. I'm just going to the pool for a quick swim."

"Excellent, I just put some fresh towels in there. If you need anything else, please don't hesitate to let me know." The clerk expressed herself with a wink and a smile.

To avoid sparking rumors, he minimized interactions with hotel staff.

As he went into the pool area he received a few looks from a couple of men.

It was awkward but he paid them no attention.

Adonis just got into the pool as planned.

He did a couple of stretches and overheard a conversation.

"Yo, I seen dude with Brian's girl. I think she with him. Brian been looking for her. I'll have to hit him up to let him know dude is in the pool area now." Brian's teammate said loudly.

Brian's teammate Phil knew Bella was Brian's girlfriend since she was staying with

him at the hotel.

“You need to stay out of it. You don’t know what’s going on man.” Another guy said to Phil.

“What do you mean? I’m just looking out for my man. These females don’t know how to act these days.”

“Man, you’re tripping.” The friend replied to the onlooker and swam away.

The conversation made Adonis uneasy but continued to go for his swim.

His gun was in his backpack just in case anything popped off.

He always carried his backpack when working out with spare clothes and shoes.

He proceeded to set his timer for ten minutes and started swimming laps.

After the timer went off, he came up for air and looked around.

The guys were no longer in the pool area.

Adonis was all alone.

He decided to head back to the room.

Suspicious, he watched his back the entire time to ensure nobody was following him.

He’d never had to worry about anything like that before.

It was then he realized the importance of having a team of bodyguards with him

everywhere he went.

He couldn't risk his life over nonsense.

He immediately texted his manager.

Adonis: Send my bodyguard Malik and another guard to cover for him during his breaks to my hotel room ASAP!

Steve: I got you.

I'll have Malik come as soon as possible to your hotel with instructions to guard your door.

Adonis: Good looking out for me, Steve.

Thinking about worst-case scenarios, Adonis rushed to his room.

He took the back route to his room to escape the attention of fans or staff.

Although he loved his fans, he didn't have time to take pictures with anyone.

His mission was to make sure Bella was okay.

He opened the door quietly to ensure he didn't wake her up.

After realizing she was safe, he went to get out of his wet clothes and take a quick shower to rinse the chlorine off his body.

The bathroom was steaming hot.

After a ten-minute shower, the room smelled of his scent.

There were two dwarf cinnamon trees by the counter, he paused to enjoy the scent.

He checked himself out in the mirror and flexed his muscles after wiping the steam from it.

I still look fine .

Then he applied lotion all over his caramel skin.

After the rub down, he wrapped a towel around his waist and left the bathroom.

As soon as he was out, Adonis heard a knock at the door.

The knock was so loud that it awakened Bella.

She woke up startled and with a look of confusion.

He looked out the peephole before opening the door.

“What’s up Malik? Thanks for coming on such short notice.” His swift arrival implied he was already in the vicinity, prepared for any situation.

“No, problem man. I’m here to serve and protect you, boss.” They dapped each other up.

“Game, who is that? I didn’t know you were having company. I can go ahead and leave. I don’t want to impose on you.” Bella announced.

“Oh, Bella don’t be like that.” Adonis replied leaning in as he went to the side of her

bed to calm her down.

“That’s Malik. He’s, my bodyguard. I asked him to come stand guard at the door while we’re here.”

“Did something happen while I was asleep? Why do you suddenly need a bodyguard to watch the door?” Bella asked with an upset tone.

“Malik, can you make sure the door is locked, please?”

“I got it.” Malik replied assertively.

“When I was at the pool, I heard some guys talking. It sounded like they were aware that your ex-boyfriend was looking for you. As a multi-million-dollar basketball player, I understand the importance of staying protected and staying legal-that’s why I’m licensed to carry. I don’t want him to run up on us. Plus, you’re fine, one of those thirsty men in the hotel could try to act crazy about you. You know you have fans, girl. Having Malik here is a safety precaution for both of us.” He replied to assure Bella.

“I appreciate you for keeping me safe. I don’t believe I’ve ever felt this safe around a man in my life. You have been extra sweet to me since I’ve met you. I don’t know why people would say that you’re a jerk.” Bella replied while rubbing his arm.

“Excuse me? People say that I’m a jerk? I’m appalled because I never heard that complaint before.” He replied with a chuckle.

“I’m really glad I had the chance to get to know you for myself, despite all the rumors I’d heard, you’ve turned out to be nothing like what people said. But now I can’t help but wonder, are you sure you’re ready for the baggage I bring?”

“I was born ready for a beautiful woman like you. Plus, I’m ready to taste those desserts you make.” He stated, clearing his throat and covering his mouth.

“As sweet as you are to me, I’ll make you whatever you desire.”

“Okay, I won’t forget. So don’t make any promises that you can’t keep.”

“Boss man, I’ll go ahead and stand outside the door.” Malik interrupted.

“If I need anything I’ll have my relief guard give me a break.”

“Cool. Good deal. I know you got it all under control.” Adonis replied to Malik.

“I’m excited to see that security guards are being provided-it’s a great step toward ensuring everyone’s safety and peace of mind! If my ex-boyfriend Brian had bodyguards then maybe he wouldn’t have gotten away with putting his hands on me so much.”

“Guys like your ex typically won’t try to hit a woman in front of a man. My mother was a victim of abuse. My stepdad would hit my mother in secluded areas. He wouldn’t hit her around other people that could protect her. He even accused her of abuse when she called the police on him. I witnessed my mother getting handcuffed for abuse when she was the victim. My step-dad manipulated the police good enough to put her in jail for assault instead of him.”

“I’ve had my bodyguard on staff since I signed my first NBA contract. Malik is like a big brother to me now. Did you see how big he is? Nobody will harm us with a six foot seven inch man weighing two hundred and eighty pounds standing beside us. Plus, I pay him six figures to guard me. You sked me if I’m ready for your baggage? Well, I have the same question for you because sometimes my fans can get a little crazy. I’ve had some fans wait and pose as room servants and greet me at the door

half- naked to serve my food. I have many more wild stories about my crazy fans.”

“Oh my God Adonis!” Bella giggled aloud.

“Since, I refuse to go back to my hotel room, can I use your Bible? I need to study the word. I have so much on my mind. This has been a day for me.”

Adonis opened his nightstand drawer and pulled out a Bible.

“Here you go beautiful.”

“I’m happy to see that your Bible pages are highlighted. Seems like you study the Bible too.” She responded.

“Of course I read the word of God. Please turn to Philippians 4:3, in the New International Version of the Bible and read.” He instructed.

“ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with the Clement and the rest of my co-workers, who name is in the book of life .” Bella read the verse aloud.

“Now turn to Joshua 1:8 in the New International Version.” He suggested.

“ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful .” Bella continued to read aloud.

“Thank you for reading those two scriptures with me from the Bible. Another first for me. I’ve never had a man read the Bible with me. This was refreshing to my soul.” Bella said as she closed the Bible.

“You should keep the Bible open on the nightstand. I leave my Bible open on my nightstand at home and it gives me the vibe that God’s presence is always in the room.”

“Okay, sounds like a plan.” Bella spoke as she sat the Bible down on the nightstand open.

“There’s a quiet, unshakable peace that comes from having the Bible open in front of you- a sense that no matter how chaotic the world feels, truth, comfort, and hope are right there in the pages. The gentle rustle of scripture, the familiar verses, and the weight of timeless promises create a space where your heart can rest, your mind can breathe, and your soul feels seen and steady. My God, I can feel God’s presence all over me.” Bella voiced.

“Your aura shines like God’s light is on you. You made me realize that even in pain, I wasn’t invisible. Which is one reason you can’t allow bad company in your presence.”

He took Bella’s hand and began to pray with her.

God began to speak to him as he prayed with her.

Be strong and courageous, the Holy Spirit spoke.

Adonis noticed that Bella’s shirt was torn, and she didn’t have any more clothes with her.

They were in Paris for the Olympics, so he knew she didn’t want to go around with a torn shirt.

“Hey Bella, where are you staying?”

“Unfortunately, I shared a home with my ex-boyfriend in Dallas. I want to go back to Dallas, but I don’t want to go back to live with Brian. I’m only here because I was supposed to support him for the Olympic games. Well, we see how that went. Now I’m trying to figure out my next move. I want to peacefully get away from Brian.” She averted her eyes as she replied.

“Look up sweetie, he asked as he touched her chin with his forefinger. “I know you don’t want to go back to your room.

You would risk getting caught by Brian.

Can I take you shopping for some clothes to wear while you’re here?

I don’t want to cross a boundary.

You won’t owe me anything.

I’m only offering to help you out.

I want you to look and feel good.

”

“Um, sure. You’re not wrong at all for wanting to buy me an outfit or two. I really appreciate you, Game. Do you have a hat and sunglasses that I can borrow to keep myself disguised?”

“I can check in my bags. I told you that you don’t have anything to worry about with me. I got your back.”He voiced.

“I know you have my back, but I just want to keep a low profile.”

“Also, I know you just met me, but I have a mansion in Dallas too. So, I would love it if you would allow me to fly you back home with me. What do you think about that suggestion beautiful?”

“I don’t know Adonis. Let me think about it.”

He reached into his suitcase and took out one of his Dallas Mavericks hats and put it on her head swiftly.

“How do you like that hat?” He asked.

“I guess I’ll represent your team.” She replied sarcastically.

What about sunglasses?

“I have plenty of sunglasses. Would you like a Gucci pair or these Versace glasses?” He asked while placing both pairs of glasses in her hands.

“I’ll go with the black Gucci sunglasses. I think they’re fly.” She voiced while admiring her reflection in the mirror.

“I agree. The glasses look nice, but you make them look ten times better than they do on me. Let’s go before the stores close for the night.” He responded.

“Hey, Malik. We’re going to go shopping on the Avenue Montaigne. We’ll follow behind you to my car. Per usual, we’ll just act normal like we’re all friends. If you see any paparazzi, shield us, and rush us to the car.”

“I got it boss. Let’s go.” Malik sternly replied.

They put on their hats and sunglasses and walked to the car incognito.

The coast was clear as they walked out of the room to the car, no one recognized them.

Game sighed in relief.

Seeing Bella put her head down and release an exasperated breath, he finally got a glimpse at the weight she'd been carrying.

Adonis rubbed her back while they sat in the car to comfort her.

The Paris streets were luminous and colorful.

They were lit up sparkling as if it was Christmas in July.

Since it was a Saturday, the streets were inundated with cars and people walking around sightseeing.

There were many luxury brand stores to choose from such as Louis Vuitton and Dolce & Gabbana.

“Which store would you like to shop in first, beautiful? It's your choice. I can get you whatever you'd like.” He voiced.

“Really? I love all these stores, but my favorite brand right now is Dolce & Gabbana.”

“Okay. Malik, can you park in front of Dolce & Gabbana? We want to shop in there for a minute.”

“Of course, I can. You've known me since you signed your NBA contract. I'm known to keep you from the worst situations. Remember how I stepped in just in

time, shielding you from getting robbed and turning what could've been a nightmare into a close call the last time we were in Paris? You have the best man for the job."

"Dang, Malik you didn't have to say that in front of Bella. She's already uneasy about everything."

"My bad, boss. I just wanted to make you're aware of the situation. I hope you know I'll keep y'all safe." Malik replied.

"Come on we're wasting time. It's almost closing time."

Adonis looked at his Patek watch, and it read at five o'clock.

The store closed at six.

He wanted Bella to enjoy her shopping experience.

The last thing he wanted her to do was to worry about getting robbed.

His first thought was to keep her from worrying about hiding her face.

He just wanted her to live in the moment.

"I have an idea." His thought was spoken aloud.

"Hello ma'am. How much can I pay you to shop in the store without any other customers in here until closing?" He asked the store manager, but she gave him a look of confusion.

"Excusez-moi monsieur?" The manager replied peeping over the rim of her eyeglasses balanced at the tip of her nose, her gaze sharp and unreadable.

She replied as she stepped from behind the counter dressed in Dolce & Gabbana from head to toe.

She had a petite stature and looked scared to speak as she looked up at him and his bodyguard.

Adonis could speak three different languages.

French was his second fluent language since he'd played overseas for two years.

He actually enjoyed speaking French.

While in the Dolce & Gabbana store, two people stepped outside.

He took that opportunity to speak to the manager privately.

“Puis-je acheter le magasin pour une expérience de shopping?”

“Oui, pour 500.”

He handed the clerk two thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven thousand dollars and eight five cents.

and she walked over to lock the door.

“Adonis, what did you say to the clerk?” Bella asked with amazement.

“Oh, I asked her if I could buy out the store for a private shopping experience. She agreed to it for a fee, and I paid her the money. That was it.” He replied while putting his hands up in surrender.

“Wow, it looked like you paid her a lot of money too. I can’t believe you did all that for me!”

“I did it so you would feel safe. So, can you please get all the pieces that you want. Everything is on me. Please don’t hesitate to get any item you want in the store, beautiful.” Adonis begged Bella as he pulled her closer to him.

She couldn’t hide the swelling around her left eye, or the cuts on the other one.

His gaze lingered on those wounds, unmoving.

Not pity.

Not quite anger.

Just silence louder than words, as if he was trying to see past the pain, to whatever truth still lived in the spaces between them.

“You don’t have to tell me twice. I’ll be right back after I try on a few outfits.” She replied with a girlish smile and ran off to the clothing racks.

The manager had another worker assist Bella with picking out clothes.

She had a big smile on her face.

Surely, she worked on a commission, so that made her comply with whatever they asked.

The fledgling clerk kept bringing out different clothing choices with shoes and bags to match.

Bella was enjoying every minute of her shopping experience.

She tried on her favorite outfits and modeled for him.

Adonis picked out all his favorite outfits that she'd modeled.

He ended up buying everything she picked out.

The cost didn't matter to him.

They had so many bags that the staff had to help them carry everything to the car.

“Thank you so much Adonis for buying me a fresh wardrobe! I don't remember the last time I bought anything for myself. I can't wait to wear one of those dresses out! She pulled him closer and gave him a kiss on the lips. The shopping spree allowed her to feel free. It allowed her to enjoy time out without worrying about harassment from Brian.

“You can wear one of the dresses out with me tomorrow night.

The winners of the Olympic Games are celebrating after their victory in the final match.

I want you to go with me to the celebration.

”

“I don't know Adonis. Going out in a big crowd is risky. I know you have a security team, but I don't want to endure the drama of seeing my ex-boyfriend there.” She replied but turned away from him.

“Baby, I’m not scared of him. Please come with me. Please, baby. This is a very memorable time. We are in Paris for the Olympics watching one of the greatest teams play. This is history. I don’t want to watch the game in my room. Can you pray about it and let me know later?”

“I’ll pray about it and let you know Game. I’ll take everything into consideration. We may need more than one bodyguard.” She replied.

In the short time knowing Adonis she referred to him by his nickname in serious moods.

“You give that guy way too much credit. I hope you don’t believe that coward could even come close to messing with me. I don’t mean any disrespect baby, but I’ll lay him out so fast.”

“I’m sure you’d lay him out, but I don’t want to put you in that predicament. You have too much to lose. You’re the star basketball player. You’re a brilliant man and pillar in the community. I don’t want to be blamed for anything bad happening to you, Game.” She fussed.

“You worry too much, beautiful. I promise you that God will protect us. I thought you had faith?” He responded as he kissed her forehead.

“I have faith the size of a mustard seed. Since you’re doubting my faith, I’ll agree to go out with you. If I scream, that’ll let you know that Brian is there. Please listen and pay attention to me tomorrow. I’m trusting you with my life.” She voiced as she continued to fuss at him, while pointing her French-manicured finger in his face.

“Has anyone told you how cute you look when you’re cranky. You’re a cute feisty thang.” He chuckled.

“Hush Game! You’re just trying to avoid the conversation. I’m serious!” She yelled as she pushed him away.

“Okay beautiful. I understand what you’re saying completely. I was just trying to make you laugh. I don’t want you to act so serious all the time. Let’s have fun and enjoy our evening. Your ex is in the past. Let’s stop putting energy into him. I want to get to know you better. Will you let me get to know you better? Please Bella? I’m begging you.”

“I guess Adonis. I’m sorry to keep dwelling on my hurt. It’s just fresh and my ex-boyfriend is crazy. I hope you understand what I’m going through.” She responded while laying her head on his shoulder.

“It’s alright. I plan to make you forget about all the pain he caused you. If you let me.” He commented and kissed her cheek.

Then he instructed Malik to drive them back to the hotel.

“Adonis, I have a question for you.”

“What’s up, beautiful?” He replied to her as she lifted her head from his chest.

“What made you want to play basketball professionally instead of pursuing other career paths?”

“Girl, what?” He darted his eyes toward Bella with shock.

“Basketball is all I’ve known since I was five years old. Growing up, my dad woke me up every morning to train. He used to put a basketball in front of me, like my mother put a bottle in front of me. Basketball allowed me to turn my lifelong passion into a purpose-driven journey, challenging my limits, building resilience, and creating

a legacy through dedication, teamwork, and the love of the game.

“I want to give you some history about my childhood.

My parents also taught me that academics were important.

My mom was a middle school teacher, and she taught Sunday school at church.

My dad worked odd jobs, and he sold weed to make ends meet.

They didn’t want me living paycheck to paycheck like them.

So, I was also made to read every single night.

My dad taught me that basketball was my ticket out of poverty.

I’d always been made fun of by my peers.

They told me I was too smart to make it to the NBA.

The kids would taunt me because my dad was tough on me.

If I was on the phone with friends, they would crack jokes that I needed to do my push-ups before my dad beat my butt.

My dad made me resent him for how tough he was on me.

Now I’m thankful for him.

In high school I was recruited by an AAU team at the age of thirteen to play with a varsity team.

I went on to become the best recruit of my high school class.

ESPN and 47Sports ranked me in the top five of my class.

Then my dream came true when I was offered the chance to play for Duke University.

I committed to playing for the school's D1 basketball team.

My first year of college I always knew that I would make it to the NBA because I lived and breathed the game.

The game of basketball saved me.

Basketball helped me through so many highs and lows in my life and God helped me throughout all the suffering.

I went from being government fed to now being able to feed my neighborhood.

I give all glory to God.

”

“Wow, you have an amazing testimony. You’ve endured so much.” She replied.

Hearing you speak about your dad makes me miss my father.

He died about four years ago from a long fight with cancer.

My dad was the hardest worker I know.

If he were still alive, I wouldn't have to worry about dealing with domestic violence.

My dad played for the New York Knicks, and he had a respected reputation.

He was known for his fiery competitiveness and fearless play, wasn't one to back down-but he rarely engaged in full-blown fights during games.

I can recall one moment during a game.

My dad got into a confrontation with another guard after a hard foul and some trash talk.

The two exchanged words and had to be separated, but it didn't escalate into a physical fight.

Both players were given technical fouls.

My dad typically let his game speak louder than his temper.

Also, if anyone looked at his family wrong, he would put them in their place.

My dad was the man.

" Bella proudly announced.

"I'm sorry for the loss of your father. I want you to know that you are not alone. I want to support you. I believe God allowed us to meet for a reason. I'm here for you now. I hope you give me the chance to help you."Adonis declared.

"Awe, thank you babe. You make me want to be with you. I appreciate you so much for being here for me and making me feel safe. I don't know what I would've done

without you in these circumstances.”

“Then will you move in with me? I know it’s too soon to ask, but I want to remind you that you have the option still.”

“Can you give me a little more time to think about it? Everything is still fresh. Let’s not rush things too much more. I don’t want us to ruin what we have now.”

“Of course, I’ll give you time Bella. Just choose right.” He voiced and gave her a wink.

He was making plans in his mind to pull out all the tricks to win Bella’s love.

Page 4

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire (Bella)

Bella went to sleep in the car on the ride home.

A bump in the road awakened her and she darted up screaming.

As soon as she began to look around, Adonis took her in his arms.

He sat beside her stroking her hair to calm her down.

His loving touch was amazing.

Ever since he pulled her from the darkness-steady hands lifting her from pain she thought she'd never escape-something inside her had shifted.

In his presence, she felt safe, seen, understood in ways words could never capture.

The urge to be close to him wasn't about touch; it was about trust, about surrendering to the warmth he gave so freely.

She ached to bridge the space between them, to let him feel the depth of what he'd awakened in her-not just desire, but the kind of intimacy born from gratitude, healing, and quiet lust.

She was in distress because her ex-boyfriend beat her.

She didn't want to come off as desperate to have another man so quickly.

Game came to her rescue while she was in a crisis.

Bella thought about how she would have to let him know that she appreciated him, but she wouldn't move in with him .

I refuse to allow a man to come in my life as a Prince Charming .

She thought about how he could give her the world and then turn around and control her life.

It could all be a front.

Her past taught her that sweet words often masked hidden agendas, so now she couldn't shake the feeling that Adonis's charm was just a front to pull her into his control.

Her mind recalled how Brian tricked her into thinking he loved her.

She remembered how he love-bombed her throughout their entire relationship.

His most famous quote to her was, I'll change for you .

Every time she would threaten to leave him that was what he said to keep her there.

They'd originally met in the club.

He bought her a bottle and dinner that night to get her home with him.

She fell for his lies and promises of giving her a good life.

Brian's home was beautiful and once she moved in with him permanently, he became

a different man towards her.

His mask would come off and he would begin the mistreatment.

The first week that she moved in with Brian, she made him dinner.

Steak, potatoes, greens, and yams.

As soon as she handed him his plate, he slapped her in the face.

He said the steak wasn't done and threw the food on the floor.

The memory was vivid like it happened yesterday, although it was many years ago.

The disrespect hurt her feelings badly, more than the hurt from the physical abuse.

Bella trusted Brian enough to share her life with him.

After he hit her the first time, he gifted her with a Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon to make up for the abuse.

She accepted it and the cycle repeated numerous times afterwards.

Adonis seemed like he was different, but it could all be an act to get her to commit.

As she turned to exit the car, Adonis began to put a necklace around her neck.

Bella looked at the necklace in amazement.

It was a Dolce fitted jeans, silky tops, even a pair of heels placed by the door.

Everything was new, none of her old clothes were there.

Not a single worn sweater, not even her favorite hoodie.

They were all still at her ex-boyfriend's room; where she had left them, like fragments of a life she hadn't walked away from.

It was like her old life still lingered in the closet.

Bella was anticipating getting back to the room to shower and wear the new lingerie he'd bought her.

If he allowed her the privacy to take a shower.

She was looking forward to some alone time.

Plus, it seemed like Brian wasn't worried about her anyway.

It'd been a whole day since she'd seen or heard from Brian.

It was important that she stay alert and on the lookout for him.

As Adonis and Bella walked back to the room with their hands locked tightly, she was constantly looking out for Brian.

"Girl, I see you looking out for that man. I told you that you're safe with me. My bodyguard is right beside you. Stop tripping out." Game insisted.

All Kybella could do was smile at Adonis.

She let him run the show and didn't say anything back.

Adonis was an alpha male, and she loved it.

She wasn't afraid of what he would do to her, unlike the fear Brian had instilled in her.

Now that she'd been around Adonis, she knew her ex didn't stand a chance with him.

Adonis took boxing lessons, and he often participated in matches.

So, Kybella believed he would beat Brian's ass if they ever had a meet up.

They made it safely inside his hotel room and Bella sighed deeply.

Adonis shook his head.

"I can't wait until I get you back home with me so you can relax." He said as he looked at her.

"Me too." She replied.

He pulled her closer to him in excitement.

"Let's gooo! He screamed. "So, you're saying you'll go back home with me?"

"He paused and stood awaiting her response as her gaze was fixed between his legs.

"I mean yes, I want to go back home with you, Game. I can't resist your requests anymore." He kissed her, and a wide grin spread on his face like a kid in a candy store.

Bella bit down on her smile and broke away from his strong hold and headed to the

bathroom.

Once entering the bathroom, she saw that they were out of towels.

Despite the fear twisting in her stomach, she quietly slipped out of the room to get towels herself, too anxious to call the concierge and risk drawing any attention.

She saw that Adonis was busy looking at an Olympic basketball game on TV.

So, he was distracted and didn't see her leaving the room.

As she went out of the room, she noticed the bodyguard was not at his post in front of their door.

Her phone in hand, she took off quickly to the front desk.

A hotel maid was saying something to her in Spanish as she walked away.

Bella didn't understand what the maid was saying so she kept moving and ignored her.

Suddenly everything was dark, and she couldn't breathe.

Page 5

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Brian Porter

Brian's coach benched him the day Bella left him; he was forced to sit out and miss the final series of the Olympic Games.

He refused to watch from the sidelines as his dream slipped away.

Instead, he went on the prowl in search of Kybella.

"Yeah, you thought you could get away from me. I got you now and you're not leaving my side again. I've been waiting to catch you slipping." He angled his hoodie low over his face and subtly tilted the hallway camera upward with a gloved hand, obstructing its view to slip past unnoticed.

Brian covered her mouth with his hand tightly.

She couldn't breathe.

If she tried to scream it would end badly for her.

She had been through a comparable situation with him before.

Brian held her aggressively in his arms while her body trembled uncontrollably.

He threw her into his hotel room and tied her with ropes to a chair.

Once she was tied up in the chair, he put utility tape over her mouth so she couldn't

scream.

“You better not scream or try to get out of the chair. I got your pretty ass exactly where I want you.” He proudly voiced as he kissed her forehead and held her throat tightly.

Brian towered over her as she sat securely tied down to the chair.

He'd always had his way in life, but things hadn't been going well for him on the court.

The Pelicans recently suspended him without pay after the last game for charging the game official.

He was ready to hurt anybody that made the wrong move.

The official made a bad call to him, and he didn't like it.

His shots failed to find the basket throughout the entire game.

It was so bad that he only scored fifteen points during the entire game.

Which wasn't normal for him because Brian usually scored thirty points a game.

If she stayed and didn't walk away, he could let his frustration spill onto her.

But instead he went off on the official and was benched.

After the game he was caught with a pistol in the club, but with no one around to leak the story, it never reached the NBA.

The police arrested him, and he got bailed out of jail that evening.

While in jail he was beating the walls anticipating getting his girl back.

Brian took a swig of his beer and pointed the gun at Bella.

“This is all your fault. If you hadn’t left me then I wouldn’t have charged that official. I wouldn’t have gotten caught with my gun. You leaving me ignited a storm within me. If you had stayed with me then my anger would have found a destructive outlet. ” He screamed at Bella, and she tried to ease out the ropes.

“Be still now. I won’t let you leave me again-not this time.” She motioned to have the tape taken off her mouth.

He yanked the tape off to hear what she wanted to say.

“I’ve met someone, and it feels like love at first sight. I truly believe he will love me the way I’ve always deserved. I know that he’ll find me at any second. Just let me go, Brian. Please.” He reached his arm out and slapped her across the face, making her cry out instantly.

“I thought about what you said to me.” He paced the room deep in thought while motioning his gun at her.

“My mom tried leaving my dad one time when I was only nine years old. Although she came back home. You treat me just like her. You don’t appreciate my love. Just like my mother didn’t appreciate my dad. Yes, he used to hit her, but she didn’t have to leave that night. ” He banged his head repeatedly with his gun.

“My dad was a faithful man. He was just an alcoholic. Which is why I’m refusing to settle with just one woman. I want as many beautiful women as I can handle and you

as my wife.”

“I’m done with you. Just like your mama!” She screamed.

If you don’t let me go, you’ll end up being reunited with your dad in jail.

Isn’t that where he’s been for the last ten years?

Like father, like son.

That man been in and out of jail your whole life.

It’s a shame your dad is fifty-six years old serving time for aggravated assault.

I’ll pray for both of y’all.

”

“Maybe, I’m not the man for you. You deserve a fairytale type of love with someone that’ll give all his time to you. Ugh!” Brian screamed out loudly.

“Why can’t I get anything right? I mess up everything in my life. I messed up my career and now I’ve lost my girl to another man.”

“Just let me go, Brian. I promise I won’t press charges against you. Just promise me that you’ll get the help you need. If anyone asks what happened tonight, I’ll tell them we had one last conversation for closure.” Bella pleaded and was immediately touched by the Holy Spirit.

Be still.

I'll heal him and I'll save you, my child .

Bella had a look of confusion.

She was convinced that Jesus was there with her as his presence was felt in the moment.

That's why she stood firm, unshaken-because she knew the Lord was with her, and no harm could prevail against his protection.

"Do you still love me baby? Please tell me you love me, and I'll let you go." He pulled Bella by her neck and put his gun under her chin.

Tears began to flow from her eyes.

Tied to the chair, her body trembling with fear, she pleaded with him to stop, her voice breaking as she begged, "Please, stop-please, I can't take it anymore! Just let me go! "Just stop, please," she whispered.

"I know you don't want us to break up, but I can't be your punching bag anymore." Brian heard a lot of commotion at the door.

"Did you hear that noise?" He asked while peering out the peephole.

Moments later the police burst through the door.

"Put your gun down and get down on the ground now!" The officer yelled.

There were over ten police officers storming in.

Guns were pointed at Brian from every direction.

He put his gun down on the ground as demanded.

It was over for Brian.

His pulse was racing.

An officer put handcuffs on his wrists tightly.

Visible sweat was seen streaming from Brian's forehead.

"These are too tight! Let me go!" He yelled at the officer.

"The handcuffs need to stay on until we complete the process." "Let's see how tough you are once you get into our car." The officer chuckled.

"Whatever man, I ain't scared of y'all boys." The officer picked him up off the ground.

They pushed him around as they walked out of the hotel room.

As he walked out in handcuffs, Brian saw the basketball player Game.

The air was tense, heavy with the weight of what happened.

Game looked across at Brian and sucked his teeth.

He assumed Game wanted him to feel threatened by him.

"I'll get out soon and see him again." Brian mumbled.

He better not be with my girl when I get out.

If I catch him with my girl, I'll go back to jail for killing him.

Brian didn't play with anyone when it came to his girlfriend Bella.

He'd invested too much time and money in her.

They'd spent three years together.

He believed that they were locked in for life.

She'll come to her senses and get me out of jail.

Then we'll go back home and live happily together .

One thing he didn't think about was how going to jail in Paris, France would affect him.

The police called him every name but a child of God in the squad car and beat him severely.

Although Brian was dark and handsome, his face was filled with blue bruises.

He couldn't feel a bone in his nose.

It felt broken as blood gushed from his nostrils.

Brian couldn't do anything but take the beating from the officers or it would get worse.

???

An hour later a guard unlocked his cell and threw him in.

“Ugh,” he screamed from the pain of the hour long beating he received from the police.

He didn’t notice the bed near him.

He couldn’t feel a bone in his nose, but he could catch the heavy smells of urine, sweat, and vomit in the air.

He didn’t remember the booking process or even being placed in the holding cell—those details blurred into nothingness, wiped clean by the haze of pain and confusion after the police beating.

All that remained was the ache in his body and the distant echo of voices he couldn’t place.

After sitting on one of the beds and looking around he noticed he was not alone in the cell.

His cellmate stepped up to him.

“Hey man, do you need me to help you up to your bunk bed? You seem disoriented.”
Silence lingered.

“I see the cat got your tongue. He bellowed up in his deep voice. “I’ll go ahead and help you up brother.

” After struggling to help Brian up the mission was accomplished.

Brian stretched his long legs out with a sigh.

“Yo, my name is Bourbon. I’ll be your cellmate while you’re here. I received an automatic death sentence after being found guilty of the murder of a police officer. I’m 55 now and I’ll probably end up dying in prison . What are you in here for man?” He asked with a Parisian accent.

Brian looked at Bourbon upside his head.

Dressed in a faded orange jumpsuit that hung loose on his frame, muscles tight beneath the fabric.

He looked like he was an original gangster.

deep brown skin marked by faint scars and the wear of time behind bars.

He had, a bald head, appearing to be two hundred pounds, and about six feet tall.

It took Brian a few minutes to open his mouth because of the cuts on his lips.

“Man, they got me in here on kidnapping and assault. I was only trying to get my girl back. I might have roughed her up a little, but she shouldn’t have left me. She had the nerve to already be messing with another man. I want him killed. If I can’t have her then no one can.”

“So, let me get this right. You’re in here for kidnapping your girlfriend in Paris and she was already with another man. Now you’re in jail and you want the man killed?” Bourbon chuckled.

“Young blood, they should be the least of your worries. Since you’re worried about them, I can help you put a hit out on her new man. I can have him killed smoothly by one of my gang members, but it’ll cost you. Our gang hitters charge about a hundred thousand Euros for the job. The hit is guaranteed untraceable to you. I’ll need her

boyfriend's name and location. Then once we get the money for the job, we can get it done."

Brian couldn't believe it was so easy to have someone killed.

Money was never a problem for him.

He didn't know how to do a wire transfer from jail.

If Game is killed, then he'll be out the way for Bella to come home.

His hope was to get out of jail soon and have Bella at home waiting for him.

"You have a deal." Brian mumbled.

The guy's name is Adonis Ferguson aka Game.

He's staying at the Ritz Carlton hotel so he can attend the game.

He is a Dallas Mavericks player and I'm sure he'll leave soon.

This hit should be done as soon as possible.

„

Bourbon nodded his head.

"The stakes are higher since he's a celebrity. My hit man can get the job done anywhere. We have a confidential source that will start following him. We don't give refunds for hits if you decide you don't want to go through with it. Once the hit is set-up, the plan will be put in motion. I'll let you think about it overnight. Tomorrow I'll

need the money for the job. Go ahead and get your sleep, young blood.” Bourbon stood up tall, tapped his leg, and chuckled.

Brian tossed and turned throughout the night.

He couldn’t get any sleep for many reasons.

The bunk bed was too little and hard to sleep on.

It was much different than his soft, luxurious, king size bed he was accustomed to sleeping on.

He was having constant thoughts about his decision.

One part of his mind was telling him to have Adonis murdered without a doubt.

The other part of his mind was saying let the man live peacefully.

He fought both thoughts because it was like voices in his head talking to him.

The voices were beginning to take over.

“Ugh, okay I’ll do it!” Brian stepped down to Bourbon’s bunk.

He shook him to wake him.

It didn’t take long to get his attention because Bourbon slept with one eye open.

“What up, young blood? Are you good?” His eyes darted toward Brian.

“Tell me what I need to do to put the hit in motion.”

Bourbon rubbed his hands together.

“Let’s talk business. I need you to have someone send me a total of twenty thousand dollars in two separate bank transfers to my canteen. You’ll need my full name to do it. My full name is Bourbon Jones. I’ll contact my hitter as soon as the money is dropped into my canteen. I hope it’s not too much for you to handle.” He chuckled.

“You don’t know my name. Twenty thousand dollars isn’t anything to me. I play for the Bucks in the NBA. I make that amount of money per game. I’ll have the money in your canteen tomorrow.”

“Yeah, okay. We’ll see. So, make it twenty thousand dollars now. Which means you will have to send ten thousand twice, since the limit is ten thousand a transaction. He gritted his teeth. Oh, and you used to play for the NBA.” Bourbon sarcastically responded.

“You’ll never play for another team again. I know all about you because I’ve watched your games on TV during recreation time. You’ve been traded to several teams. You’re finished now. Your basketball career is over, young blood.” Bourbon chuckled.

The guards called them out their cells for breakfast.

The food wasn’t appealing to his eyes, so he refused to eat it.

“Is this the only choices we have for meals in here? All they’re feeding us is a boiled egg, bologna, and a biscuit.” Brian complained to Bourbon with a frown on his face.

“Until you get someone to put money in your canteen, you’re stuck with the regular food. We should get a chance to use the phones after breakfast. Make a call to your people for the money. It should be easy for you to have all your needs met in here.

Aren't you a big time NBA player?" Bourbon chuckled.

After breakfast was over, the inmates all ran to the phones.

Many were pushing and shoving to get first dibs on a phone.

Bourbon smiled at the look of disappointment on Brian's face.

"Come on young blood, I got you." Bourbon went directly to the first phone.

The other prisoners must've known not to use it because no one was using it.

"This is my special phone. I've chin checked a few inmates behind my phone time. Ever since it was a big brawl behind these phones, no one has interfered with my phone time. "You go ahead and make your phone call.

I believe your call is more important than mine right now.

" Bourbon said with a wink.

Brian thought about which one of his ladies he should call.

It was out of the question to call Bella to help him.

He knew she wouldn't accept his call.

His next best thing would do anything to move her spot to his main chick.

That was Hazel Ryan.

He ran to her whenever he and Bella were on bad terms.

He dialed her number, and she picked up the phone as soon as the call was pushed through.

“Brian why are you calling me from jail? I hope you know you’re paying for this call too!” Hazel fussed.

“Hazel, can you listen to me. I don’t have much time on this phone. I need you to go to my mama’s house. Tell her to give you twenty-two thousand, four hundred and four dollars and seventy cents out of my stash. Then I need you to go and add the money to my cellmate’s canteen at the La Santés Prison. The unique identification number is JZ753. I also need you to call my lawyer to get me out of jail. Once I find out the judicial control then my mama will give you that money. Can you do that for me?”

“I guess, Brian, baby. You know I would do anything for you. Hopefully, your time in jail will help you see I’m the only woman for you.” Hazel smacked her lips after she explained herself.

“I appreciate you. I got to go but do that for me now. Get in your car and head to my mama house as soon as you hang up the phone.”

“I got you, Brian, baby.” Hazel replied but he’d already hung up the phone.

Hazel grabbed her pink Louis Vuitton Neverfull bag.

She needed her biggest bag to carry the cash inside.

She jumped inside her pink, custom made Jeep and headed to the north side of Dallas to Mama Porter’s house.

Brian thought about Hazel.

She was a thick, curvy, chocolate skinned woman with a beautiful face.

She was a dancer Brian met at a strip club.

He paid her to become his personal private dancer.

So, she'd been dancing for him since they met, when she was only twenty.

Hazel had hinted to him before that she wanted to marry him.

She was only twenty-two and he used her gullible nature to have his way with her.

He'd told Hazel about his relationship with Bella, but it only made her compete for his love more.

He called Hazel to get him out of trouble to avoid hearing Bella's nagging.

Mama Porter knew Hazel well because she would always go to her house to get money.

Brian only trusted his mother with his money.

He didn't even want his money in a bank account because he didn't trust corporations.

Mama Porter taught him not to share joint accounts with any woman.

She kept a safe at her home for him and that's where she kept his savings.

"There, I have the plan in motion." Brian gave Bourbon a nod.

Bourbon called his hit man to give him a word.

One word was all he needed to hear over the phone.

The code word was hit .

They couldn't talk too much over the phone because the calls were all monitored.

On the next visitation day Bourbon would give more details to the hit man about the job.

After that ten thousand Euros was put into his canteen account.

Brian forgot to tell Hazel to give him a little more money for food.

He didn't mind being hungry because he was hoping to be released soon.

The guards were walking around looking at the inmates with a mean mug.

They then gathered everyone into a straight line and escorted them back to their cells.

Page 6

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Vanessa Porter (Brian's Mama)

Vanessa was in the front yard of her mansion planting flowers.

She planted a bed of sunflowers and roses in her flower beds.

Half of the front yard was already done, and it looked nice.

Her son, Brian, gifted her the mansion after being drafted into the NBA.

It was the least he could do for his mother who often raised him on her own.

It was often just her and her three sons' home while their father was in and out of jail.

Raising three boys wasn't easy for Vanessa.

She raised her children on a vocational nurse's salary.

She would often have to work double shifts to keep the bills paid.

She knew how to live on almost nothing and with everything.

When Vanessa and her husband weren't home the boys went bad.

They ran wild doing what unattended children did.

Most of the times Brian's older brothers would be out stealing or fighting other kids.

Brian on the other hand was too busy on the court playing basketball in his free time.

He could be found on the court at the neighborhood park out scoring everyone.

Coach Brad Hicks picked him up daily for basketball training, mentoring, and games to help his mother out.

Once Brian went to college, Coach Hicks died from cancer.

Brian built a recreation center in his honor and named it the Brad Hicks Recreational Center.

Vanessa spends some of her free time there with the children.

She also hosts a live podcast show in the center for mothers of sports athletes.

She interviews other mothers of current and upcoming athletes.

The guests provide advice to other mothers.

Other guests on the show include coaches, sports agents, and recruiters.

Vanessa stopped gardening to see Hazel pull up in the driveway with her music blaring and the bass banging.

She sighed when Hazel hopped out of her Jeep, tossing her long knotless braids that cascaded down past her waist.

It was hot outside, so Hazel wore a spandex bodysuit that showed every curve on her body.

Mama Porter shook her head in embarrassment as Hazel walked towards her house.

Vanessa was a sophisticated, classy, educated woman devoted to her family.

She did what was needed to keep her family's lives in order.

Brian gave her enough money to retire from nursing since he'd been playing in the NBA.

She made a number of investments during her retirement that would ensure she lived comfortably.

"Hi, Mama Porter." Hazel greeted Vanessa while giving her a hug.

"Your flower garden is looking good. I hope you can do mine once I have my own home. Anyway, I'm here because your son sent me over here for money. I don't know if he's told you, but he's in jail in Paris."

Mama Porter darted her eyes toward Hazel and gasped.

"Lord, what did my baby do this time?" She kneeled in prayer, "Jesus, help my son."

"Come on Mama Porter, let's go inside the house. Hazel took Vanessa's hand and led her inside the home to sit down. "Calm down.

Everything will be alright.

I'll call his lawyer and get him out.

In the meantime, he asked that I get twenty two thousand, four hundred and four dollars and seventy cents twenty thousand dollars from you to put on his canteen.

”

“My Lord twenty thousand Euros is a lot of money! I’ll go ahead and give it to you sweetie. I pray you’re going to do what he asked for with his money. I can’t do anything but trust God to handle this situation. Hopefully, my baby will call me soon and let me know what’s going on with him. I haven’t heard one word from him in jail. Stay right here and wait while I get the money.”

“Okay, Mama Porter. If it makes you feel better, he was just booked into jail last night. I’m waiting for his charges to appear in the system. It probably has something to do with Bella. She’s been trying to get him locked up since she found him cheating with me.” Mama Porter watched Hazel look around her mansion.

She had just finished decorating the house with white, black, and gold throughout.

She had just placed a new art piece on the wall painted by famous artists Picasso.

She wanted her house to look like a museum.

She wanted the family pictures, trophies, and degrees to showcase her family’s personal triumphs.

Vanessa stopped walking and looked back at Hazel.

“Paris jail?” She replied in shock while shaking her head.

“Lord, what am I going to do about Brian? When will he leave that girl alone? I told him that she was tired of him hitting her. I’m sure Bella’s the cause of the charges. I asked him to let her go. Now he’s in some more trouble. Sit there for me baby, I’ll be right back.”

Mama Porter stepped inside her room and locked the door.

She then stepped into her closet and opened Brian's safe with its special code.

It was filled with thousands of dollars.

She put money into the electronic money counter machine inside her closet, until she had the exact twenty-two thousand, four hundred and four dollars and seventy cents.

She let out a deep sigh of relief.

Vanessa would do anything for her children, but Brian caused the most problems out of all three of her children.

He'd become just like his dad and the money made him worse.

After all the money was accounted for, she put rubber bands around each stack and put it in a big manila envelope.

Then she got on her knees and prayed to God.

"Father God, we need you again. My son Brian is in a situation. He's been put behind the prison door, but I believe that you can open those prison doors for him. Change him oh God and make him over to become more like you. I ask that you heal his heart and take away everything that is not like you God. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen." Vanessa wiped the tears from her eyes.

She gave her worries away to God and believed he would take care of the rest.

"Here is the handout you asked for Hazel. I mean the money my son asked you to get for him." Vanessa made an exaggerated eye roll.

She thought Hazel was a gold digger and she didn't trust her.

But she was there when Brian needed her, so she gave her the money.

I prayed about this, and I hope everything works out.

“Please tell him to call me the next time you speak to him.”

“Okay, I will Mama Porter. Hazel reached out to take the brown envelope of cash and gave Vanessa a hug. Taking care of Brian's needs made Hazel feel like she was his wife. She didn't care that she wasn't the one he really wanted. The one he really wanted was Bella. Instead, Hazel was an accessory helping to pay for a hit on Adonis. She didn't even know Brian had her helping him with hiring a hit man.

Typically, most NBA players had their attorney to take care of legal matters, but Brian trusted her to handle it. Hazel was used to paying for Brian's petty speeding tickets. Vanessa peeped out the living room window to watch Hazel. She was sitting in the car on her phone. Her hope was that Hazel was finding out information on Brian's charges. Vanessa took the opportunity to do her own research. She searched the internet about how to wire money to a Paris jail. A quick internet search pulled the results indicating the prison has online platforms to deposit and receive money. Vanessa decided to tell Hazel the information before she drove out of the driveway. She ran to Hazel's car. “I want to tell you the information I just found out about the Paris jail system.

You will need to contact the prison's registrar of personal accounts to obtain the jail's bank details.

Then you'll fill out a transfer order and specify the inmate's name, surname, and prison number.

You'll also have the option to deposit funds using their online platform.

Please call the Paris jail for the information.

”

“Thank you, Mama Porter. The information you gave me helps. I'll call the jail and the lawyer now.”

“Good, I'll wait while you make those calls.” Vanessa replied while she stood by the door waiting.

It took some time, but Hazel was able to speak with the prison's registrar.

“Everything's settled Mama Porter. I'll go and add the money to my bank account for the bank transfer to the Paris jail. Then I'll call you back when I have more information. I'll talk to you later.” Hazel waved goodbye and drove away.

Although Hazel said she would call Brian's attorney, Vanessa took the initiative to call Brian's lawyer also.

After several rings, there was no answer, so she left a voicemail for a call back.

He had the best attorney on his payroll, Craig Davis.

The only problem was the attorney was a celebrity attorney with a busy client list.

It made it hard to contact him.

Once Mr.

Davis received the voicemail, Vanessa was sure he'd get to work on Brian's case.

She hung up the phone and went back to her gardening.

It kept her mind free from the stress of being Brian's mother.

Thirty minutes later Vanessa's phone rang.

Looking at the caller ID, she saw it was the lawyer.

"This is Craig. I'm sorry I missed your call. I heard your voicemail, and I did some research about Brian being in Paris's jail. I called the court staff in Paris's jail to find out when his court date would be. he judges in Paris to find out when his court date would be. The court staff informed me that Brian didn't have a bond or court date now. Usually, I'm able to get my way but not this time. It was understood that Brian made the officers angry in Paris. Apparently, they are taking their time on his case. Once the court staff returns my phone call then I'll contact you. Don't worry Mama Porter, I'm working on it." The lawyer hung up the phone without allowing Vanessa the opportunity to reply.

She took the phone from her ear and shook her head.

After he hung up, Vanessa took the opportunity to research more about Paris jails.

She found out that in Paris, bail exists as an alternative to pre-trial detention, but it's not a right and bail bondsmen are not part of the system.

She prayed that Brian would be granted bail.

She prayed that he wasn't charged with a very serious crime because then only the High Court could grant him bail.

“Vanessa bawled her eyes out all night. She missed her son and didn’t know when she would see him again. Her stomach began to growl from an empty feeling. She curled up on her couch with her phone in hand awaiting to receive a call from someone with good news.

Page 7

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Joey Harris (The Hitman)

It was visitation time.

Joey successfully obtained a permit for visitation by submitting an online application using a falsified identification card.

He sat in the waiting room filled with women and children.

He was the only man in the room waiting for an inmate to visit.

Finally, Bourbon entered the room with eyes toward Joey.

“ My guy. What’s up?” Bourbon offered his hand, and Joey gave him a fist pound instead.

Joey sucked his teeth in frustration and straightened his eyeglasses while waiting for Bourbon to sit down.

The eyeglasses were a part of his disguise.

He wore a plain white dress shirt and tie along with dark, well-fitted jeans to look refined, even though he was a thug.

“Hey, no contact!” The guard yelled.

“Take your hat off too, sir.”

Joey quickly took off his Brunello Cucinelli suede ball cap as the guard suggested.

He was told by a prior guard to take off his cap but was able to slip by without further mentioning it until now.

Bourbon stood much taller than Joey.

He was only five feet and ten inches tall, but he was a stone-cold killer.

He was known as the Silent Assassin in their hood.

As a professional hitman, Joey took his job seriously.

“Now what’s my assignment this time, Boss?” He scrunched his thick brows with a look of confusion.

Bourbon leaned in closer to Joey.

“X out Adonis the Game Ferguson. The basketball player for the Dallas Mavericks. The job is due as soon as possible while he’s here in France. I’ll bank wire your payment to you after I find out the job is done.”

Joey nodded his head in agreement with Bourbon.

He reacted with an empty look in his eyes.

He rose quickly, detached from his surroundings and left Bourbon sitting at the table.

As soon as Joey made it inside his vehicle his phone rang.

“Hey hunny, when are you coming home from work?”

“I’m on my way home now. I had to do an inspection an hour away. So, after I fight this traffic. I should make it home to you in about two hours.” Joey replied to his wife.

He lied to her because he was actually nine hours and twenty five minutes away from Dallas.

He was in Paris, France, but he didn’t want his wife to know it.

Joey’s wife Miranda didn’t know he was a professional hitman.

He’d been married to Miranda for a year, and she thought he worked as a home inspector and appraiser.

Prior to starting his car, Joey took a few pills to help manage his road rage.

The doctor had him on two different types of medication for his schizophrenia and manic disorder.

He kept the pills in a Tylenol bottle to keep his wife from finding out he was mentally ill.

It’d been hard for him to conceal both his illness and his profession.

Sometimes he’d come home with blood on his clothes and would lie about it to keep her distracted.

He legally changed his name years before they met, but never told his wife, keeping his past identity a secret throughout their entire relationship.

As a child Joey witnessed his dad giving his mother crack cocaine.

When he'd had enough, he pushed his dad down the stairs and killed him.

It had looked like an accident, and no one was the wiser.

That was the onset of his acts of violence.

His mother couldn't handle him and sent him away to a boarding school.

In boarding school, he confessed the crime to a psychiatrist who put him on many prescription drugs.

The psychiatrist had the legal, ethical right, and duty to break confidentiality and inform authorities about a serious crime.

The psychiatrist informed the authorities to protect victims.

Then he was held in a psychiatric ward until he was twenty-one.

Joey's profession as a hitman had become a breeze for him.

His heartless nature had allowed him to commit over thirty murders in the past two years.

Which was the reason Bourbon hired him to get the job done for Brian.

Despite all calls being recorded, the criminal managed to get away with crimes by using coded language and having someone make key calls on his behalf.

This was the first time someone had hired him to kill a celebrity.

He planned on taking calculated steps to keep his winning record perfect.

The payment from the job wasn't needed for Joey, but it definitely had the potential to elevate his lifestyle from a modest one to lavish.

After he got the bag from the hit, he planned on leaving Texas for good.

His hope was that he could convince his wife to leave with him.

He and his wife lived in a small, cozy, three-bedroom home with a white picket fence in Dallas.

He promised her after a year of marriage that they would buy a bigger house.

Just like he'd lied about his career, the homebuying process was staged as well.

Joey set up a fake closing with a friend at a title company to convince Miranda that he'd purchased her a house.

He went through the process of convincing her he brought a house to maintain the illusion that he was a stable, trustworthy man, when in reality he was a liar living a double life as an assassin.

The house they lived in was only a rental.

Now that the lease was over, they needed to move out.

If Joey's plan was successful, he'd buy a modern house out of the country or convince Miranda to travel the world with him.

Since Bourbon said the hit was urgent, he decided to call Miranda.

Miranda picked up the phone on the first ring.

“Hey, handsome. I was just thinking about you. What’s going on baby?” Miranda smiled after each word she spoke.

“Honey, what do you think about taking a vacation out the country? I was thinking about visiting Qatar. The weather in Dallas has been abnormally cold. I want to go where there’s deserts, turquoise seas, and ancient sands. The environment in Qatar will give us the opportunity to see the culture steeped in hospitality, deep rooted traditions, and strong communal spirit, where family and celebration of heritage shapes everyday life. First, I need to take a quick business trip to Paris. He lied to cover up the fact that he’s already there. Once I come back, we can take our vacation to Qatar. So, have all your bags packed for a few weeks’ stay. I’ve done my research on the best hotels in Qatar. I plan for us to stay at the Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas. What do you say about a two-week vacation to Qatar?”

“This is insane! I can’t believe it! The turquoise beaches, the desert, and the culture- I’ve always wanted to go to Qatar! This is the best surprise ever! Thank you, honey!

“You’re welcome, baby!

I hope you’re not crying, being all sentimental, messing up your pretty make-up on your cinnamon skin.

I know you think I don’t listen to you, but I took note when you told me about your desire to travel to different countries.

I remember you told me you wanted to learn about different cultures.

With you being Black and Asian, you’re basically a walking passport to fitting in everywhere over there.

They’ll think you’re a local.

” He said with a chuckle.

“Good thing I’ve got the perfect mix-I’ll blend in so well, they’ll probably think I’m secretly royalty!”

“Haha, yeah, yeah, royalty for sure. Alright, I gotta run, but we’ll talk more later. You have our credit cards. Please order the vacation clothes you want now. Honey, if I love it in Qatar, I might want to live there permanently. Pack your bags, we’ve got a trip to catch soon!”

“This was a surprise for me. I’m down for whatever as long as I’m with you. I’ll pray for your safety while you’re away in Paris. Smooches hunny.”

He hung up the phone to begin his hunt to find Adonis and kill him at first sight.

Once the task was completed, he planned to return home and start a fresh life in Qatar with his wife.

Page 8

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire (Bella)

As soon as Bella caught sight of Adonis in the crowd, she ran to him.

He gently wiped the tears from her eyes and pulled her in for a loving embrace.

“Are you okay, baby? Did he hurt you?” All Bella could do was shake her head from side to side.

“Ma’am, we need you to go to the hospital with us. We have to do a rape kit. It’s protocol when sexual assault is reported as part of a hostage situation.” The female officer sternly stated to Bella.

“Can my boyfriend come with me? I don’t want to go alone.” The female detective stood, contemplating for a couple of minutes, then responding, “Yes. I also need to ask him a few questions. If it were not for him, we probably wouldn’t have found you. He demanded to speak to the police officer in charge. The Prefect of Paris Police had all our officers working hard to find you. I can tell he cares deeply for you. I could’ve asked him questions when he reported you missing but I wanted to ensure that emotions or biases didn’t cloud the investigation. So, I allowed him to help because he insisted that he come with us knocking at each hotel door here. I need you to get on the véhicule de secours et d'assistance aux victimes – rescue and casualty assistance vehicle because the driver is waiting for you. You too, Adonis. You can assist the medics and help her get onto the stretcher.” The officer demanded as she stood watching them like a proud mother.

Bella was put into the ambulance and the paramedics took her vital signs. She peered

over toward Adonis and saw he watched their every move. Through blurry vision, Bella caught a glimpse of his eyes widening and his brows raised as he stared at the high blood pressure numbers flashing on the monitor. Her face was red from the pain and agony. “What did he do to you baby?” Before Bella could answer his question, the paramedic placed a mask on her face to give her oxygen.

“Sir, we need you to hold all conversation until she arrives at the hospital. Her blood pressure is elevated, and her oxygen saturations are low. Once her vitals are normal, she’ll be able to speak.” The paramedic announced. After his announcement the emergency truck was silent. The situation had Bella’s head throbbing. The agony of what Bella had endured while she was held hostage made her upset. The noise from the machines had her nerves on edge. Her headache pain began to swirl intensely. She closed her eyes and prayed to God silently. After a couple of minutes of talking with God, Bella’s mood was elevated. Bella was watching him. He rubbed her arm to assure her she would be alright. The pulse oximeter was attached to her fingers which prevented him from holding her hand.

She was held hostage with Brian for three hours. The full three hours she was praying that Adonis searched the entire hotel for her. She prayed the Paris police department would help bring her to safety. She was fearful of what Brian would do to her, but she’d never lost faith in God.

Once Malik came into his room to tell him Bella was missing, he fired him on the spot. It didn’t matter to him the number of years he’d worked for him. Adonis trusted him to guard the door, and he didn’t uphold his duty. He couldn’t respect it, so he had to go. Malik begged for Adonis to give him another chance. He denied him immediately and called his manager to send him a new bodyguard to the room. The new bodyguard arrived within an hour. Torrin Gibson came highly recommended. He had Torrin meet them at the Paris hospital.

Finally, the rescue and casualty assistance vehicle came to a complete stop. The

driver got out to unlock the back of the truck. Once the latch was released the paramedics hopped off. They began to push the stretcher gently out of the truck and transport Bella inside the hospital. Adonis walked behind them. Torrin was waiting in the lobby and Brian summoned him over. After the nurse gave an assessment in the triage area, the nurse put Bella into a room for more tests to address her condition. The room smelled like bleach and everything was white. It had no decorations, just a hospital bed, television, and medical machines. Since it was a crime investigation, the police had already notified the staff. The nursing staff transferred Bella into the hospital bed from the stretcher. They then hooked her up to all the machines.

The nurse on duty stood back to observe the numbers on the machines. All the numbers were regulated as the monitors made loud sounds. Bella noticed that the chimes from the monitors alarmed Adonis because he jumped in panic each time.

“Don’t worry, she’s fine. By the look of the numbers on the monitors everything is registering as normal.” The petite nurse said with a smile. She saw Adonis take a sigh of relief. “Oh, thank God. Can I talk to her now?” He inquired.

“Sure, you can talk to her if you don’t stress her out. We still have a few tests to run. The doctor will come in shortly to do a rape kit. At that time, you’ll need to step out of the room. I assure you that she’s safe. Our medical staff was voted number one in France. We have ice and water in the hall. If you need anything push the nurse button.

“Um, I’ll take a cup of water. Can you bring her some water as well?”

“I’m sorry, but she can’t have anything to eat or drink right now. The nurse giggled. She’s getting fluids from her IV so she can stay hydrated. I’ll return with your water shortly.”

As soon as the nurse walked out of the room, Adonis stood by Bella’s bedside. The

oxygen mask was no longer on her face. Muah . That was the sound heard in the air as he locked lips with Bella. Baby, take it easy. My mouth is sore from the oxygen mask.” She blurted out after returning the kiss.

“I’m sorry but I couldn’t resist kissing those luscious lips. I’ve been wanting to kiss you. The bodyguard was outside the door ensuring Bella was safe. Now can you tell me what happened while he held you hostage?”

“Long story short, he roughed me up from escaping from him. I told him that I had someone that loved me now. He slapped me in my face and put the gun to my head. I was scared that he was going to pull the trigger. I wasn’t raped, so I don’t know why I need a rape kit. I’m fine now and blessed that I was able to get away from his crazy ass. Thank you for saving me. I owe you, my life.”

“I can’t believe that coward slapped you.” Adonis fussed as he stroked her face softly with his hand. I promise you won’t leave my sight again. He caught me slipping this time. I fired Malik and hopefully Torrin takes his job seriously. I ordered him to guard you like his life depended on it. When I see Brian, he better hope God has his angels surrounding him if he gets out of jail anytime in the near future. I looked up his mug shot online and saw that the police roughed him up severely. God forgive me but I was pleased to see that he got the beating he deserved.”

The machines started to blare after Adonis finished talking about Brian’s mugshot. The conversation had obviously upset her. The nurse rushed into the room to check her out.

“What’s going on in here? I see that you’re in here upsetting my lovely patient about something. I asked you not to stress her out, sir.” The nurse fussed and shook her head. “I need you to step out of the room now. The médecins, is coming to do her exam.” Adonis complied with the nurse and stepped out without saying a word.

Five minutes later the doctor walked into the room. She went to the sink and washed her hand. “Hello, sweetie. I’m médecins de SAMU Morgan. I’m going to do a quick exam. Were you sexually assaulted?” “No ma’am, he didn’t sexually assault me this time. I was only physically assaulted.” The doctor shook her head and began to swab Bella’s mouth. Then she pressed Bella’s stomach area hard. “Does that hurt when I press hard on your stomach?” Asked Dr. Morgan. “A little bit.” Bella replied with anguish. The X-ray tech came into the room to take her to the x-ray room to perform an x-ray exam. After the X-ray exam the médecins de SAMU performed a pap-smear, and the doctor used her examination tools to swab her cervix so she could send the sample off to the lab.

“Okay, we’ll run this in our lab and let you know what the results are. It shouldn’t take long. If we find anything abnormal, we’ll let you know.” Bella nodded her head in agreement. The examination left her feeling violated. All she wanted to do was to go back home to Dallas with Adonis. Bella couldn’t wait to leave Paris. Paris had been her dream vacation spot, but the assault and kidnapping made her vacation a nightmare. She would never visit Paris again. “Sir, you can go back into Ms. Vonshire’s room now.” The médecins de SAMU advised Adonis.

Adonis rushed back into Bella’s hospital room. “Are you okay?” Adonis asked as he quickly approached her bedside. Bella bit her lip holding back her complaints. She began to tear up. “No, I’m ready to go. I don’t like this experience at all. I feel like God is punishing me. Why did Brian kidnap me? He could have let me go in peace.”

Adonis grabbed Bella’s hand. “Baby, bow your head and pray with me. Father God, we thank you for keeping Kybella safe. We thank you for bringing her back to me. Pull her from the trap her enemies have set, for we find protection in you alone. We come to you for protection. We need you now Lord. Touch her body and mind. Heal her where she’s broken. Help the doctors and nurses who are working to heal her. Give her strength where she is weak, Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.”

“Amen,” Bella announced while wiping her tears. “How did you know I needed that prayer? I swear you are my angel Adonis.” She smiled. A knock was heard that broke their connection.

“Hello, I’m back with your results Ms. Vonshire. Would you like for your friend to be in the room with you while I discuss your test results?”

Bella looked at Adonis and smiled. “Yes, I would like for him to stay in the room with me.” The doctor sighed. Then he looked at them as he began to speak.

“We’re working to get you discharged quickly. I know you’ve had a rough day, sweetie. I have some good and bad news. I’ll start with the good news.” Bella’s heart dropped from dreading the sad news. “The test result came back clear of any issues related to sexual assault as you stated. We just had to take the test for our records to confirm. I believe that’s good news for your nice guy friend to hear. The médecins de SAMU patted Adonis on the shoulder. Unfortunately, the bad news is we found some abnormalities. The X-rays indicate that you have some pinched nerves that will require a follow-up appointment. Dropping her shoulders and slightly pressing her lips together, the doctor moved closer to them. The Pap smear test cells we collected from your cervix identify abnormal changes that indicate the presence of cancerous cells. You also could possibly have stage two cervical cancer . Bella and Adonis mouths dropped. “What how did this happen? How do I have cervical cancer?” Bella whined. She clenched her stomach and head with a sudden feeling of nausea.

“I’m sorry, sweetie. Victims of violence have an elevated risk for cervical cancer. I’m not sure how long you’ve endured the abuse, but I see you’re finally free from your abuser. You can still survive cervical cancer with treatment. The cancer cells are larger than 4cm. Unfortunately, you might not be able to conceive a child.” Bella began to cry. The doctor gave Bella and Adonis pamphlets on cervical cancer. “I need you to schedule an appointment with your doctor at home. Stage two cancer is curable. Typically, cancer patients receive a combination of chemotherapy and

radiation therapy. Your nurse will come in with your discharge papers and you are free to go. I'm praying for you sweetie."

"Thank you, Dr. Morgan." Bella responded, her voice cracking. Adonis gave her more tissue to wipe her face. He wanted to take her pain away. All he could do was give her an endearing kiss on her forehead. "See babe, I told you I come with a lot of baggage. You still can cut your losses and get out while you can." Bella looked up and said to Adonis with hopeless eyes.

"I'm sorry but you can't get rid of me. I'll make sure you get your cancer treatments. I plan to be right by your side." Right after his statement, the nurse walked in with hospital discharge papers.

"Okay, beautiful. You're free to go. Here are your discharge papers. One of the nurses will escort you out in a wheelchair. Please take care of yourself sweetie." The petite, blonde hair nurse said while handing the papers to Bella. Bella responded with a fake smile. She wasn't optimistic about the bad news the doctor gave her. Now she needed to work on healing her body and her heart.

There was a knock at the door, interrupting Bella's thoughts. Adonis turned his head so fast he could've given himself whiplash. "Not so fast. I have a couple of questions to ask you both." Inspecteurs de police Shantell uttered. She stepped into the room while extending her badge to the nurse. "Is it okay to ask your patient a few questions, ma'am?"

"Yes, ma'am. She's been cleared go. Please don't upset her because we just got her levels back to normal. I don't want to have to readmit her." The nurse advised before leaving the room.

"I pray you're feeling better Kybella. The caramel-skinned, wide hip, detective announced as she stepped in standing at five feet. She flipped the bluntly cut bobbed

hair out of her face. Then she took out her note pad and pen. I just have a few questions and then you all can leave. I had to follow protocol by prioritizing your medical care over questioning, by recognizing that preserving life takes precedence over gathering evidence. I know everything has been rough. During the time you were held hostage, did Brian hurt you? Please provide details.”

“Yes. He slapped me a couple of times, choked me, and put a gun to my head. He also threatened to kill me.” The questions brought flashbacks to Bella’s memory. Her head began to hurt from the thought of the gun to her head.

“So, he didn’t assault you with the gun?”The detective raised her eyebrow in scrutiny.

“No ma’am. Not this time. He only pointed the gun at my head. He tied rope across my chest and shoulders to pin me to the seat. The tight ropes made me have severe cuts and made it hard for me to breathe.

Bella saw Adonis suck his teeth after hearing how Brian had hurt her again. She stopped giving the details of the situation when she saw him looking up to the ceiling of the hospital room. She could tell he was trying to avoid looking at the pain in her eyes as she relived the horrific time alone with Brian.

“Sir, do you know Brian?” Did he cause any harm to you?”

“No. I don’t know Brian personally. I don’t even know Bella personally.”

“How do we know you didn’t have anything to do with her kidnapping? I mean where were you during the time of the kidnapping?” She investigated sternly.

“I was in the hotel room with her. She left the room without my knowledge. I have no reason to want to kidnap her! We just happened to stay in the same hotel. I helped her

in the hotel lobby when she was trying to escape from him. I saw a beautiful woman in need of my help, so I saved her. Her body was bleeding from so many cuts and bruises that she endured from his attack. Brian didn't cause me any harm, but he hurt Bella tremendously. I want to see him receive the highest degree of punishment the law will allow."

The detective wrote down every word he said on her note pad. She cleared her throat after processing everything. "We'll use this information. I appreciate you both for cooperating with me. If I have any further questions you can expect to hear from me. Here is my card. If you remember anything else, please call me. Brian is still in the local Paris jail awaiting a court date. There are reasons the prosecutor can seek the maximum sentence. He used a weapon during the crime and that can influence the prosecutors to seek the maximum sentencing." Bella took a deep sigh in relief. "You all are free to go. Please take care." The detective gave Adonis a look of skepticism.

"Did you hear that miserable detective insinuate that I was involved in your kidnapping? She had some nerve!"

Bella couldn't help but giggle at the insult he spewed out about Detective Shantell. "She was only doing her job, babe. Don't let it bother you. I know you didn't have anything to do with my kidnapping. I remember her explaining to me about how you had everyone looking all over the hotel for me. I'm grateful to have you. Without you I could still be his hostage or worse." Bella pulled him in for a kiss. "Now get me out of this creepy hospital prince charming. Let's get to Texas." She smiled.

"I have a surprise for you here in Paris. Then I'm taking my gorgeous babe home." Adonis couldn't believe that he was going home with the Kybella Vonshire. He still couldn't wrap his head around the idea he would share his mansion with her. It was like taking an Olympic medal home after all.

"Huh, what surprise? I don't like surprises, Game."

“Oh, you might as well get used to surprises from me. I like to keep my woman happy. Life is too short for unhappiness. Come on, so we can get ready. Adonis walked alongside her as the nurse escorted her out in a wheelchair, and they waved goodbye to the hospital staff.

Page 9

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Brian Porter

It was Sunday morning, the last day of the Olympic games and the day of the Olympic game celebration.

Brian was fuming inside.

After two weeks in Paris, he would miss the celebration with his peers.

In his mind, the owner of the NBA should personally put a medal on him.

He believed he was superior to all the players in the league even though he couldn't keep his spot on the team.

The thought of everyone learning about his arrest upset him more.

He took his fist and hit the wall with anger.

“Man, can you chill out! The guards should be letting us out for the yard soon. We usually play basketball, you can take all your frustrations out on the court against the guys,” spoke Bourbon.

“Oh, yes. Do you think a professional basketball player should play against some dummy criminals? You sound crazy. I'm not putting myself in a game with losers. I'll lift some weights and have you spot me.”

“News flash... You aren't any better than us. We all in jail, so I guess you're a

dummy criminal too. Yeah, I'll spot you with the weights after our basketball game. You're participating in the game, young blood. Do you hear me?" Bourbon chuckled.

"Maybe the exercise from the game will allow you to get some sleep." He chuckled louder.

Brian looked away to avoid eye contact with Bourbon.

He wasn't used to another man telling him how to live.

He wasn't scared of Bourbon, but he had to live in the same cell with him.

After Bourbon told him about all the murders he'd committed inside and outside the jail, Brian decided not to get on his bad side.

He killed his previous cell mate over a disagreement about religion.

The guards assumed the cellmate died peacefully in his sleep until an autopsy was done.

Bourbon strangled the cellmate with his bare hands.

He heard rumors the autopsy report showed signs of struggle since the victim had many scratches and abrasion on the neck.

The story spooked Brian after he heard it, and he feared sleeping at night in the cell.

In fact, he hadn't slept for 4 hours.

When he dozed off, the image of Bourbon standing over him strangling him woke him up.

He'd lay awake all night until a guard announced breakfast at five a.

m.

Brian could feel the tension in the air, so he decided to lighten the mood.

With a half-smile he leaned back on his bed and asked casually, "So, how do you maintain your mental health in here? Do you have any women come to see you I don't see how you've been without good loving from a woman. I've got to have some tender loving from one of my tenders. How do you do it man?" He figured getting to know his cellmate better might make things a little less hostile.

"Only married prisoners can have conjugal visits. I have pull in this prison, so the guards bend the rules for me. Bourbon stuck out his tongue after bragging. "I set up conjugal visits with one of the guards.

I mess around with some of the female guards from time to time.

I've been here over ten years with a lifetime to go.

I can get away with anything.

You'll just have to lift weights to relieve pressure until you out of jail.

" Bourbon threw up his arms.

Brian Porter was used to having any woman he wanted.

He took his pick on any given night.

His need for love and belonging were at odds now.

Women made him happy, especially his girlfriend Bella.

When he was away for games he would enjoy time with other women.

When Bella would make him mad, he would cope by having sex with another woman.

In jail he couldn't use a woman to help with his needs.

He began to have obsessive thoughts about Kybella spending time with Adonis.

Imagining his girlfriend with Adonis caused him pain.

He didn't want her to share his love with anyone else.

Now he feared he would never have it again.

Everybody needed love, even a man like Brian Porter.

"Snap out of it, young blood. The guards will do a quick security search on our cell and then us. Then the guards will let us go to the yard. Come on, let's get ready to go." Bourbon announced as he snapped his finger in front of Brian.

"Say, how is the order I put in?" Brian asked quietly.

"My lady told me the money was transferred to your canteen successfully."

"It's in motion young blood. Don't worry about it. Right now, it's time to worry about me beating you in this basketball game."

The guards released the handcuffs on each prisoner once they made it to the prison

yard.

Brian inhaled deeply to take in the fresh air.

He hadn't taken a whiff of fresh air in twenty four hours.

The yard was crammed with over one hundred men standing around in tan dickie suits.

It was nothing to see but one basketball goal without a net.

A white concrete prison yard, without vegetation enclosed with barbwire fencing.

In one corner was a weightlifting bench.

Brian followed Bourbon.

“What's up? Do y'all want to form teams of five for a game? I got him on my team.”
Bourbon announced as he pointed to Brian.

The other men formed teams, and Brian checked the ball in.

An older prisoner took his position as the referee.

The prison guards watched the game like hawks, clutching their guns tightly.

Each player was big and tough.

So tough they passed the ball around with great force.

The rough ball handling was beginning to aggravate Brian.

He played with a chip on his shoulder and dunked the ball over one of the other prisoner's head.

“Oh, I see you're showing out Mr. NBA player!” Victor, a player on the opposing team shouted.

Then Victor elbowed Brian abruptly.

Brian didn't appreciate the elbow, so he fouled him back.

He fouled him so hard that the guy fell on the court.

They began to squabble, and a huge fight broke out among the two teams.

The prisoner acting as the referee shouted to break it up.

It didn't work and the men fought each other harder.

Several French prison guards broke up the fight by spraying pepper spray at those involved.

Other guards used their batons to isolate the other prisoners gathered around the fight.

The guards close by grabbed Brian and the prisoner he was fighting and put them in handcuffs.

“Victor, you know better than fighting during rec-time. You'll have to miss rec-time for the next month. Mr. NBA player it looks like this assault can cause the judge to add more time to your sentence if you're found guilty of this assault.” The guard announced as he walked them back into the jail.

“Man, what am I supposed to do? This man picked a fight with me. I wasn’t going to let him beat me up. My lawyer will get me out soon. I’m not worried about anything.”

The chaplain walked by and heard the commotion.

He looked at his watch and stopped in his tracks.

After the guard secured the inmates involved, he began to document the incident.

“Guard I know the protocol is to put inmates in the hole for confinement. I request special permission to take these two men with me to group therapy. The Warden gave me these privileges as a part of my calling here.”

“Yes, sir. I don’t see any problem with it, Chaplain Jones.” The guard responded as he instructed them to follow him.

He led them to the small jail chapel.

It was about one thousand square feet.

The small chapel held an altar, a small pew, podium, and a small gathering area.

A small bulletin board listed meeting times for Sunday services.

It also listed names of prisoners who’d joined the prison church.

Along with the prisoners who were up for the upcoming baptismal.

“I’m Chaplain Jerrell Jones. Welcome to Chapelle des Girondins. Many of our prisoners visit for Sunday services. When prisoners join the chapel services, they

participate in prayer, worship, and listen to messages of rehabilitation. We have fellowship together and share testimonies about how God saved them. They also confess their sins and give their lives to God through baptismal.”

“Why are you in here, sir?” Chaplain Jones asked Brian.

“I was trying to get my girl back. They’re charging me with kidnapping and aggravated assault.

“So, did you hold your girlfriend against her will and assault her?

”

Brian looked around before he answered Chaplain Jones, he didn’t want anyone to hear him.

“I may have held her against her will, but I needed her to see everything my way. She shouldn’t have run out of our hotel room into the lobby. She started talking crazy to me. She said she found someone that made her happy. I slapped her for saying it. I wanted her to tell me she missed me. I wanted her to come back to me. Instead, she spoke to me in a way that suggested her feelings about me had changed.”

“It sounds like you just wanted her love. God forgives your mistakes Brian. God’s love is greater than any love a woman can offer. His love is unfailing, unconditional, and eternal because you are his priority, and his love should be the one that defines your worth. You didn’t care how your actions impacted others. I’ve seen you play basketball on the television. God gave you a gift. You didn’t use your gift of playing basketball to uplift others; instead, you misused it for the wrong purposes. Tell me about a time in your life that made you unhappy.”

“When my father went to prison for abusing my mother. My father had been in and

out of prison most of my life. All I can remember is him drinking until he was drunk and hitting on my mama. I didn't like to see it or hear my mama cry. I couldn't shake the memory-it kept replaying in my mind. The most devastating time was when I was seventeen. My dad cut a piece of my mom's ear for not listening to him. She screamed so loudly the neighbors called the police. Once the police got there it was so much blood on the floor he was handcuffed immediately." Brian held his head down in disappointment,a tear falling from his eye.

Chaplain Jones walked towards him and gave him a brotherly hug.

"I want you to know that your Father is proud of your accomplishments. The best is yet to come for you, Brian. I want you to hug yourself and say you're fearfully and wonderfully made."

Brian looked off to play it cool.

He took a deep breath and followed the Chaplain's command.

"I'm fearfully and wonderfully made."

"Now I want both of y'all to repeat after me. "I am the head and not the tail.

I am above and not beneath.

„

Brian and Victor looked at each other.

After contemplating, they both repeated the affirmation given by Chaplain Jones.

"I know it's probably too much to ask y'all to give each other a hug but give each

other a handshake. I know it's rough in jail, but y'all need to change. You can't stay the same version of yourselves if you want to be released."

Brian took the lead and gave Victor a handshake.

"God is pleased." Chaplain Jones smiled, his gold teeth glistening.

"If you don't mind, I'd like to pray for you both." The guys both nodded their heads in agreement.

"Bow your heads please. Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, O Lord, could we ever survive? We ask that you forgive our sins and help us forgive anyone we're holding a grudge against. Lord, we lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven and say, we have sinned and rebelled. We are filled with fear, for we are trapped, devastated, and ruined. Lord, we ask that you set these men among me free. Fill their heart and spirits with love. In Jesus name, Amen!

"Amen.

" the men said in unison.

"I'll speak to the guard about forgiving this fight. Since this jail is where prisoners are housed before trial, I'm sure your awaiting your trial date. I will discuss the implications of the altercation with the correctional officer. I need you to do me a favor and help someone else."

"Thank you, Chaplain Jones . I'll help someone else. I also want to serve in the chapel. The emptiness I'd been feeling left my body in the brief time I've been in here. I feel lighthearted." Brian smiled.

"Seems like the prayer helped. God's Holy Spirt filled the gaps. The best is yet to

come.” Chaplain Jones walked off and approached a prisoner that walked into the Chapel.

Brian took a seat and continued to pray.

As he prayed, he heard God’s voice.

Brian, I need you to do this for me.

Follow my commandments.

Brian raised an eyebrow in confusion.

Darkness was cast out.

He no longer wanted to seek revenge on anyone.

He understood what he needed to do but he hoped it wasn’t too late.

Instead of continuously revisiting the trauma of his mother’s abuse, he began focusing on healing and moving forward with his life.

He kept hearing the Chaplain say, the best is yet to come .

The guilt of the murder for hire was weighing heavily on his conscious.

He paced the chapel back and forth, contemplating stopping it.

One part of his conscious believed since he wasn’t the killer that the blood wasn’t on him.

The other part of his conscious believed if Adonis was killed it would be his fault since he'd ordered the hit.

Brian took the palm of his hand and hit his head.

Then he asked the guard to take him back to his cell.

Once he made it, the guard unlocked his handcuffs.

"Have a good night. Oh, I forgot you don't even sleep at night. Don't let the bed bug's bite." The guard announced with a chuckle.

As he walked into his cell, he noticed Bourbon was busy reading a book.

He didn't even look up to speak to him.

So, he cleared his throat to get Bourbon's attention, causing him to look up.

"Hey, Bourbon. I was thinking about calling the hit off. Can you cancel it? I changed my mind."

Bourbon looked at Brian with a blank stare.

"Are you crazy? I told you that once the hit was set up with my guy that there were no cancellations. You can't forgive and forget now. It's too late. I told you yesterday the hit was already in motion.. My hitter has already caught a flight here to look for Adonis. He's already been paid half of his fee for the job, He will be paid the other half after the job is completed." Bourbon chuckled loudly and went back to reading his book.

Brian prayed to God that the plan to kill Adonis was unsuccessful, even though

Bourbon told him that Joey had a ninety five percent success rate.

Hopefully, this time Joey failed at his job.

If Bella were to find out that he had Adonis killed, then he would never win her back.

Adonis Ferguson (Game)

“Okay, you can open your eyes, Bella.” Her eyes bulged with surprise and her mouth dropped in amazement at the beautiful red roses in every area of their hotel room.

Roses stood over her in an arch that led the way to his bed.

Red balloons appeared from the ceiling and Adonis gifted her with a gigantic human size teddy bear.

While he held the teddy bear, she embraced him with a warm hug and a seductive kiss.

“Everything looks amazing. Game you didn’t have to do it all for me.”

“Wait, I have more gifts for you.” He held his hand out to display a bed loaded with stylish clothes.

“I had my stylist bring you some more clothes to wear. I hope you like them. I want you to wear the cute little jersey dress with the Balenciaga tennis shoes today. I want my lady comfortable and stylish for our last evening in Paris.”

“I love everything you bought me. How did you have time to do all of this? How did you know the police would save me from the kidnapping and that I would see your surprise? I can’t believe you planned this after my shopping spree!”

“I’m a praying man, baby. I asked God to rescue you from the kidnapping and bring

you back to me. I trusted him and kept faith in him. God is good because you're back with me, right where you belong." He reached down and gave Bella a loving kiss.

She lingered in his kiss for a couple of moments longer to cherish it.

"Mm, I never thought I would be rescued from the kidnapping or have the chance to feel your lips against mine again. I feel like the luckiest woman in the world now." She twirled around the room, wrapping herself in the ballons and smelling the roses.

Adonis was smiling from ear to ear.

He loved seeing Bella enjoy the beauty of the room and her gifts.

In his eyes she deserved the world considering the trauma she endured.

All he was focused on was making her forget everything Brian did to her.

"Please, get dressed so I can take you out. I'll wait while you shower and change into the dress. I want you to come out and model it for me." Bella nodded in agreement.

She was all smiles when she was with Adonis.

The bodyguards were standing close by the door.

Now, two bodyguards were always on duty to protect them.

One bodyguard at the door, and another at the end of the hallway.

Brian rented out the entire hotel floor, ensuring that no one could walk down the hallway without clearance from his bodyguards.

As Bella was showering, Adonis could smell her alluring fragrance.

Her scent was making him eager to have her in his presence, but he didn't rush her.

Enduring the agony of her recovering from the kidnapping gave him more patience.

Bella sashayed out of the bathroom in the dress and modeled as he requested.

"Yes, baby. You look gorgeous like I knew you would." He pulled her in close to him and kissed her along her collarbone.

"Baby, I have another surprise for you. Have a seat right quick and let me show you. I've been working on this development in my free time for the past year. The situation you've been dealing with inspired me to want to do more to help. Although I was working on the development before I met you, the purpose of the app was all from your inspiration." Adonis pulled out his phone to show her the next surprise.

"I've developed a mobile app for victims of domestic violence. It's called SOS. Download it to your phone. As you can see the app looks like it's a game. It's incognito so the abuser won't suspect it's help. Anytime a victim is in a domestic violence situation he or she can push the button in the app, and it will alert the police. The app will keep a log of each abuse situation. Then when it's time to build a case against the abuser the app log is evidence. What do you think? I hope you like it because you were the inspiration. Also, a famous investor wants to buy the app from me. I plan to give you half of the money from it."

"I love it." Tears fell from Bella's eyes.

"Baby, I didn't mean to upset you. Why are you crying?"

"This means everything to me. I can't believe I inspired you to make an app to help

other victims.” She then gave Adonis a kiss on the lips.

It became more seductive, and he stopped her from going further.

“Um, come on baby. Allow me to show you a fun time in Paris. We can have a night cap. I brought you a new plane ticket, now you’re flying home with me. I’ve already packed our bags with the things I bought you on the shopping spree. Our r early flight home is in the morning.” Adonis shook his head to gather himself.

He wanted to make love to Bella right now, but he didn’t because it would’ve been rushed.

Plus, she was still in a vulnerable state of mind.

He wanted their first time to be one she wouldn’t forget.

He took her hand and led her outside.

“Are you okay?” Adonis inquired when they made it outside the hotel.

“Yes, I’m fine.” Bella giggled.

“You don’t have to keep asking me. We have security around us. I’m ready to enjoy our night.”

“Good. I just want you to feel safe when you’re with me.” Adonis announced.

Since he’s licensed to carry in the U.

S.

and in Paris.

He kept a firm grip on his pistol secured inside his holster.

He held Bella's hand tight as she walked along the Paris streets.

“Let's grab a quick bite to eat before the Olympic celebration starts. I want to sit outside on the patio and dine with you. I know you love French cuisine.. I've heard that La Mère Michelle has some good Moules-Frites. The Mussels are cooked in white wine and herbs served with French fries.”

As they sat down to eat Adonis noticed that Bella's nervousness persisted.

He could see that she still couldn't shake the anxiety her ex had instilled in her.

.

She was constantly looking over her shoulder as they ate.

“Don't worry about that man. He's locked up baby. I just want you to relax. I promise I won't let anything happen to you.” He grabbed her hand and caressed it to keep her calm.

“I feel like something is in the air. It's dim and gloomy outside and it's only six in the evening. I always have a good intuition about things and right now something isn't right.”

“We can get a table inside the restaurant if that'll make you more comfortable. I know when to listen to a woman's discernment.” He summoned the server to get them a table inside the restaurant.

“I ordered a bottle of champagne. Please sip some bubbly to take the edge off sweetie.” The server then poured her a glass of champagne.

She sipped it slowly as he asked.

Adonis could tell her mood lifted with the champagne- she was suddenly perky, chatting brightly as she ate her pasta.

The small Italian restaurant had a violinist playing music as they ate dinner.

The violinist played a sweet tune and Bella seemed to enjoy it.

She swayed her head to the sound of each stroke of the violin while eating her pasta.

“I’m glad you’re enjoying your food. Would you like dessert?”

“I’m full now. I don’t think that I can hold anything else down. Plus, I’m still watching my figure. The pasta was already way over my calorie limits.”

Adonis looked her up and down.

“Your body is banging to me. I think you’re perfect. Eat a piece of cheesecake with me.” The server placed their cheesecake on the table, along with two small plates.

Adonis looked at the plates.

He didn’t need them.

Instead, he began to spoon feed Bella small pieces of cheesecake.

“Mm, it’s so good.” She replied as he fed her.

She then returned the favor, and spoon fed him pieces of cheesecake until it was gone.

There was loud music sounding in the streets.

It was a parade forming for the Olympic basketball team.

“Come on baby, let’s go. We’re about to miss the celebration!” Adonis announced.

He left a couple of hundreds on the table to pay for dinner along with a tip.

With a big smile on his face, Adonis grabbed Bella’s hand to join in on the celebration in the Paris streets.

People were dancing in the streets as a band marched.

Everyone was having a fun time, including Bella.

The joy displayed on her face made Adonis happy.

The USA Olympic basketball team’s coach stepped up to the parade podium to announce all the players.

The crowd gathered around the podium to cheer them on.

It was dark and hard to see all the players’ faces.

Still, they cheered as each player’s name was called.

People began to push through the crowd to get closer to the team float.

The bodyguards stood as close as possible to Bella and Adonis to keep them safe from the crowd.

The crowd moved along and as they moved it became overwhelming for Bella.

“I’m ready to go now. This was fun but the crowd is too jam-packed for me.” Bella whispered in Adonis’ ear.

“Okay baby, I understand. We can start walking towards the car.” He grabbed her hand, and the bodyguards followed.

A man in all black began to walk toward Adonis.

The man reached in his pocket and took out a gun and started to shoot at Adonis.

“Get down! Everybody, get down on the ground!” The bodyguards grabbed Bella and Adonis to shield them from the bullets.

Shots continued to blast towards Adonis and Bella until police sirens were heard.

Paris police sped down the street.

The shooter took off running.

No one was hit.

Police swarmed the scene, stationed at every gate and along the field’s edge, their presence a wall between the crowd and the players.

Sirens still echoed in the distance.

But despite the overwhelming show of force, the gunman had slipped through-gone before anyone knew where to look.

“Are y’all okay? Did either of you get hit?” Torrin, the bodyguard, asked.

Adonis looked over and saw that Bella was crying while praying.

He began to stroke her hair and console her in his arms.

“Baby, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have brought you out tonight after all you’ve been through. I just wanted to show you a fun time on our last night in Paris. We’re going back to the room now. Are you okay?”

“Yes, I’m fine. I believe someone was trying to kill us. God had a hedge of protection around us. I thank God he kept us safe, and we’re still alive.” She responded while motioning her hands up to the sky.

“Well, baby they’re going to need to try harder. I told you that I’d protect you when you’re with me. I stand on the promises I make to you.” He assured her, then kissed her softly.

The driver took them back to the hotel in a heavily tinted car.

No one could see inside the car even with x-ray vision.

Although, Adonis was assuring Kybella she was safe, he feared the killer was still looking for them.

He texted his FBI friend to help to investigate the shooting through Legal Attaché offices in embassies for coordination with foreign security services.

The killer was clothed in all black, but he could remember his height.

The guy was very tall as he only looked about five feet and ten inches tall.

If needed, he could easily pick him out in a line-up.

Adonis waited patiently for the FBI agent to respond to his text message.

Finally, the screen lit up.

A single line appeared: I'll get right on it.

He released a heavy sigh of relief after reading the text.

After thinking about the situation, Adonis sent another text to the agent.

Adonis: I think you should investigate to see if Brian Porter has any connection with the shooter.

Mr.

Porter is currently in Paris jail and he was a dangerous man.

Adonis was still uncertain; he had no idea who the shooter could be.

A knot of unease tightened in his chest as he considered alerting the hotel staff.

What if the killer was already at the hotel or somewhere near it, waiting for the right moment to strike?

Or maybe he was on the run, desperate and terrified, trying to vanish from Paris

before anyone caught up to him.

???

Back in Dallas

The FBI agent did a quick search on the computer about Brian Porter.

It was found that Brian had many arrests for domestic violence.

Then he checked the Paris jail database.

During the search he found that two ten thousand dollar wire transfers were sent to Bourbon's canteen from a woman named Hazel Ryan.

There was no need for any prisoner to have commissary in the total amount of twenty thousand Euros.

The FBI agent knew what his next move was going to be.

He alerted Legal Attaché (LEGAT) offices in embassies to contact the director of the prison facility.

The special request was that staff be notified to closely monitor all visitors of Brian Porter and pay special attention to the behavior and actions of his jail associates.

Page 11

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Brian Porter

One week later

It was another day waiting in jail for his lawyer to get him out of jail.

He moped around like he had lost his best friend.

While Bourbon was reading letters from loved ones, Brian didn't have anything to read but the Bible.

Since he'd left the Chapel, he'd started reading the Bible.

He was currently in the book of Exodus.

Reading Exodus helped him focus his attention on redemption.

It seemed the people of God would never be freed from Pharaoh, but God sent a deliverer.

Spending time in the word helped Brian to trust God to send someone to release him from jail.

"You have a visitor Mr. Porter." The female guard announced.

He looked around confused.

Who would come to Paris to visit him in jail?

“Hurry up before you miss visiting hours!” The guard shouted.

Brian hopped up from his bunk and followed the female guard’s instructions.

As soon as Brian walked into the visitor’s room, he was shocked to see who was waiting for him.

“Hazel, girl what are you doing here?” He looked across the table at her in shock.

She was putting away her identification card in her purse.

The look on her face showed she was upset about something.

“What’s wrong with you?” He asked.

“If I had known that I would’ve been treated like a criminal coming here to see my man then I would have thought twice. The body search the guards gave me was so aggressive. I’ve never experienced such harsh treatment in all my life. I missed you and had to see how you’re doing. I can tell you’ve been in a fight since you’ve been in here. I promise your lawyer is working on getting you out, but it’s still no bond or court date.”

“Hazel, I appreciate you coming to see me, but I wish you hadn’t come. It’s a lot going on here and it’s unsafe. Thank you for taking care of the wire transfer for the canteen deposit. You won’t have to visit me again since you added more money to my canteen. I have faith God will help me get released soon.”

“Ma’am, I need you to come with me.” Several men with foreign security service badges come for Hazel and handcuffed her.

“What did I do? Let me go! Why are you arresting me? Brian, help me. Don’t let them arrest me!” Brian sat there helplessly in shock.

“Hazel Ryan, you are being arrested for accessory to attempted murder. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be held against you in a court of law.” She cried out to Brian as the police took her out of the room.

“Looks like you’ll need to pray to God to help your girlfriend now.” The female guard joked.

Brian rolled his eyes and held his tongue.

Although he wanted to curse the guard out, he didn’t.

The last thing he wanted to deal with was a night in solitary confinement.

After the guard walked him back to his cell, she took the cuffs off him and pushed him back into the jail cell.

“Dang young blood, what’s going on now? You always pissing my guards off. You’ve got to learn from me and use your charm on these guards.”

“My girl was visiting me, and the foreign security service came in to arrest her. Do you have any idea why?”

“Now, why would I know the reason your girl got locked up? I don’t know anything about her.”

“Look she made the wire transfer to your canteen to pay your hitman. Did you tell anyone what she did for me?” He asked boldly in Bourbon’s face.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about. You better get out of my face, young blood or I’ll make this your last conversation in life.” He threatened.

Remember I’m already sentenced to life in jail.

You on the other hand can go home if you play your cards right.

You need to keep your mouth closed.

If your girl is going down, then that’s her problem.

She has no way to link any murder for hire to you.

So lay low and go back to reading the Bible.

” Bourbon chuckled.

“I want to give you a heads up. You better get on your knees and pray tonight. I just overheard the jail supervisor recite your name as one going before the judge in the morning for arraignment. I hope you have a lawyer.” The guard said and she went back to doing guard tours.

“Of course I have a lawyer. My lawyer is better than Johnny Cochran. He’s paid already too. My girl paid him when I told her I was locked up.” Brian announced.

Although he said it with confidence, he wasn’t sure if Hazel did her part.

She had always done what she was told.

Now she’s facing charges too and Brian didn’t have a way of talking to her.

His lawyer hadn't paid him a visit since he'd been in jail.

Now he could only hope and pray his lawyer was there for his arraignment.

Brian was fearful that without a lawyer he would have a disadvantage.

???

The next morning, Brian waited in court for the judge to see him.

He felt like an abandoned child waiting for his lawyer to come through the doors.

He held his head down in prayer until the judge called his name.

All he could remember was the affirmations Chaplain Jones taught him to say.

He quietly said, "I am the head and not the tail. I am above and not beneath." He also remembered the times his dad would tell him to man up and take his beating like a man .

If his father could see him in court squirming, he would call him a coward.

Brian knew he'd have to pay for the consequences of his actions.

The presiding judge lead the arraignment and addressed the defendant directly.

"Please state your name. "My name is Brian Porter.

" Brian stood up facing the judge with a look of despair.

"You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to be assisted by a lawyer."

The judge quietly looked over the arraignment details and the crimes against Brian.

“Do you have counsel to help you defend your case? If you don’t have your own counsel then one of our public defenders can assist you.”

“I have an attorney, but he didn’t show up today, sir.”

“I’m sorry but I don’t suggest you defend yourself. You have many charges. Do you plan to plead guilty today for kidnapping, aggravated assault, and other pending charges?”

“No sir, I’m not guilty.”

“We will reset your trial for next week. Make sure you have your attorney.” The judge hit his gavel to signal the conclusion of the case.

Brian took a deep sigh of relief.

He felt like God gave him another chance for redemption.

He had a little time to talk to his lawyer and prepare.

The fact the judge added other unknown pending charges to his case scared him more.

He still has faith that God would deliver him from his situation.

Page 12

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire (Bella)

The next day after Brian's arraignment

If it weren't for Adonis, Bella would be on the phone crying to her mother.

She was scared the shooter would find them.

Adonis held on to her hand tightly as they entered the hotel.

He hadn't let go of her hand since the shooting.

"Don't worry baby, the police are looking for the shooter. He won't get away. I promise you." Bella nodded with understanding.

Bella wanted to call her mother to tell her all about the drama.

Talking to her mother always made her feel better.

She had so much to tell her.

Her ex-boyfriend hurt her in the worst way.

Although her mother taught her to forgive, it was hard to forget about how Brian hurt her, so she prayed about it daily.

If it weren't for God placing a new man in her life, she wouldn't trust another man

again.

Adonis had opened her eyes to the fact that good God-fearing men still existed.

He treated her better at first sight than a man she'd known for three years.

Now her next task was to introduce him to her mother and sister.

Her family warned her in the beginning Brian wasn't the right guy for her.

She wasn't sure if her family would accept Adonis from their experience with Brian.

"Hello, Earth to Bella." Adonis waved his hand in front of her face to get her attention.

They were approaching the room.

"Are you okay? You seem like you're sleepwalking?"

"Yea, I'm fine. I was just thinking about you meeting my family." She stated before she was knocked to the ground.

Joey was able to sneak by without getting clearance.

"Hey, catch him!" Adonis yelled out to the bodyguards as the police chased down a man dressed in all black.

Adonis worked to help Bella up from the ground.

She was dazed and disoriented.

They watched the police, and the bodyguard catch up to the man and handcuff him.

Joey was trying to successfully kill Adonis but he was too careless this time.

“Looks like they got him, baby.” Adonis announced as the police put handcuffs on the guy’s wrist.

The police removed the man’s ball cap and hoodie.

His face was revealed, and Bella was shocked to see a familiar face that was in the crowd during the shooting.

“What’s wrong, baby? Do you know him?”

“No, I don’t know him, but I remember he shot at us during the parade. He was the guy that was trying to kill us.” She responded as the police took the killer’s gun.

The police also checked his wallet for ID.

After viewing his ID, the police announced, “Joey Harris, you are under arrest for attempted murder. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be held against you in a court of law.”

While the police read Joey his rights, an FBI agent walked over to Adonis.

“Thanks to your tips we got Joey the Assassin. He has been the hitman for over thirty murders. It seems he has been hiding today since the shooting. After our investigation is complete, I’ll contact you with more information. Now, you two can sleep worry free tonight. The bad guys are behind bars for now. We’ll be in touch with you soon.” Agent Bradly said with assurance.

Bella looked at Adonis with confusion.

She wasn't sure how Adonis knew the FBI agent, but she had questions that needed answers.

“Wait, how do you know the FBI agent? What tips did you give him?”

“I have ties to important people baby. I'm a well-known celebrity. Now that I have you in my life, it's my duty to protect you. I told you that you were safe with me, and I meant it. Once the shooting occurred, I texted Agent Bradley to have foreign security services to look for the shooter. I offered tips on where to look to find out who the shooter was.. I also asked him to find out about what was going on with Brian on the inside of the jail. He did his homework and found out valuable information that led to the arrest. Let's just say you won't have to worry about Brian getting out of jail anytime soon.” He replied with a smile.

Bella blew a huge sigh of relief.

Then she brought Adonis closer to her for a loving embrace.

“Thank you so much. .” Adonis kissed her passionately.

“Come on let's go to our room. Everyone is staring at us.

“I'm sorry ma'am, but this is a crime scene now.

We will have to tape off this area to secure it.

We will have to tape off your room also until the crime scene is released by detectives.

” “Yes sir, we understand..” Adonis responded calmly.

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The reporter was outside the hotel once Bella and Adonis went outside.

She shoved the microphone in Bella’s face.

“There has been reports that the shooter from the Olympic parade has been caught inside pending further investigation. “You two were the reason for the shooting at the Olympic game celebration.

Can you tell me why the shooter Joey Harris tried to kill you folks?

”

“We’re glad God’s angels were protecting us from danger. God answers prayers of the righteous.” She replied and Adonis waved the cameras away.

“There you have it, ladies, and gentlemen. A killer is off the streets of Paris. The beautiful WNBA player Kybella Vonshire and NBA player Adonis Ferguson are safe from harm thanks to the work of the Paris police.”

The quick-thinking reporters had a loose circle around the couple, firing off rapid questions to create a distraction.

They had the security guards blocked by the camera equipment and shouted over them that the public had a right to know.

The chaos gave the reporter just enough time to conduct the interview until the guards reestablish control.

Once the reporter and cameramen left them the bodyguards took notice.

One of the bodyguards shielded Adonis and Bella to keep the reporters away until they got to the room.

It worried her that the public knew where they were staying.

A plethora of thoughts began to cloud her mind.

The reporter's question about why the shooter targeted them weighed heavily on her mind.

She wondered if the bullets were meant for her or Adonis.

Brian was a man of influence, but she never expected he'd attempt to harm her from prison.

After thinking about it, Bella rubbed her head with a look of confusion.

Upon entering the suite, she was surprised to see their bags packed and ready to go.

Everything moved so fast since she'd got to Paris.

Just thinking about the turn of events caused tears to fall from her eyes.

She began to fan herself to help keep the tears from falling.

Adonis took notice and went to console her.

"Baby, I think this is too much for you. We don't have to stay another night here. I wanted to stay to support Team USA as a sense of duty to remain in solidarity with

my teammates. It's time to escape comfortably. My personal jet is waiting to take us home. All I need to do is make one call and we can leave."

"Thank you for taking care of me. I've been through a lot of things in my life, but not as much as I've experienced today. I feel a bit overwhelmed with all that came with getting my toxic ex-boyfriend out of my life. For years, I've endured the silent torment of abuse. The fear, the shame, and the doubt had become so familiar that imagining freedom felt like betrayal. When I finally found the courage to speak words I had long feared-God, remove him from my life. The moment I chose to ask for deliverance marked the beginning of my freedom." They both began to laugh at her statement.

"Honestly, I just want to lay down while you hold me. I haven't had a peace of mind today since the shooting. Every time I closed my eyes, the sounds replayed in my mind. The sudden crack of gunfire, the screams, the chaos has kept my mind racing with thoughts of fear from unanswered questions. Now that I know we're safe from everyone out to harm us, I can rest well."

"Your wish is my command. I don't mind holding you in my arms while you sleep. I can order room service for dinner and a bottle of champagne. I'll let my pilot know to schedule us for takeoff for early sunrise." Bella smiled and kissed his lips with approval.

She didn't have to say a word to him.

The chemistry they shared allowed him to know everything her words didn't.

It was the work of the Lord.

After room service delivered their food, they dined together and sipped the champagne.

Bella yawned.

“I think I’ll take a quick shower before bed. Do you think you can join me? I need your help.” Bella gave him a look that hinted she knew her request might be out of line, but made it clear she wasn’t willing to hear no for an answer.

“I’d be happy to help you in the shower-just know that my goal is to please you. Meaning if I see a spot that needs attention on your body, you’ll allow me to assist.” He responded with a slick smile.

“By all means, I wouldn’t ask you to neglect your duties to help me.” She reached out her hand to grab him and he followed her to the shower.

Her quick shower turned into a thirty-minute love-making session.

Adonis caressed every inch of her body as he washed her.

When she got out, he dried her body from head to toe.

She wasn’t even upset he got her hair wet.

His respectful and attentive treatment made her overlook the natural curling of her hair.

He knelt and held her hand to pray before bed.

After they finished praying, Bella reclined in his arms and soon fell asleep.

???

The next morning the alarm sounded at five thirty am.

Bella wiped the corners of her eyes and pressed, snooze and laid back down.

“Nah, you can’t lay back down. It’s time to get up. Our plane leaves in an hour. We need to get dressed sleeping beauty.”

“But Adonis, its super early. Let me get five more minutes of sleep.” She urged while yawning.

He moved the bed sheets away from her body, thinking it would encourage her to get up.

“Hey, why did you take off my covers? It’s cold in here.” He didn’t answer.

Instead, he got up and turned on the lights.

Afterwards, he went into the closet and grabbed a dress for Bella to wear.

“Oh, I guess you’re dressing me too. Thank you, but I can pick out my own clothes.” She giggled and went into the bathroom to freshen up.

Adonis was already dressed.

He was a man of order.

His outfit and shoes were picked out the night before.

“Do you need any help in the bathroom, sweetheart?”

“Oh, no. I asked you to come into the bathroom with me before, but it’s too risky now. If you come to help me then we’ll be late for our flight. I’m almost done getting ready.”

“Babe, our bodyguard is ready to see us safely to our car. Can you come out now? I’m sure you look great.” As soon as he spoke, Bella stepped out in a boho chic Gucci maxi dress.

She was adorned in gold jewelry, brown open toe Gucci slides, and a brown floral headband.

Adonis whistled as she strutted.

“You are stunning!”

“Thank you, babe. I’m sure I don’t need my sunglasses while it’s still dark outside. You have me up at the crack of dawn.” She joked.

Bella took one last look over the room to make sure she had everything.

As a WNBA athlete, she realized that escaping her abusive ex-boyfriend, empty-handed and without a change of clothes was the only way to protect both her safety and her career; her new boyfriend’s generous gift of a fresh wardrobe became symbolic to the new start she needed.

Bella smiled in amazement.

God was good to her.

He restored everything she’d lost and gave her better.

She began to grab some of her bags.

“No ma’am, put those bags down. My lady will not carry any heavy luggage. I can get the bell hop to take your luggage to the car.” Adonis commanded and summoned

the nearby staff to grab the bags.

Bella gave Adonis a look with her big brown eyes that indicated she was shocked.

The assistance he provided required some adjustment.

Brian never helped with bags or anything else for that matter.

She reminisced.

A grin stretched across her face as she waited for further instructions from Adonis.

She didn't mind submitting to him because he always treated her with kindness.

The bell hop came to the door to grab the luggage.

His pearly white teeth glistened as he smiled.

“Hey, are you Kybella Vonshire? It is you! You're my favorite WNBA player. Can I please have your autograph and get a picture?”

“Um, of course,” she responded while looking at the bodyguard for approval.

The bodyguard nodded his head in agreement.

“There you go there's the autograph.” She quickly posed for the picture and smiled.

The bell hop was satisfied.

“Thank you, I'll never forget this day.”

“We got to go.” Adonis rushed back for a second trip to take the bags to the car.

“Is everything okay? Why are y’all just standing there?”

“Oh, I just signed an autograph for a fan. I hope it was okay.” Bella replied with unease.

Usually, her ex-boyfriend became enraged from jealousy when she signed autographs for her fans.

“Of course it’s okay, sweetheart. I want people to enjoy meeting you. As much as I adore you, there are plenty of other people who love you. You need a reminder on how special you are. It seems like you forgot you’re a superstar.” He kissed her on the forehead and held her hand to walk out of the hotel.

Bella released a sigh of relief after leaving the hotel.

“Are you ready to start a new chapter of your life with me?” Adonis looked Bella straight in her brown eyes and asked.

“Yes. Of course I’m ready. I have no choice because we’re about to board our plane.” Her stomach was uneasy, and she felt nauseated from anxiousness.

She was so anxious that her hands were shaking.

Adonis noticed and he began to rub her hands softly.

The driver pulled into a private landing strip where a personal jet was waiting.

The sunset peeked through the clouds, painting the sky in blue and orange hues.

It was picture perfect.

Outside the jet was a large red carpet with ropes alongside the red carpet.

The driver got out to open Bella's door.

"Right this way," The driver said as he guided her toward the private jet.

She noticed the outside of the jet displayed the name, Ferguson Airlines.

Adonis followed her with a smile on his face.

Bella looked toward him, being cautiously optimistic.

He extended his hand to advise her to go ahead and enter the jet.

As soon as Bella stepped onto the jet her mouth dropped.

Goosebumps slid down the back of her neck at the sight before her.

The plane was filled with over thirty bouquets of red roses.

Bella sat her brown Birkin bag down on the white leather seat.

Adonis was right behind her.

"Do you like our jet baby? I thought you would like to ride in style back to Texas."

Bella grabbed Adonis by the back of his neck and kissed him passionately on the lips.

"I love how you spoil me. Everything is beautiful! I can forget about the plane ride

and focus on all the beautiful roses on the jet. You really know how to make memories. I was anxious before but not anymore.” Bella replied as the flight attendant handed her a glass of champagne.

She took a sip and smiled.

It was too early to drink champagne, but she didn’t mind partaking in a drink of bubbly.

As she took a seat on the jet another flight attendant sat a plate of cheese eggs, bacon, toast, and fruit beside her.

Since they left the hotel without eating breakfast she smiled at the sight of the plate.

Her stomach growling signifying the plate came at the right time.

“Hmm, someone’s hungry. I heard your stomach growl.” Adonis said and they both laughed.

“Let’s watch a good movie. My favorite movie is Coming to America. I can go ahead and put the TV on the movie.” Bella nodded her head in agreeance as she ate a piece of fruit.

The tv was incased in white leather to match the white leather seats.

Adonis took charge of things with Bella since she was usually quiet with him and agreeable.

Their chemistry was like a magnetic pull.

They were both comfortable and excited to be around one another.

Her seat was reclined.

Adonis noticed she wasn't comfortable.

He tilted her chair with the seat remote.

"Is that better?" Adonis stared at Bella until she answered.

Breaking their eye contact, Bella shrugged her shoulders.

"Game, you don't have to put all your focus on me. I know you want to make me happy, but you should put your seat belt on. See, the flight attendant is about to make the announcement. Plus, I don't think I could ever get uncomfortable on this jet. She said looking around at its beautiful interior. "I've been on many planes before, but your jet is by far the best I've been on.

" She tucked her hair behind her ear.

Then she made sure her carry-on bag was secured above her seat.

"Oh, don't worry, all your bags are onboard. You have many expensive things to take back home. I couldn't risk all those nice clothes getting lost or stolen on a commercial plane. Although, I only use my jet when flying out of the country. I can't trust any other pilot but my own. Just like my bodyguards, my pilot, Anthony Shakur, has been with me for ten years. Loyalty is especially important to me."

"Hmm, I see. You're a wise man, my King." She said with a smile and kissed his lips.

Every day Adonis was making her fall deeper in love with him by his actions.

She began to envision life with him daily.

In her heart, he was royalty, her king, and with the short memories of his kindness, she longed to shower him with love as rich and radiant as the way he made her feel.

He deserved king treatment, and in her mind, she was always planning a way to give him top-notch treatment.

“Let’s pray before the plane takes off,” Adonis said as he grabbed Bella’s hand.

She gazed at him with a gentle expression.

“Since, you always lead the prayer, I’ll pray this time.” She interjected.

“Okay, that’s fine with me, babe.” Adonis responded.

“Father God, thank you for sending me someone already healed. My heart has been through so much. For once, I feel true love. Lord, I thank you. You showed me I had to let go of what was no longer good for me to find what you had just for me. Lord, watch over and protect us as we travel for ten hours. Protect us from hurt, harm, and danger. Cover the pilot as he flies the plane. This we ask in Jesus’s name, Amen.”

“Amen!” Adonis replied, opening his eyes.

Thank you for the beautiful words you prayed to our heavenly father.

” Adonis held on tight to the armrest and closed his eyes tightly like he was on a roller coaster.

Bella looked at him and became alarmed by his actions.

Since her seatbelt was fastened tight, she couldn’t get up to console him.

“Are you okay, Game?” “What’s wrong? Does your stomach hurt?” She asked while noticing Adonis had his left hand holding his stomach.

The pilot announced the plane was taking off and for them to remain seated.

The take-off caused some turbulence, causing Adonis to throw up to the side of him.

The flight attendant placed soft washcloths along all the seats and within easy reach, just in case.

He knew flying made his stomach uneasy.

He sat across from Bella, not because he wanted distance, but because he knew the nausea would come, and he didn’t want to get vomit on her clothes.

After he stopped throwing up, he took a washcloth that was beside him and wiped his face.

“I’ve flown hundreds of times in my life, yet flying is still not my favorite thing to do. If I could drive to all my destinations, I would. My stomach is in knots, and I feel woozy. I always think about how Kobe Bryant lost his life, and it scares me. It’ll be alright since I have you on the plane with me. You make everything better for me. I didn’t sit next to you because I knew I would throw up. It happens every plane ride. I tried taking Dramamine for the nausea, but it makes me sick to my stomach. Which is why I have my towels and a bucket near me.”

“Aw, baby you relate plane rides to the traumatic experience of Kobe Bryant’s death. Don’t let worry weigh you down, just remember, prayer moves mountains, and God is already working things out in ways you can’t see. We’ll get home safely. Think about the cakes I’ll make for you once we get to your house. If you replace a negative with a positive it changes your perspective.”

Adonis closed his eyes.

“Okay, I’m taking your advice and envisioning you in the kitchen baking cakes with just an apron on. Ah, I love the vision.” He said with a naughty smile stretched across his face.

With a soft smile playing on his lips, she could see how sweet the vision was to him.

“If the vision brings you peace, even for a moment, I wouldn’t dare take it away. I want to be a part of whatever makes your heart quiet and content.” She replied with a smile.

She steered her attention to the movie while Adonis continued to have his visions.

The movie was on the scene where Eddie Murphy asked his arranged bride to bark like a dog.

Bella began to giggle at the scene as the actress obeyed every command of the actor.

Although the scene made Bella laugh, Adonis made her want to do everything he asked.

Adonis treated her with tenderness and respect.

The idea of her feeling like she had to obey his every command would have unsettled him, He wanted a partner, not someone bound by duty, but someone free, choosing him with love.

Every moment they were together Adonis went out his way to create happiness for her.

He wanted to know what she wanted to do.

Especially since he learned about her cancer diagnosis.

He'd been waiting on her hand and foot.

Adonis opened his eyes.

“Have you set your doctor’s appointment for your first cancer treatment in Dallas?”

“Yes, my appointment is in a few days. I didn’t want you to miss practice for my daytime treatments. I plan to ask my mother and sister to join me. They wanted to spend some time with me, so I just told them to accompany me on my doctor visit. Oddly, they didn’t ask any questions. I just don’t want to go through it alone. Plus, it’ll give me a chance to break the news with them about my cancer diagnosis. It’s not something I can share with them over the phone.” Bella threw her hands up.

“I’m not letting you go without me. I need to know everything about what I can do to help you during the treatment. It’ll also give me the opportunity to meet your family.”

Bella put her hand over her heart and shook her head.

“Wow, you never cease to amaze me. I didn’t expect you to want to accompany me to my doctor’s appointment. I’m used to going through problems on my own.”

“You’re with a real man now, baby. I’ll never let you go through anything alone. I do have practice, but I’ll let the coach know I can’t make it. He’ll understand. We have many more practices this season. I won’t let my career come between my love for you.”

Bella’s mouth dropped.

Her brain was racing.

She was thinking of how she wanted to respond to Adonis, but the words wouldn't formulate.

What he said made her speechless.

She took a sip of her champagne as she stared in his brown eyes.

If she hadn't been strapped down in her seat, she would've been all over him.

Adonis followed her lead and took a sip of his champagne.

His response increased her confidence in him.

She had faith that what Adonis was saying was real.

He'd shown her in a brief amount of time that he was a man of his word.

"Do you think that I can beat cancer?"

"I know you can. I've been praying fervently to God for Him to heal you. I know he will."

"But you never know, right? Just like Kobe was in a tragic accident, my cancer diagnosis can be bad."

"No, baby girl. It won't. I rebuke that thought and your statement. We're speaking great things about your life. It's not our will, it's God's will. He rewards his faithful servants. God got it."

Kybella took a deep breath.

Adonis was a breath of fresh air in her life.

She blew him a kiss and they continued to watch the movie.

The next stop was home.

Bella was looking forward to her next chapter with Adonis Ferguson.

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Adonis Ferguson

“Get ready for landing. The weather is nice today with a temperature of seventy five degrees. Stay seated until we completely land.” the pilot advised.

Adonis’ jet flew down the long black runway strip alongside his mega mansion.

His property was large enough to accommodate a runway, with appropriate pavement and lighting.

He also complied with all local and federal aviation regulations for the weight of the aircraft in his residence.

He watched as Bella admired the view.

The beautiful land consisted of a manufactured lake, cattle, horse stables, pools, and its own basketball court.

“Wow, you have everything at your house. I’ve always wanted my own cows to make my own milk. I plan to make everything all natural to heal my cancer.” Adonis smiled at Bella’s excitement.

“We’ve safely landed. You all may unbuckle your seat belts and exit the jet.” The pilot announced.

Bella immediately began to unbuckle her seatbelt to get her luggage from baggage claim.

“Aht, aht. Don’t pick up a bag. I need to get you out of the habit of trying to do everything on your own. You’ve got me now. I don’t want you lifting a finger.” He watched as she lifted her fingers to her lips, hesitation flickering in her eyes.

She didn’t speak, didn’t protest or agree, just stood there, caught off guard by how fast he anticipated her need.

She lingered a second longer, as if waiting for him to show her the way out.

“Okay, follow me my love.” He took her hand softly leading her off the plane.

The Texas air was humid, but the sun’s energy was welcoming.

“I hope you enjoyed the flight. It was a long flight, but we’ve made it safely to my humble home.”

Bella laughed as she looked over what seemed to be a one hundred acre property.

“I don’t consider your home humble, but I enjoyed the plane ride so much that I forgot it took ten hours.

“You’re right, my property isn’t humble because it’s one hundred and fifty acres of land with a thirty thousand square-foot mansion.

I call it Chateau Ferguson.

I had it custom built to match the home I dreamed of having as a nine-year-old.

I always knew I’d become an NBA star and would be able to afford the lifestyle I deserved.

”

The weather was perfect for swimming, Adonis’ second favorite past time.

It was a form of therapy for him.

He was relieved the plane ride was over because his nerves were a wreck.

“After we get settled into the crib, do you mind taking a swim with me? It’ll help soothe my mind from the plane ride.” Bella looked at him with empathy.

“Sure, I can join you. I just need to find my swimsuit in my luggage, and I’ll get ready to join you. I assumed you would expect me to cook immediately after the flight, it’s just something I’m accustomed to from my last relationship. Brian treated me more like a caretaker than a partner. I’m not sure if you have all the ingredients I’ll need to cook. We’ll see.” As soon as they walked through the front door, they were welcomed by the impressive foyer.

All the lights in the house lit up from the motion sensor.

The butler had jazz music playing over the speakers.

The entryway took her breath away seeing beautifully painted art by famous black artists.

The white marble floors were so immaculate that she was tiptoeing on them.

Adonis looked at her and chuckled.

He sat her bags by the door and allowed her to tour the house.

“Oh my God, look at this gigantic kitchen! I could bake the most creative cakes here. This layout is a baker’s dream. Opening the fully stocked refrigerator and cabinets she took note that it had everything she needed to cook. “Well, I guess I don’t have to worry about a lack of ingredients.

You have it going on in your kitchen.

Show me to the bathroom where I can change into my swimsuit.

” Adonis raised a brow and began to lead the way.

They had their own vibe.

Didn’t need to say much; just a look or a nod, and they were on the same page.

Their connection ran deep, speaking volumes without a single word.

Adonis understood that Bella loved his home vibes.

He wanted her to feel at home.

“Please take your pick of the five bathrooms in the house. Remembré mi casa es su casa nos. If there’s anything you want to change in the house, do it. I just ask that you don’t move my trophies from trophy case. My trophy case holds valuable memories that I cherish.”

“I promise to not touch your trophy case. I’ll take this bathroom right here because it’s full of beautiful flowers. However, your decorator deserves a raise. It’s chef’s kiss.” She said mimicking the gesture.

She then shoved him out of the way to get dressed.

A few minutes later Bella came out in a Fendi high waisted swimsuit.

The swimsuit fit her petite body nicely.

Adonis took two fingers and whistled as she walked towards him.

He had on his favorite Polo swim trunks, along with two towels in his hand.

Gripping a towel in each hand, he rubbed them together like he was hyping himself up, ready to dive in the water.

I have two outdoor pools and one indoor pool.

Since the weather is so nice today, I want us to swim in one of the outdoor pools.

He stepped into the pool area, set up like a VIP entrance to an award show, with a canopy overhead wide enough to shade four people comfortably.

There were red chairs alongside the pool.

Bella dipped her feet inside the pool to test the temperature.

“The water is perfect.” She stated.

Adonis touched her back to help guide her into the pool.

As soon as they were comfortable in the pool his butler approached.

“Sir, I have your swim student here to train with you.”

Confused, he glanced at his watch.

Who scheduled this?

He hadn't held lessons in weeks.

Had someone else taken over his calendar while he was away or had the student made a mistake?

Adonis slapped the top of his head.

"Oh, it slipped my mind that I have a private lesson scheduled for today. I'm sorry, baby. I'm a swim instructor on the side. One of my students paid for a one hour lesson today. I can't reschedule because he has a national competition tomorrow." This lesson was essential for students participating in national competitions, as it not only enhanced water safety and survival skills, but also helped with discipline, perseverance and teamwork.

These qualities are crucial for success in competitive environments.

"Oh, no worries. I can just go and sit in the jacuzzi until you're done." Bella smiled and went on her way to the jacuzzi without a fuss.

She watched Adonis train his student on proper swimming speed.

He planned on showing her better swimming techniques as well.

It was his plan to help her level up in every aspect of her life.

He knew she wasn't a strong swimmer yet.

Once she developed stronger swimming skills, they would have another sport in common that they loved.

Adonis looked over at Bella while she was in the jacuzzi and noticed she'd received a phone call.

After answering, she stepped inside the house.

He wondered who she was talking to on the phone.

His desire to know wasn't about control but out of curiosity regarding her well-being.

He glanced up.

One of the security cameras on the back wall blinked red.

Bella's full conversation from inside the home was captured by the camera's audio.

Adonis couldn't help but stop what he was doing to look at the camera.

Bella had the phone on speaker, so both ends of the conversation were heard.

"Hi, Mom. I'm glad you called me because I was thinking about you. He noticed her smiling and wrapping her towel around her body. I'm back in Texas from a Paris trip. I have some news that I would like to share with you. I was wondering if you could visit me in Texas. I've moved to a new location, so I'll text you, my address."

"What do you mean you've moved without telling me darling? I don't like that you couldn't tell me before you moved. Where are you staying?"

"Mom, I'll tell you all about it on your visit. Can you bring my sister too? I want to tell you both about my news in person. Please come by Tuesday morning. I'll see you both then."

After ending the call, Bella went back to the pool area.

Adonis took a break with his student and rushed toward Bella.

“Hey, are you okay? I noticed you were in the middle of something important on the phone. Do you want to talk about it?”

“I’m fine. I was speaking with my mom. I asked her to bring my sister here to visit. Remember, I wanted to tell them both about my cancer diagnosis. It was hard not to tell her everything. She was upset that I withheld information. I asked them to come by Tuesday morning since my doctor’s appointment is on Tuesday.

“I’ll have my assistant book their flights.

Text me your mother and sister’s contact information so I can set it up.

” Adonis patted Bella on the back and ran back towards the pool to complete the swimming lesson.

Once he made it back, he saw his phone flash.

It was an iMessage from Bella.

She sent the information promptly like he’d asked.

He’d told her before to learn to let him help her.

It made him happy to see she was allowing his help.

It made him feel needed.

It was a different feeling having someone at home with him.

It was time to adjust his schedule now that Bella was here.

Typically, he didn't care if he was unprepared for a swimming lesson.

Now that Bella was in his life, he needed to start taking action to consider her needs.

He looked at his watch and began to work on the last part of the swimming lesson.

"Good job. Time to wrap up your session, pal." he started his timer.

"Last lap. Ready, set, and go!"

While he was focused on his student's last lap, Bella went into the house.

"I'm about to slip into my Versace robe and cook us a juicy steak dinner with cheesy potatoes, veggies, and garlic bread. Oh, and a yellow cake with chocolate icing for dessert. It's that kind of night." Bella announced.

Meanwhile in the kitchen

The kitchen space was clean as if it had never been used before.

The spice rack had every seasoning, herb, and spice her imagination could think of.

She quickly began to season the meat after washing it.

Next, she took out a cast iron skillet and sautéed the steak.

The sizzling sound of the steak cooking was a delight to her ears.

While it sizzled, she stirred the potatoes.

In walked the butler.

“May I help you with anything my dear?”

“Sure, you can help chop the vegetables for me.” Bella replied as she remembered Adonis’s advice to allow people to help her.

He was trying to alleviate her urge to take on everything herself.

Delegating would become a new norm in her life with Adonis.

He had a pretty large staff to help around the house.

The butler chopped the vegetables, then made a salad.

Meanwhile, Bella began to mix the ingredients for the cake.

The swimming lesson was done.

The entire property was under constant surveillance, and once in the pool area, there was no way out except through the house itself.

Therefore, Adonis walked into the home with his student to walk him out.

The smell of the food awakened his senses.

He smiled as he entered the kitchen.

“I see what you have going. I love that you’ve already started dinner. I can’t wait to

taste what you're cooking babe."

Adonis walked his student to his car, giving him a pep talk about his competition along the way.

"Make sure you pray before you start the competition and believe that God will take you to the finish line." He said before patting the student on the back.

Once Adonis was back in the house, his food was on the table.

"Dinner is served." The butler announced.

"Oh, I could get used to this view," He said looking at the table filled with freshly cooked food, and a mason jar of fresh squeezed lemonade.

"Bow your head and let's pray. Heavenly father, Thank you for it all. Thank you for allowing me to meet my beautiful Bella. Bless the food she has prepared. Continue to heal her where she needs healing. In Jesus name, Amen."

"Amen." Bella responded.

"I hope you like everything I made. It was made with pure love. While she was talking Adonis was chowing down.

"This food is so good baby.

And this cake is scrumptious.

I hope you know I've already had my realtor find your space for your bakery.

I think it's time to get serious about your baking.

Start thinking about the way you want the space designed.

My realtor is ready to show the spot she found for your business.

”

Adonis saw the glow in Bella’s brown eyes.

“I already have a vision. I want to name it, Love At First Bite. The way we met is the inspiration for the name. I think it was love at first sight for us.” She chimed.

“It was love at first sight for me too. I love the name. I found a good catch in you. You’re smart, beautiful, loving, and creative. God is good. Look at my life and look at my beautiful future wife.”

“Aw, Game! You’re so thoughtful. Thank you again for everything.”She said reaching her arm across the table to hold his hand.

“You’re going to make the Mavericks trade me if I get out of shape from eating your good cooking. Your cakes will definitely put a couple of pounds on me. It’s so delicious!” He said while rubbing his stomach.

Immediately afterwards, he saw a silver Mercedes Benz pull in to the driveway on the security camera.

He waited to see who the person was in the car.

The camera lens had fogged from the kitchen heat, leaving only a hazy, distorted image of the person in the driveway.

His butler came into the room.

“Sir, your realtor Janice Jackson is here to speak to you.” He reminded him of Geoffrey from the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.

His resemblance to the butler in his favorite sitcom was the reason he hired him.

Fredrick became like family after hiring him ten years ago.

He wouldn’t dream of having any other butler serving him in his home.

“Thank you, Mr. Davis, please direct her to the kitchen.” Adonis respectfully replied.

“Ah, nice to see you made it back from your Paris trip. I’ve been working hard while you’ve been away.” Janice burst into the kitchen with her briefcase without speaking.

She was so busy that it was hard for her to know whether she was coming or going.

“Janice, this is my girlfriend Kybella Vonshire. Bella, I’d like to introduce you to my realtor, Janice. She helped me find all the properties I own. Remember I told you that she was looking for your bakery space? I have a surprise for you. Janice, can you do the honors?” He asked, nodding his head toward Bella.

“Here are the keys to your business space. Congratulations!” Janice announced, while passing the keys to Bella.

She stood tall while tossing her black hair back.

“I can’t believe you already got the business space! Oh my God, thank you babe! She stood up and walked toward him and planted a kiss on his lips. Can you take me to see it today?”

“Of course. I can take you now. In fact, Janice can take us in her car. She knows the

quickest route to the location. We have the best realtor in the city.” Janice stood back pleased like a proud mother.

She was in her early fifties but was truly knowledgeable about real estate.

She researched the market for the best business locations.

The space she chose was located next door to the Maverick’s stadium.

Moments later Bella came out dressed, ready to view the space.

“I’m ready to see my new business space. She announced with her Birkin bag hanging from her arm. Adonis began to walk them to the door. Mr. Davis let them out. He opened the door for both ladies. Bella took a seat in the back next to Adonis. He noticed her bouncing leg. He rubbed it to help calm her nerves. They avoided conversation while patiently waiting. She clinched her bottom lip which gave Adonis the sign that she had questions. Janice looked in the mirror and spoke, “We’re almost there.

Hang tight my loves.

”

Adonis was hoping that Bella would love her new business space.

He remembered how she recounted the game.

Her voice faltered, and her gaze drifted downward.

“The Wizards waved me off the last game,” she said, her words trailing off as the memory left a bitter taste.

He couldn't forget how the moment had her shoulders slumped with inner turmoil.

He had been trying to speak with his agent about helping find her a new team to try out for, but he hadn't had any luck.

His hope was that she found joy in selling cakes.

Finally, they arrived at the space.

The location had many tourists and people passing by on the street.

Some people stopped to get their autographs.

After they finished signing autographs, the realtor opened the door of the space.

It had many open windows, perfect for showing off the cake displays.

Large walls that already had floral wallpaper and pink paint.

"I love the space! It's everything I imagined. I can put a sign on the pink wall that will display the name, Love At First Bite." She jumped up and down in excitement.

"The white counter offered an ideal setup for installing the display shelves to showcase freshly made items. I'll have cupcakes, danishes, cheesecakes, tarts, and cakes of many sizes. Thank you, thank you." She said as she kissed Adonis all over his forehead.

"You can tell me about all your design plans tonight. I'll have my interior designers come to do all the work for you. We'll put a fresh coat of paint on the walls and add more custom shelves. I want to put a professional photo of us on the other side of the store name. Then your customers can get the meaning of the business name.

Although, the name will be understood when customers bite into your pastries.” He spoke.

Bella fantasized as he spoke about her business plans.

He nodded his head in agreement with her ideas.

It was his way of signaling everything was real.

The building was really going to be her business.

“It’s yours to do what you want. I’m your partner in making your dreams come true.” She listened intently hanging onto every word he spoke.

“Let’s go home, so I can tell you all about my plans in bed,” She said in his ear.

With a mischievous grin, he let the realtor know they were ready to go, urging her to lock up.

Bella sounded like she wanted to show him how grateful she was, which made him eager to get back home.

He trotted his happy-go-lucky self to the car.

A man walking in a suit approached Bella.

She flinched because Adonis didn’t have his bodyguard with him.

“Kybella Vonshire?”

“Yes, I’m Kybella Vonshire. You’ve been served. She glanced at the letter in fear.

She opened the letter and gasped.

“Bella, baby what is it?

”

“It’s a court summons to appear in court for Brian’s trial. I can’t believe that the French Central Authority employed a French judicial officer to serve the documents to me. I’m being forced to revisit the horror I experienced. No God, you said you wouldn’t forsake me. Why do I have to endure evil again, Lord?” Bella cried.

Adonis put his hand on her back and guided her to the car.

“It’s okay, baby. I’ll go with you. You won’t go through this alone. Don’t ever think God has forsaken you. It’s all according to his plan. Please don’t worry. I’m sorry that I left without my bodyguard. Anything could have happened to you. Now I know a security guard will also have to stay at your business while you’re here. I can’t have anything happen to you. I wouldn’t forgive myself.”

While they were in the car, Adonis sent a message to his assistant to book the flight for Bella’s family.

He knew that she needed her mom now more than ever before.

He sat beside her while holding her in his arms, trying to console her.

Within ten minutes his assistant sent the flight itinerary to him.

“Hey, baby. I have the tickets for you to send to your mother. I’m forwarding the email to you now. You can forward the email to your mom, I want her to get the information in time to prepare. I’ll make sure the housekeeper prepares a room for

them to sleep in.”

Tears began to fall from Bella’s eyes.

“What’s wrong? Why are you crying?” He asked as he turned her towards him to look into her eyes.

“I’m thankful for you. You’ve done so much to make me happy. You continue to help me without me asking. I’m grateful God gave me you.” Adonis tilted Bella’s head and kissed her softly on the lips.

“Alright love birds. You’re home now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. I put your contract on the kitchen table. Congratulations again to you, beautiful young lady. Oh, and Bella, if you ever need someone to pray for you or with you, please give me a call. I’m a prayer warrior and prayer will fix what you’re going through.”

“Yes, ma’am. Thank you so much. I’ll take you up on your offer.” She said while she shut the car door.

She started getting fidgety and looking around to ensure no one else would approach her.

Adonis took notice and shook his head.

“Don’t start that scary stuff, baby. No one is getting on my property to harm you. The only reason Janice got through is because security knew her face. I have my property protected like Fort Knox. He moved closer to her and walked her up to the house. Now let’s go to bed, so you can tell me your business plans.”

As soon as they made it into the house Bella went to the bathroom to freshen up.

From the look in her eyes, she appeared tired.

Adonis was happy to have her home.

He couldn't wait to hear about what she thought about the business space.

She came out of the bathroom in a sexy leopard print night gown.

"Hey, baby, can you put some lotion on my back?" She asked while handing him her favorite body lotion.

He put the lotion all over her back as she requested.

"Thank you. That feels good. You don't have to hire your interior designer for my business space. I believe I can decorate it myself. I want to continue with the pink floral wallpaper all around the space."

"Sounds good to me sweetie. He continued to massage her shoulders, then his phone rang. "I'm sorry babe, but I have to take this call.

„

"What's going on Agent Bradley?"

"I'm calling to let you know that Brian Porter's trial date is next week. We have evidence of a female accessory in the murder for hire. Between you and me, the female accomplice is now in custody. I could get fired for sharing that information with you. Federal agents typically don't disclose details about ongoing investigations. The accomplice was involved with the money transaction to pay the hitman. All three people are now off the street. I'm not sure of the female accomplice's relationship to Brian but she was picked up visiting him in jail. She could have possibly found out

about his relationship with Kybella which gave her motive for revenge. We'll investigate everything to solve this case. The Feds will find out the names of all women Brian had while with Kybella. It is a tort like alienation of affection or criminal, where a third party can sue for interfering with a romantic relationship. We would need to know the names of the third party to build a case for legal action. We would also still need evidence to prove damages. The names of the other woman could also help us to understand the scope of betrayal in the case. In all having the names of the other women help to build the story of the case. I'll in touch."

Adonis hung up the phone confused.

He didn't understand how to ask Bella questions about Brian's possible side chicks.

His plan was to keep her mind off her past life.

Now Agent Bradley wanted him to question her to help with the case.

He needed God more than ever to help him handle the situation.

It was getting hard to handle the relationship with legal matters being inserted while trying to help heal Bella.

He cared about her, so he was willing to do whatever it took.

"Lord, I need you to continue to guide me and give me the strength to be the man Kybella needs during this crisis." He prayed and went back into his bedroom.

He was hoping he could finish the body massage he was giving Bella.

The only problem was once he got back in bed, Bella was sleeping like a baby.

He put his warm duvet comforter over her gently, allowing her to rest.

The disappointment made him sigh in frustration.

He let it go and picked up his Bible.

As he was reading scripture, he heard God say, Trust me with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding .

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire

It had been a year since Kybella had seen her mother and sister.

The day had come to pick them up from the airport.

All she wanted to do was hug her mother and lay on her lap while telling her all her problems.

Her mom was always there to solve every problem, except the abuse she endured by Brian.

Life had changed for Kybella.

If anyone had told her that accepting Jesus' calling over her life involved enduring hardship, not as punishment, but as way to grow in strength, empathy, faith, and starting anew, she would have rebuked it.

Her suffering wasn't meaningless; it was a part of a greater plan to serve others through what she'd overcome.

The airport was bustling with people trying to make it to their plane on time.

The airport schedule on the screen read that their flight was on time.

She waited patiently to see her family appear in the baggage claim area.

As she observed all the people, she noticed her family hadn't arrived.

Fifteen minutes later, there they were with their baggage in hand.

Bella ran to her mom.

"Mom, you made it! I'm so happy to see you."

"And what am I chopped liver?" Samantha asked.

"Hey sister. "So what's the label, boo, bae, or just some dude?"

,"

"Dang, nosey. You didn't give me a chance to tell you. Malik, this is my sister Kybella. Bella this is my boyfriend, Malik Brewer."

They both looked at each other like they'd seen a ghost.

"What's wrong baby sister? Why do you look so scared?"

"Oh. Your boyfriend looks like a bodyguard I know."

"My boyfriend is a bodyguard at my university. I'm an assistant coach. We have several high earning NIL players that require guards. I met him while he was working. What a small world." Samantha giggled as she held onto Malik's hand tightly.

"Well, isn't that ironic. I'll tell you all later about how I know him. Malik, please allow me the chance to talk to my family in private. I know you all will only be here for a few but I hope you all will enjoy your stay still. I wanted to share my news with

you in person.”

She grabbed her mother’s hand and walked them to the car.

Malik walked away so they could converse privately.

It was evident he was in an uncomfortable situation.

He clinched his bottom lip the entire way to the limo.

“Lovely! My daughter is always so thoughtful. She got us a limousine ride from the airport. Are we going to your new home or to a hotel?”

“Mom, you ask too many questions. You will see once we’re there. I’ll tell you everything once we arrive.”

After a restless hour drive, they arrived at Chateau Ferguson.

“Welcome, Ms. Vonshire.” The guard said and opened the gate.

“Bella, whose home is this? Are you taking us to one of your celebrity friend’s home my darling?”

“Come on mom. You can get out of the car now. We’re here.” Bella giggled.

“Well, baby, you can’t trust anyone but Jesus. My mother always said, ‘If you don’t know where you are or who you’re with, you’re already in danger, and closed mouths don’t get fed.’” Mama Vonshire projected, eyes narrowing.

“Welcome to Chateau Ferguson,” Adonis greeted them all at the door.

He extended his hand to shake hands of all that came through the door.

That was until Malik stepped up.

“Um, what’s going on? Why did you bring Malik to my house? I made it clear we were done.” Adonis announced.

“Babe, let’s go in the room for a second.” She smiled to play everything off.

“We’ll be right back family. Please make yourself comfortable in the living room.” She announced while taking Adonis into the bedroom.

“Babe, I wasn’t aware Malik was coming with them. I didn’t know until I met them at the airport. My sister, Samantha, just informed me that he’s her new boyfriend. She’s clearly catching feelings for him. He’s got her sprung. I guess it runs in the family.” She giggled.

Adonis took a deep breath.

You should have texted me first before bringing him.

It would have been easier to deal with the situation if I’d have been more prepared.

I fired the man abruptly because he didn’t do his job.

What if he was still upset about it?

It could’ve been a situation that resulted into a fight.

”

“I’m sorry honey. You’re right, I should’ve communicated better with you. It won’t happen again. Please forgive me.”

He pulled her close to him.

Towering over her, he reached down and gave her a loving kiss.

“You don’t need to ask me for forgiveness. Everything is okay. Nothing or no one could ever come between us. I was caught off guard, but we’re good.” She stared at him in his eyes like he’d taken a piece of her soul with his kiss.

“Malik is here because of your sister. I know you care about your sister. I care about you, So, I’m willing to work things out with him, for you. Now let’s go and catch up with your family. I need to get to know them better.”

“Mother Vonshire, my name is Adonis Ferguson. I’m Kybella’s new boyfriend. It’s nice to meet you. I see where she gets her looks from, as you are as beautiful as your daughter.”He spoke admiring her all-white linen suit and pearls she wore.

Standing tall with a natural long grey ponytail that flowed to the middle of her back.

She reminded him of Tina Knowles.

Mother Vonshire blushed from the compliment.

Thank you darling.

It’s nice to meet you as well.

My daughter has a lot to tell me about her new life.

I have many questions.

I'm a widow.

I wish you could have met my wonderful husband.

I miss him so much.

” She said while looking down in disappointment.

“Hi, I'm Samantha Vonshire.” Please excuse my mother.

She's still grieving.

She'll snap out of her despair soon.

Then she'll talk your head off.

I understand you're acquainted with my man, Malik.

I hope it's okay we're here.

If not, we can stay at a hotel.

”

“Nonsense. I wouldn't dare allow y'all to stay at a hotel. We're all family now. Malik and I will go to the kitchen and have a beer while you ladies talk.”

???

“You look so beautiful, mom.” Bella spoke to brighten the mood.

“Here sweetie, I have something to give you. A letter came in the mail addressed to you from Paris. I wanted to open it for you, but I didn’t want to pry.” Mama Vonshire replied as she reached into her bag to retrieve the envelope.

She handed the envelope to Bella.

It was from Brian.

All eyes were on her to open the letter.

“Well, go on and open it.” Mama Vonshire urged her.

There was silence in the room as Bella tore open the letter with her red, almond shaped fingernails.

Taking a deep breath, she read the letter aloud, causing her eyelashes to flutter.

“Dear Bella, my beautiful fiancé. I hope this letter finds you well. I’ve been in jail pondering how to muster up enough courage to reach out to you. I know I’m the last person you want to hear from. I’ve done horrific things and treated you less than you deserved. I wanted to tell you that I’m terribly sorry. I’m begging for your forgiveness. I’ve met a chaplain in jail and joined the church. Things have gotten better ever since I’ve joined the church. I’ve found brothers in Christ. They pray for me and the chaplain has helped me understand the Bible better. You know I wasn’t a Bible thumper before, I was too worried about the flesh. I’ve changed and I’m becoming a new man in Christ. I don’t think I would’ve been able to handle these days in jail without God. As you may know, I have to go to trial next week. Pray for me. Although I know I won’t get released, I pray that the judge shows mercy on me. If Jesus endured death on the cross, I can handle my time in prison. Love always,

Brian.” She closed the letter and put it down.

The mother and sister exchanged a look, a silent understanding passing between them.

They knew Bella had recently gone through a difficult breakup.

Now seeing her hold a letter from an ex was enough to spark protective instinct in both of them.

Without saying a word, both her mother and sister went to her side and hugged her.

They didn’t know what to say.

They both wrapped their loving arms around Bella.

“What happened to you sweetie? Tell me more about it.” Sandra spoke.

“Basically mom, I’ve been physically, mentally, and emotionally abused by Brian for three years. I’ve suffered in silence to keep my life. When we were in Paris for the Olympic games, he beat me so badly I ran away from him. I ran out of our hotel room into the hotel lobby. That’s where Adonis found me and saved me. Brian found and kidnapped me, holding me hostage for a few hours.. Adonis called the Federal law enforcement to search for me until I was found. Malik was our bodyguard when I slipped away from Adonis’ hotel room. Since he was the bodyguard on duty, Adonis fired him. He blamed him for me being kidnapped. Even though it was my fault because I left without telling anyone. I knew better but I didn’t think Brian would still be looking for me. I was wrong and I paid for my disobedience with more abuse while I was held hostage. He even put a gun to my head and threatened to kill me. I was scared but God heard my prayers. The police found me, and I went back to Adonis. Adonis has treated me like a princess from day one. I’ve been truly blessed

to have him. At first, I wouldn't dare move in with another man, but the way he pursued me, I couldn't resist."

"I'm sorry to hear you endured that trauma from Brian. I wish I'd known before now. I would've done something to help you. I'm just happy my baby girl survived. Now you're able to tell your story and help someone else. It could've been worse. Lord, we thank you. We give God all the glory." Mama Vonshire responded, throwing up her hand in praise.

"At least God blessed you with a better man. Sis, I'm sorry but that man Adonis is fine. He's the star player of the Dallas Maverick. I also read his recent GQ article, he's an intelligent business owner. You're winning with him. The only thing you'll have to worry about is keeping the ladies off him." They both burst out laughing from Samantha's statement.

She couldn't deny her sister from acknowledging her man.

Adonis was different.

He was a Godly man with Godly values.

Therefore, she didn't worry about competing with another woman.

???

The house had a unique layout, with a sturdy wall separating the kitchen from the living room.

Though the two rooms were in close proximity, the wall created a natural divide, giving each space its own sense of privacy.

The kitchen, with its soft hum of appliances, was tucked away from the more open, cozy living room.

“Are y’all alright over there? It’s too quiet. I want to make sure Malik isn’t over there upsetting my man.” Bella stood up and asked.

“Of course, we’re good. First off, you know my hands are trained in boxing. I think Malik knows not to try me.” They both clanked their beers, continuing their conversation.

“You’re a lucky man. You got fired from one job and immediately began working for the University of South Carolina. How did you do it?”

“Man, it was God’s favor. I was devastated when you fired me. I’m not gone lie. I went back home and asked God in prayer to put me in a better position. I told God about all my wants and needs. I even told God about the woman I wanted in my life. After putting in tons of applications, I got a call the next day. I flew in for the interview and was hired immediately. I met Samantha while she was working out. She was in the gym attempting shots and missed one. I caught the basketball and threw it back to her and we started talking from there.”

“Basically, you were flirting on the job. He chuckled. “See...

You never stay focused on the job.

You can’t blame me for firing you.

I’m just kidding man.

My fault for firing you.

I was upset Bella was kidnapped.

Thankfully, we were able to get her back safely.

I went crazy searching for her all over the hotel.

”

“It’s all good, bossman. I understand. I would’ve done the same if it was Samantha. She’s truly special to me.” Malik replied and shook hands with Adonis in truce.

Mama Vonshire took notice of Kybella fidgeting.

She raised a brow in concern.

“Kybella Vonshire what is going on with you? Why are you acting nervous? Do you have anything else you’d like to share with us tonight?”

She could always tell when something was wrong with her daughters.

It was her discernment and mother’s instinct that kept her in tune.

Mother Vonshire’s discernment always kept her daughters out of trouble when they were teenagers.

It was like she’d had an antenna to know if they were planning to sneak out.

Bella thought about the times her mother caught them sneaking out for a party.

Both sisters would have on their mother’s perfume and makeup.

She'd make them clean their faces and work to replace her favorite Dior perfume.

They couldn't keep their door closed after getting caught trying to sneak out.

Afterwards, she'd have them on every church committee to occupy their time.

Bella decided to tell them the real reason for the visit.

"Have a seat mom, I have something to tell you. I didn't ask you to visit me to tell you about my abusive relationship with Brian. The real reason I've asked you to come is for your support. I- I- I, um. I have signs of cervical cancer." Her mother gasped.

"I want you both to fly in the morning of my treatment I'm having a cancer treatment. I didn't want to go through it without y'all."

"Baby, I'm sorry. Oh my God. I had no idea. Yes, we'll be there with you. Come here my baby." Mama Vonshire held Bella tightly in her arms.

She cried in her mother's arms.

Samantha rubbed her leg to assure her she was there.

"Don't cry. My God is a healer. He'll heal you. She began to pray over Bella and speak in tongues. Samatha touched and agreed with the prayer. The men gathered around them and joined in prayer too. The Holy Spirit was in the room. After praying, Bella wiped her eyes. Having her family there made her feel better. She became hopeful that she could fight cancer.

The next morning

The alarm rang and Bella hit snooze. She fell back on the bed and sighed. She looked to the side of her and saw the bed was empty. The aroma in the air smelled like bacon and coffee. She wanted to sleep a little while longer, but she had to make it on time for her doctor's appointment. Wiping her eyelids, she stretched and put on her robe to walk downstairs. To her surprise, she saw her mother cooking breakfast. Adonis, Samantha, and Malik were all waiting at the table for the food. "Well, good morning beautiful!

Have a seat for some bacon, eggs, and pancakes.

”

"I tried to tell her that Mr. Davis could make breakfast babe, but she insisted on cooking. Your mom is a tough cookie. I hope you slept well. We have a full day ahead of us today."

"I did sleep well but I was surprised to wake up in bed alone. I'd rather stay in bed all day than receive an awful cancer treatment." Mama Vonshire began to play gospel music to lighten the mood.

"Oh, God! Mama it's too early for loud gospel music. I see you still wake up blasting gospel music like you did while we were growing up. I knew once you cut it on it meant it was time to wake up and clean the house."

Adonis reached out for Bella to give her a hug.

He gave her a soft kiss on the forehead as well.

"Stop fussing baby. We're going to have a good day. Eat your food, so we can go."

Bella ate her food in silence.

Her family tried everything to cheer her up, but nothing worked.

She touched her head like she was in pain.

“Baby, are you alright?” Adonis asked.

“My head is in excruciating pain. Can you please hand me a couple of ibuprofen pills?” As she went for the pills she fell back into his arms.

“Bella!” Adonis yelled.

“Oh no, let’s get her to the hospital. I think she fainted.”

Everything faded for Bella.

Somewhere in the dark she thought she heard the stove click off.

She felt her mama’s hands on her.

Maybe she grabbed her purse.

Maybe she prayed asking God to heal her.

Maybe she dreamed it all.

The car was silent all the way to the doctor’s office.

Everyone was in the car nervous in anticipation of Bella’s health.

Adonis sped up the highway to get to the hospital quickly.

The silence was killing him.

He just wanted to make it to see a doctor.

He parked in an emergency parking spot and picked her up like a newborn baby in his arms.

“We need to see the doctor now. She just passed out. Can someone please go to get a doctor now!” Adonis yelled at the front desk nurse.

“Calm down, sir. Please fill out the paperwork. I need her I.D. and insurance card. Go ahead and put her in emergency room one. Only two people can go in the room with her.” The nurse pleaded.

Mama Vonshire looked disappointed, so he urged her to come along with them.

Samantha and Malik took a seat in the waiting room.

Samantha paced the hospital floor.

Anxious thoughts ran through her head.

She was worried about her sister.

They were always close sisters.

Their mother taught them to stick together.

Whenever she caught them fussing, she would tie them together to work things out.

It taught them to love each other unconditionally.

Malik stepped toward her and grabbed her hand, pulling her to sit.

“She’ll be alright Samantha. When I worked as her bodyguard, I noticed her resilience and tenacity. I watched the new report about her overcoming a severe beating and hostage situation. She’ll fight through her illness and beat cancer too.”

“I hope so Malik. I didn’t even know my sister was going through an abusive relationship. We used to talk as much as we could. I became busy with work and couldn’t talk to her every day. It’s my fault. If I were a better sister, then my sister wouldn’t have gotten sick.” Samantha clenched her fist and swung jabs into the air.

Malik grabbed her into his arms and held her tight to calm her down.

Meanwhile, Mama Vonshire was in the room filling out the paperwork.

Adonis sat on the hospital bed with Kybella stroking her hair.

She began to open her eyes.

“Where am I?” She whispered while squinting her eyes for clear sight of the room.

The scent of Adonis’s cologne made her hold her hand out for him.

She knew he was nearby since his scent lingered in the air.

“Baby, you passed out at home. We brought you to the hospital. We’re waiting for the doctor to come in to check you now.”

“I don’t understand why I keep going through so much suffering. What did I do to deserve all these problems, Lord?” Adonis shook his head.

His mouth was agape, contemplating a response.

“Darling, you didn’t do anything wrong. We all suffer for a little while, but joy comes in the morning. Mama Vonshire chimed in to respond.

Before she could reply, there was a knock on the door. “Hello, I’m Doctor Frasier.

I’m just going to scan your bracelet really quick.

” ” He announced while peeping over his glasses looking at his clip board.

He extended his hand gently toward her wrist, waiting for her to offer the hospital band.

“Yes, sir.” She extended her arm out to allow him to scan her hospital band and sat up in bed.

“I heard you had a fainting spell. What are you doing scaring your family? He chuckled. Let me check your breathing.” The doctor put his stethoscope over her heart.

After a few minutes of listening he responded, “Your breathing sounds good. I’ll check your blood pressure.” The doctor put the cuff over her arm to receive a blood pressure reading.

“Your blood pressure is elevated, one forty over ninety. You may have fainted from high stress levels. Normally the nurse would’ve collected your information, but we’re a little short-staffed today, so I’m handling some of my patient care. “Did you have a headache before you fainted this morning?

”

“Yes, as a matter of fact my head was banging.” Bella responded.

“For my many years of practicing as a doctor I can conclude that the emotional stress of coming to the doctor for the cancer treatment spiked your blood pressure.”

“I am scared and upset still. I don’t want to endure cancer treatments. I don’t want my hair to fall out or become a burden on my family.”

“I’ll have my nurse come in to draw some blood from you. We’ll run some tests to check your blood levels. After the test results are back, then I’ll return to see you.” The doctor spoke and patted her on the arm.

He had an old, kind soul.

His spirit shined bright and made her feel a little better.

”

“Maybe it was your mother’s cooking. After you took a bite of her bacon you complained of having a headache.” Everyone burst into laughter except for Sandra.

“She’s never complained about my cooking before. My cooking made her into a strong and healthy WNBA player. I think you’re mistaken darling.” She responded and turned her nose up.

“Mama, he’s only playing with you. Adonis is quite a jokester. It’s his way of lightening the mood. Don’t take him seriously. We love your cooking.” The nurse came into the room with her bucket of needles.

Bella’s smile turned into a somber look.

“Hi, I’m Kelly. I’ll draw some blood from you. I’ll need about four vials. I’ll also need to insert an IV to give you fluids. I can tell from your cracked lips that you’re dehydrated.” She announced.

Bella nodded her head in agreement.

Adonis held her hand while the nurse took the blood.

It was hard inserting the IV but after three attempts it was inserted successfully.

“We have advanced technology lab equipment called Stat labs that can allow doctors to have results in under an hour. So, the doctor will return soon with your results. If you need anything, push the call button.”

Adonis tapped his fingers out of boredom.

He took out his phone to check for messages.

While checking his phone, Twitter gave a notification.

The NBA’s twitter account made an announcement.

Brian Porter has been suspended from the NBA indefinitely.

He is being charged and held in Paris jail awaiting trial on Murder-for-hire, domestic violence, assault, and kidnapping charges.

Although Brian had been in custody for over a month, the story has been kept under wraps, no official charges had been announced.

The team and league had remained tight-lipped.

But now, with court documents finally made public, the media couldn't ignore it any longer.

The news had broken late, but loud.

He went on to read the comments.

He was stunned by the many negative comments against Brian.

A lot of women bashed him for the domestic allegations and supported the NBA for taking a stand against the violence.

"Game, why are you so quiet? Let me see what you're looking at on your phone." She moved his hand and grabbed his phone.

She read the tweet and read one comment that said, His girl Kybella got what she deserved.

She slammed the phone down.

"Honey don't pay it any mind. You know you didn't deserve it." The monitors began to beep, signaling an abnormality in her vital signs.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been on my phone. Baby, please don't cry." Adonis pleaded while rubbing her shoulders.

"It's not your fault, Game."

"Are you alright in here?" Nurse Kelly asked as she checked the numbers on the monitor.

Bella merely looked at the nurse and nodded her head.

She didn't respond and silence filled the room once the monitor stopped.

She laid back and closed her eyes.

The dream she'd had the night before made sense.

In her dream, a crowd of people stood around her pointing and laughing.

Some people threw rocks and stones at her.

Maybe the dream meant people with sin were casting stones at her.

They were judging her about a situation surrounding their favorite basketball player.

Brian was loved by some and hated by many.

After reading the tweet, Bella knew she needed to prepare for the worst at Brian's trial.

She sighed heavily.

"Don't worry about the trial next week. We'll have a grand opening at your new bakery."

"Excuse me, did I hear him say you have a new bakery?" Mama Vonshire asked.

Bella leaned up and smiled.

"Oh yeah mama, I forgot to tell you. I am the proud owner of a new bakery. It's

called, Love At First Bite. I can't wait to show it to you once renovations are done. I love it already!"

"Aw, see Kybella. I told you that suffering doesn't last long. After all the suffering, you found the courage to start a new venture. I remember buying you an Easy Bake Oven for Christmas when you were a kid. After that you would watch me bake cakes in the kitchen and imitate me. It was the cutest thing. Then when you became older your father brought you a basketball. You found love for the basketball game. You imitated both of us while we practiced at home. You see your love for both of us allowed you to learn both our passions. You were so smart that you mastered baking and basketball. God doesn't give us just one gift. He gives us multiple gifts. I'm proud of you."

Bella wiped her tears with her gown and began to laugh.

She was happy to have her mother there.

Just like that, she'd made her somber mood go away.

Seeing her use her gown to wipe her face, her mom spotted a sign for supplies and went to grab some towels, then used one to run a washcloth under the hot water.

She gently wiped her daughter's face.

She pulled a hairbrush from her purse to gently brush her daughter's hair.

As she brushed Bella's hair, there was a knock at the door.

"It's me, Dr. Frasier. I have some good and bad news to share with you." He announced as he pulled the stool closer to Bella's bedside.

The room was filled with silence as everyone leaned in to hear the doctor.

“Before we talk, I want to ask would you like me to share your medical update with everyone here or would you prefer to speak privately?” The room stilled for a moment.

Her gaze shifted from the doctor to her visitors, then back again.

She gave a small nod, her voice steady but calm.

“It’s okay. You can talk in front of them.”

I’ll go ahead and give you the bad news first.

You have high blood pressure along with high cholesterol levels.

During your pelvic exam in Paris it was detected your uterus was enlarged.

You also have two giant size fibroids that I would like to get rid of with a surgery procedure because they will impact your quality of life.

My only conclusion is that you fainted from stress.

I’m ordering you to rest quietly for the rest of the day, and avoid strenuous exercise for at least 48 hours, and drink plenty of fluids.

No heavy work for you.

” Bella put her hand on her heart distraught from the word surgery , sighing heavily.

She mShe mumbled.

“Do I have to take the surgery route? I’d rather take a more holistic route to get rid of the fibroids.” “Okay, we ran the tests and the results were shocking. I know you told me the hospital in Paris told you that you have signs of cervical cancer. I don’t know if you had a quack doctor, or a miracle happened but I’m here to tell you the cancer is gone!” I would suggest you have another doctor’s visit to thoroughly test to make sure you haven’t received another misdiagnosis.

”

“Doctor Fraiser, are you serious? I don’t have any signs of cancer anymore?”

“Right, sweetheart. You’re cancer free. The Paris hospital must of made a clinical mistake. When the pelvic exam was performed in Paris scarring tissue may have been found. A tumor did not develop in your cervix. So, I can believe the initial report of cancer. I want to go head and give you the test results now before discharge since we are short staff. My recommendation is for you to have surgery to remove your fibroids. I would like to set up a follow-up appointment with you to discuss specific dates for surgery. During the follow-up appointment with you, we will discuss specific information about what’s to be expected during the surgery. We will also discuss all the steps that will need to be taken prior to the actual surgery. So please stop by the my nurse’s desk to set up your follow up appointment with me. Take care of yourself.”

As he left the room Mama Vonshire and Adonis gave Bella a hug.

“Praise God! Thank you, Jesus for healing my baby!” Sandra yelled.

She threw her hands up rejoicing.

Afterwards, she left the room to gather Samantha and Malik.

Adonis continued to hug Bella while giving her a kiss.

“You did it. You beat cancer. I don’t know how, but you did it.” He smiled from ear to ear.

It was the biggest smile she’d ever seen on his face.

It brought her joy to see her man happy for her.

Since the doctor just discharged her, Sandra came into the room with Samantha and Malik.

“Bella has something to tell y’all. Well, go ahead tell them.”

She raised up from the bed.

“The doctor told me that the tumors in my cervix are benign. I’m cancer free now. I have two fibroids, and he wants to do a surgical procedure to remove them. I also have high blood pressure and cholesterol. The main illness is gone by the grace of God!”

“Aw, big sister, I’m grateful to hear it. We prayed that God would heal you and God did his big one! I’ll call you every day to make sure you’re eating a healthy diet.”

Mama Vonshire looked confused by Samantha’s slang.

Even still, she rejoiced with them.

Even Malik was happy about the good news.

“

“Oh, since arriving at Adonis’s house I noticed the open patch of land beside it, perfect for a garden.

It’s all the space I need.

From now on, I’ll eat things from what I can grow in my garden.

” She giggled.

“I can’t wait for the nursing staff to discharge me from this depressing hospital. I want to enjoy my family before its time to take y’all back to the airport.”

“Speaking of spending time with family. I was thinking I should move closer to you now. Your recent health scare has made me aware that we’ve been separated for too long. I can buy a house in Dallas closer to you. What do you think darling?” Mama Vonshire asked.

“I would love to have you closer to me. We can start looking tonight mom! She looked at Adonis. I know we just got here, but is it alright if my mom stays with us in the meantime?

“Um, sure.

She can stay with us.

I don’t have a problem with it.

” He smiled.

“Thank you for the offer but I’m used to my own space. I want to buy a small home or townhouse near you. I’m hoping he will take your hand in marriage and then

afterwards maybe a grandbaby or two.”.

” She winked her eye.

“I know you’ve only been together a month, but time flies, you never know.”

“Come on, let’s go. Now mom is talking about grandbabies. I’m already in the hospital for stress. You’re going to make me faint again.”

Adonis raised a brow at Bella’s response.

“Are you saying you don’t want any kids Kybella?” He inquired with his hand out.

“Oh, I didn’t mean I don’t want kids. I don’t even know if I can have children. Do you realize I was told that I had cancer? First, we need to discuss your thoughts on marriage before a conversation about having kids. We haven’t talked about marriage or kids yet, that’s all I’m saying. I would like to have a marriage first then a child.” She replied.

Adonis began to help her walk from the bed.

As the nurse escorted her out in a wheelchair for safety reasons, Bella looked back.

She took one last look at the room.

It was difficult to discuss having children.

Life was funny how fast it moved.

One minute she was trying to survive an abusive relationship, the next, she was trying to beat cancer.

Bella shook her head.

“This has been a journey. Thank you for being here by my side, Game.”

“I’m never leaving your side Kybella Vonshire.”

Page 15

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Brian Porter

1 month later in Paris, France

It was the day of Brian's trial.

He woke up and to his surprise he was alone in his jail cell.

He jumped from his bunk in shock.

He spotted a guard.

"Yo, guard! Where's my cellmate, Bourbon?"

"Oh, he was shipped off early this morning. He'll serve the rest of his prison sentence at La Sante federal prison. This jail is mostly for inmates awaiting trial or sentencing. The warden was told to transfer many prisoners. I heard you'll be leaving soon after your trial is done."

Brian dropped his head in disappointment.

Every day it was a new surprise.

He didn't even have the chance to say goodbye to Bourbon.

At first it was rough in jail and in the beginning, Bourbon had his back.

Once he found the brotherhood at the chapel, Bourbon separated himself from Brian.

When he tried to spark conversation with Bourbon, he would become sarcastic and tell him to go read his Bible.

It was challenging receiving unnecessary ridicule from him, but he saw it as God was trying to develop him.

Brian prayed that God would get him out of prison and remove opposition.

Now he was hoping his lawyer could convince the judge to release him from jail.

The lawyer had more than enough money to bond him out, but Brian would be considered a flight risk since he wasn't from Paris.

His trial day had come, and he would find out if his money would be able to buy him his freedom.

While he waited patiently the guards called him.

"Brian, your lawyer is here to see you."

"Well, if it isn't the infamous Craig Davis. I'm so glad that you have finally graced me with your presence. You would think after all the money you're paid you could've at least been available for my arraignment."

"I'm sorry Brian. I heard Hazel's voicemail, but I was busy with another important trial. It's better late than never coming at all. Here is your suit for the trial. I recommend you plead guilty to the kidnapping and no contest to the murder for hire. In my opinion, there isn't enough evidence to convict you of murder for hire."

Brian looked at Craig in disgust, then he looked at the mediocre black suit that he'd given him.

He was disappointed at the lack of preparation that was given for his trial.

It took the Holy Spirit to keep him from cursing the lawyer out.

If he cursed him out, he probably would quit on him.

Then he would have to reschedule his trial until he got an attorney.

He sucked his teeth then replied, "Aight Mr. Davis. I'll take your advice. I pray you don't lose my case. It'll hurt your reputation as a lawyer. You better hope you're giving me the right advice."

Brian began to put on his suit and shook his head the entire time.

The mediocre suit made him question whether Craig had lost his edge or simple didn't care anymore.

It was too late now.

The time had come for the judge to decide.

"Brian, did you hire the hitman?" Craig asked.

"Unfortunately, I did. I regret it, but thankfully the hit man missed. I heard Adonis survived and escaped the bullet. After I ordered the hit on him, I tried to cancel it. It was too late because the killer was paid from the wire transfer to Bourbon. I prayed to God to make it the killer's first unsuccessful hit. God answered my prayer, and Adonis was protected by the blood of Jesus. It's the only way I can explain him

missing the shot. Bourbon was confident when he proudly admitted that Joey had never missed a shot in his whole career as a hitman. His confidence in Joey's performance as a hitman was the reason he decided to use him as the hitman.”.

“I'll do my best to fight your case. You have my word, Brian.” Craig responded, patting his back, then helping Brian with his tie.

The plain black suit felt foreign to him.

He was used to flashy clothes, loud colors, and making an entrance, not blending into the background.

He wasn't happy about the suit that his lawyer brought him.

He was used to expensive, high-end clothing.

Craig brushed the wrinkles out of his suit with his hand once he was done tying the tie.

“Now, you look like a law-abiding citizen. I need you to only speak when the court directly asks you to or when you're testifying. Do not blurt out anything during court. Stay in your seat and remain calm.” He instructed as they walked out of the confined room.

The guards placed Brian in shackles and escorted them to the court room.

Brian was shocked to see a court room filled with people.

There was not an empty seat inside the court room.

The Minister of Justice gave a couple accredited journalists permission to film the

trial for informational purposes.

The accredited journalist had NBA press cards, and the Minister of Justice made the rule that the recording is only available to the public after the case has been decided.

The Cameramen were there, ready to film with their video cameras in their hand.

As he went to his seat, he locked eyes on Kybella.

Craig told him that Kybella requested to testify the start of the trial.

Brian stared into her eyes and smiled.

She looked away quickly and held Adonis's hand tightly.

Looking at her beauty up close and personal took his breath away.

He sighed from the idea of losing her.

He got himself together while straightening his suit, immediately taking his seat at the table with his lawyer.

“Tous se lèvent!” “La cour!” The huissier d’audience instructed.

Everyone in the court stood up as the judge came in to take her seat.

The Madame le president was introduced by the court at the start of the proceeding.

“I will hear both sides of the case and sentence for this serious crime. In the case of la République française vs Brian Porter accused of kidnapping charges, how do you plead?” ” Madame le president asked.

“He pleads not guilty your honor.” Craig replied.

Brian looked at him with a confused expression.

He wanted to ask him what he was doing but he was advised not to speak out.

He allowed him to lead as his attorney, but it didn’t look good.

The murmurs in the courtroom were loud after Craig gave his plea.

“Order in the court!” She announced while banging her gavel.

“On the charge for solicitation for murder how do you plead?”

“He pleads not guilty your honor.”

After the judge took her seat at the bench, the quiet shuffle of movement followed, everyone in the courtroom sat in their chairs.

The tension in the court began to settle down.

“I hope you understand the seriousness of your charges, Mr. Porter. Do you have anything you’d like to say to the court?”

Before answering the judge, Brian bowed his head in prayer.

“I don’t have anything to say right now, Madame le Président.” He responded.

God didn’t give him a word to say.

His translation was it meant to remain quiet and prayerful.

“In that case, let’s get started. I want to call Kybella Vonshire to the stand.” The procureur general instructed, and Bella immediately stood up.

She strutted to the stand with her head held high.

As she approached the stand the sketch artists began to document the proceedings.

“Please take a formal oath before testifying. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”

“Yes, sir. I do.” Kybella replied and took her seat on the stand.

The procureurs stood up to question Kybella.

“Madame Vonshire, on the day in question were you held against your will?”

“Yes, sir, I was held against my will.”

“Is the person that kidnapped you in the court room?” The prosecutor asked.

“Yes, he’s sitting right there.” She pointed at Brian.

“For the record, you pointed at the defendant Brian Porter. I have no further questions, Madame le President.”

Next, Craig got up to question Bella.

“Do you have any relationship to Mr. Porter?”

“Yes, sir. He was my boyfriend at the time.

“Why did he kidnap you?

”

“I previously escaped from him after beating me severely on the arrival to our room at the hotel. He found me after several days. He was angry, I didn’t want to be with him anymore. Instead of letting me leave peacefully, he abused me.

“Were there any witnesses to the abuse?

”

“I’m sure the hotel has camera footage of the beating and of my kidnapping.”

“Mr. President, may I request a private consultation before this line of questioning continues?”

“Yes you may speak with me briefly.”

“We have just now received the hotel video. I am requesting that you review the video and advise me if the video can be played in the court room”

“I will review the video and advise the courts.” The judge announced.

The bailiff brought in the television toward the center of the court room.

Then the procureurs spoke, “On the video Brian was seen dragging her. She fell to the ground, and he kicked her several times until he was out of breath. He then picked her up and took her into a room. The audience gasped from the sight on the television screen. “Ordre dans la salle!

” the judge shouted, banging her gavel sharply against the bench as the murmurs rose.

“Order in the court!”

“Okay, I’ve seen enough. Please turn the video off.” The judge announced.

Brian shook his head in disappointment and disgust.

He hated to see what he did to the woman he loved.

He knew what he did wasn’t right.

If only he could go back in time and do everything differently.

Now he had to face the consequences of his actions.

“I have already submitted the evidence we have against Mr. Porter in discovery. I want to draw your attention to Exhibit 1, which are the phone records from Mr. Porter to Hazel Ryan. Exhibit 2 are the recorded calls between Brian and Hazel Ryan. Exhibit 3 are the canteen records of the money from Hazel Ryan that was used to pay the hitman. Exhibit 4 is the jail visitation recording with Hazel Ryan the day after the money transfer. The video clearly shows the Federal police arresting Hazel Ryan as an accessory to conspiracy. Finally, Exhibit 5 are the prison visitation records to confirm the hitman visiting the jail the day before the shooting.” The prosecutor said while referencing all the exhibits for the judge to view.

“Very well, all five exhibits is admitted into the record.” The Judge responded.

Thanks, procureur .

You may step down Ms.

Vonshire.

“I now call Brian Porter to the stand.” The prosecuting attorney announced.

Brian slowly walked to the stand.

He recited his oath as the bailiff instructed.

His eyes were low, and he had a look of defeat on his face.

“Now Mr. Porter. Why did you need twenty thousand Euro sent to your canteen? Remember the pledge you took when you give your answer.” The prosecutor spoke while looking at him sternly.

“Your honor, I made a mistake. I wanted revenge for my woman leaving me for that man.”

“Why did you want to kill Adonis too?” The prosector asked.

“He didn’t deserve her. I put years into giving Kybella my all. I made her. She wouldn’t be anything without me. My homies came back to me and told me they saw my girl with Game. I wanted him out the way. I wanted her back with me after my release from jail. If he was killed, then she couldn’t be with him anymore. I spoke with my cellmate, and he put me in connection with a hitman. The twenty thousand Euros was transferred to my cellmate Bourbon’s canteen to pay for the hit on Adonis. Finally, I confess that I ordered the hit on Game. I’m not proud of it. I thank God it wasn’t successful. I wouldn’t have been able to handle his death on my conscience.” Everyone in the court began to speak loudly and gasp.

“Order dans la salle! Order in the court!” The judge banged her gavel repeatedly until the courtroom was quiet.

“Your honor, may I speak freely?” Brian asked with innocence.

“You have my permission to speak freely.”

“I just want to say, I want to offer my apologies for what I’ve done. I don’t have the words to fix what I’ve caused in Paris but I’m truly sorry. I take full responsibility. I’ve started the healing process and I’m willing to help heal others in Paris and tell others about my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

“Usually in Paris, when a defendant is found guilty, the sentencing phase takes place after the trial during a separate hearing. However, in your case, we have decided to proceed differently and address sentencing immediately.” The court will take a short recess.

Fifteen minutes later

“I have reviewed all the evidence. The court finds you guilty of both charges. We received the testimony of the accessory to the crime Hazel Ryan. She admitted partial involvement, claimed she only acted under pressure and didn’t understand the extent of the crime. Hazel gave her statement implicating the primary defendant and downplaying her responsibility. Then we had the testimony from the hotel front desk clerk. He confirmed seeing the defendant become verbally abusive and physically abusive to the victim. The front desk clerk identified the defendant with the victim upon checking in together. The victim’s medical doctor testified. He presented the victim’s medical report to me and detailed the victims injuries consistent with assault. Finally, Bourbon and Joey confirmed they knew each other. Joey confessed that Bourbon paid him the first deposit for the hit on Adonis. Bourbon confessed he didn’t pay the final amount to Joey since he didn’t finish the job.” Y.

I order you to serve five years in prison for kidnapping.

Regarding the charge related to the conspiracy to commit murder and attempted murder.

I order you to serve ten years in prison.

A total of fifteen years prison time with the possibility of parole.

I believe you are remorseful.

At the same time, the victim will carry the scars of your actions for the rest of her life.

Your plot could have taken an innocent man's life.

During your time away, I hope you heal your heart and soul.

Baillif take him out of my courtroom.

” Brian took one final look at Bella and blew her a kiss before getting handcuffed.

Relieved, tears welled in Bella's eyes, but the courtroom remained silent and tense.

Though no applause broke out, the weight of justice hung heavy.

Brian saw Kybella give Adonis a loving embrace.

It felt like a punch to Brian's gut to witness her embracing Game.

Then he hung his head low while witnessing Game walk out with Bella.

From where Brian sat, half shadowed behind the guards, he could see the reporters swarm the hallway.

Their cameras and microphones pointed straight at Bella and Game.

They were seen asking her about the trial, but no one asked Brian anything.

Brian felt like he wasn't a person anymore but only a headline, a name behind the glass.

Maybe that's all he deserved.

Brian heard Bella's voice carry down the corridor, steady and clear, telling them she wanted to become a domestic violence advocate.

That hit harder than the verdict.

She was turning the worst thing he'd ever done into something meaningful, and he was just the reason she had to.

Then, with barely a pause, she added, 'If you're suffering, call 911 and get out.

' No anger in her voice, just purpose.

And then they turned and walked off together, still holding hands.

That image stayed with him longer than the sentence they gave him.

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Miranda Harris

Meanwhile, Miranda Harris was watching the world news at home.

The news report came across the screen.

It was a live recording of Kybella's interview with the reporter.

She couldn't believe what she'd heard.

"Did she say Joey Harris?" Miranda spoke out.

She took the remote to rewind the recording to hear the statement again.

She sat in disbelief at what she heard.

It was her understanding her man was on a business trip in Paris.

It was ironic she hadn't spoken to Joey in a while.

She figured something was wrong, but didn't think it was something this bad.

She paced the floor thinking about her next move.

She called Joey's phone and received his voicemail message immediately.

Joey promised her they'd go to Qatar for vacation when he got back from Paris.

Now, she'd just found out he was in prison for attempted murder.

After thinking about it, she went to their bedroom.

There was a safe in there where Joey stashed money for emergencies.

After entering the code, the safe opened.

In the safe she'd found thousands of dollars and plane tickets.

There were two one-way plane tickets to Qatar.

Miranda took all the money and her plane ticket out of the safe.

She made the decision to leave while she had time.

The flight was scheduled to board in five hours.

She quickly packed two suitcases with important things and left for the airport.

Miranda planned to leave for Qatar and never return home.

It was the only way to remain clear of a connection with Joey.

She'd been married to a professional assassin for a year and didn't have a clue.

God worked in mysterious ways.

Now she didn't have to work. She packed her car and drove to the airport.

After checking her purse for her passport and ID.

D.

, she sped up the highway.

She would worry about moving her car to another location later and the things in her house.

Time was moving fast.

As she rushed into the airport, she thought she'd seen a ghost.

The person she saw caused her to drop her bag.

"I'm sorry ma'am, I didn't mean to bump into you." The contents from her purse fell out.

She rushed to pick everything up.

As she was trying to pick everything up, the woman picked up her I.

D.

She looked at it and said, "Miranda Harris." She snatched her I.

D.

and ran from her quickly.

Miranda knew Bella recognized she was Joey's wife.

After checking in, checking in her bags, and going through TSA it was almost time to

board her flight.

The plane to Qatar was getting ready to board.

Miranda ran to get inside quickly to avoid Bella.

“Babe, I think that was the hitman’s wife. I saw her driver’s license. It had to have been her. ”

“You’re possibly right. I can’t argue with a women’s intuition. I do sense you have a gift of discernment. I don’t blame her for trying to escape a bad circumstance. Let’s let her make it this time. If it was really his wife, she seemed like an innocent woman trying to leave. ”

“You’re right. My problem isn’t with her, it’s with her hitman husband. Let’s get out of Paris and get back to Dallas before something else crazy happens to us.” She spoke while touching his freshly shaved face.

???

The guard escorted Brian back to his cell without a word.

Once the clanged shut, he gave a nod, smirked and disappeared down the prison hall.

Upon entering, he noticed another person’s stuff on his cot.

A man cleared his throat.

“What’s up homie? I’m sorry but that’s my bed. You’ll have to sleep on the other bed.” Brian stated.

The man stared him down and smirked.

He rolled his dental floss around his mouth.

Standing up, the man rubbed his bald head.

“I think you have me mistaken with someone else. I put my stuff on the bed where I’ll be sleeping. Your name wasn’t on the bed and a snitch don’t run me.” His new cellmate spoke while staring Brian in his eyes.

“Dude, who are you calling a snitch?”

The little boy I’m staring at, snitch!

” Spit flew from his mouth toward Brian.

Brian went toward the other bed which Bourbon used to sleep on and sat down.

Yeah, I’m Mike Jones.

I already heard about you snitching on Bourbon.

The news about you telling the judge on Bourbon has spread.

I think you better watch your back.

The guys are ready to get at you.

”

“I’m not worried about nothing. God is my redeemer and protector.” There was

silence in the room.

Mike Jones was twirling his thumbs while Brian read his Bible.

Maybe the new problematic cellmate wasn't a coincidence, maybe he was his bad karma finally showing up in a form he never expected.

He prepared himself mentally for the war.

After studying the word, it was time for lunch.

The guard walked them all down to the lunchroom.

Several men were pointing and staring at Brian.

He looked toward the guard to give him clues for protection.

The guard smirked back at him.

While standing in line a fight broke out.

Brian was stabbed from behind with a shank.

He fell to the ground as his blood shed and the other prisoners moved away from him.

"Get a nurse now!" The guard yelled through the walkie talkie.

The officer called the medical care.

Then the senior officer opened the cell door to emergency medical services.

Brian was taken to the prison's infirmary.

He woke up in a prison hospital bed.

He opened his eyes to see a beautiful woman nursing his wounds.

"Thank you for helping me." He uttered to her.

"I'm only doing my job. You lost a lot of blood. God definitely has a calling on your life. The shank pierced your spinal cord. The injury could have led to a range of debilitating effects, including paralysis, loss of sensation, breathing difficulties, and impaired bowel and bladder control. The doctor ordered a CT scan and MRI to identify the extent of the injury."

"Thank you, Jesus." He replied.

"I want to put in a transfer request. Can you help me with submitting a written request to the prison administration to transfer to another prison? I don't feel safe here."

"Um, sure. You'll have to go through surgical treatment anyway. You will require major surgery that is typically performed outside the prison system. We have a hospital for our inmates to use called the Fresnes Prison Hospital. It's up to the warden to transfer you once you're better. I'll keep you in my prayers. I wouldn't wish this on anyone." The beautiful nurse spoke as she caught a glimpse of his sad eyes.

She patted him on his hand.

Her touch gave Brian chills.

He hadn't felt the soft touch of a woman in weeks.

His new cellmate warned him to watch his back.

He thought Mike could've had something to do with his stabbing.

There wasn't anything he could do about it.

Maybe it was his bad karma for all the bad he'd done in life.

One thing for sure, he was alive and wasn't sent to hell.

God was still with him.

If God was with him, who should he fear?

Page 17

Source Creation Date: July 23, 2025, 5:05 am

Kybella Vonshire

“So, what are we doing this weekend? I want to celebrate Brian’s conviction. I don’t have to look over my shoulders in fear of him anymore. Bella stated as they arrived in Dallas.

Adonis smiled. “I have a surprise for you first.

Then we can do whatever you’d like.

” He glanced over at the driver as he proceeded to drive to the designated surprise.

It was the middle of the day.

All Kybella wanted to do was go home and spend quality time with her man.

Once again, Adonis had other plans.

She watched him the entire limo ride.

He was full of surprises, but she loved every minute of it.

“Babe, it looks like we’re going to the stadium for a game. Then she thought about it. Her bakery was right next to the stadium. “Babe, you’re not slick!

” The limo driver parked the car and let her out.

African dancers began to perform and drop petals at her feet.

Brian opened the bakery's door.

“Surprise!” Bella's family members yelled out.

“Surprise! Congratulations on your sneak peek event to your bakery!” Adonis yelled.

“We are kicking things off before the desserts hit the shelves.” Then Mama Vonshire and Samantha popped out from behind the curtains.

They gave her a congratulatory hug.

“What a mighty God I serve! I have a mighty good man in you Adonis.” She said.

She smiled while tapping her fingers against her forehead, thinking.

“Maybe we can have some alone time and watch movies tonight..” He blushed from her statement.

Then he grabbed her and kissed her softly on the lips.

“Thank you so much for bringing all my family together for my grand opening. I love how it turned out. I see you've painted the walls blush pink, just like I wanted. You even added a picture of us on the wall. I can't wait to put you to work in here with me on your off days.”

“I don't mind as long as I'm working alongside you, boss lady.” He spoke.

Then she took notice of an apron hanging on the wall near the kitchen.

The apron had Pastry Chef printed on it in pink letters.

“Baby, it’s time to blow out your candles on your cake to symbolize your celebration of your new business venture. He took her hand to guide her towards the three-tier cake. Everyone surrounded her as she blew out the candles on the cake. He took her inside the kitchen to show her the refrigerator. It was stocked with eggs, cream cheese, milk, heavy cream, yogurt and a plethora of ingredients needed for baking. “So, what do you think?”

“I think you’ve provided me with everything I need for a successful bakery. I’m sure the cost was over fifty thousand dollars to fix this place up. I know because I’ve priced everything already.”

“I know you did, and I found the estimate at home. I took it upon myself to pay for it all to be done.”

“Game, you are something else.”

“I’ve also spoken to my agent. Your company, Love At First Bite is now the sponsor for all the Maverick events. Plus, your company’s treats will be served at our concession stands! How do you like me now?” He asked while dancing around her.

Then he unveiled the banner on the wall that listed the company’s name as a Dallas Mavericks sponsor beside it.

Everyone in the building began to applaud after the banner unveiling.

“Since, we’re all gathered here. I want all my guests to know that I’m hiring. My business is about to glow-up so much that I need help immediately. If you would like to work with me, please talk to me later. I’d like to thank everyone for showing up for my grand opening. I especially want to thank my man. If it weren’t for him believing in me, none of this would be possible. God heard my cry and answered every single prayer that I uttered to him. Lord, I thank you.”

Her family and friends listened to her testimony in awe.

If they weren't believers before coming to her grand opening, she made them one that day.

Seeing her being honored and loved out loud by another man, people could see that God was doing something in Bella's life.

She felt motivated and uplifted by the support she received.

"Hey, sister. I heard you're hiring." Samantha said.

"Yes, I'm hiring. Do you know anyone looking for a job?" Bella arched a brow as she asked.

Samantha, I know that look on your face.

What's going on?

„

"Well, mom found a house in Dallas near you. Plus, I was just offered a job as the Dallas Wings coach. So, I'm moving with mom to help her. I was thinking about working with you. I don't want you to do it alone. We're family, so let's do this together. What do you think, big sister?"

"Yes, you're hired!" She pulled her in for a hug.

"Hold on sister. I know you're happy and all but you're making me mess up my hair and make-up." Samantha joked.

"What about Malik?"

“Girl, yes. he couldn’t let me go. I’m the best thing that ever happened to him. All jokes aside, he wanted to move back to Dallas. He has a couple of gigs lined up. Now he’s thinking about starting his own security business. He wants to take control of life. I’m all for supporting his business venture. I kind of like him a lot.” Samantha bragged.

“Well, since he’s starting his own security business, can I hire him to work as my guard too? I want to become his first client. Tell him I’m willing to pay him a \$5000 signing bonus.”

“In that case, let me text him to ask first.

Samantha: Hey babe, I was wondering if you’d be interested in working as security at my sister’s business. They’re looking for someone, and I thought you might be up for it. Let me know what you think!

Malik: Yeah, I’m down! Let me know the details later!

“It’s settled, he’ll take the job!

” Samantha blurted out.

Adonis ran to them to see what the commotion.

“What’s going on baby?” He asked.

“With everything that’s been going on lately, I can’t help but feel like another emergency is around the corner. It seems like there’s always something.”

“You’re looking at my first employee, Samantha. She has also informed me that Malik is going into business for himself. I’ve offered to become his first client.”

“I’m impressed baby. You’re already making boss moves. Do your thang.” He said as he hit her on the butt.

“Ladies and gentlemen that concludes the sneak peek event of Love At First Bite. We’ll be setting up the business social media pages soon. Once they are set-up, please follow the shop on all social media sites for updates. Please subscribe to the website www.lokepub.com to receive a notification when the shop is open for business. Bella will keep you updated on the first official opening day. Also, follow Bella and Adonis’s YouTube channel. I plan to make her my wife one day. Our channel will highlight the journey of making her my wife in the future.” He pulled Bella in close for a kiss after the announcement.

The crowd gave them one final applause as the ceremony ended.

After the applause was over, Bella announced, “After all I’ve been through, I was saved by the Game.”

The End