

**Kaydence Ellis** (22, Black, F)

Kaydence is a determined and ambitious young woman with a bright future ahead of her. She is pursuing a career in medicine and is at the top of her class. Despite her academic achievements, she faces a challenging dynamic with her family, particularly with her father, Kish, who has high expectations for her. Kaydence is deeply in love with Mason but is torn between her commitment to him and her desire to fulfill her father's dreams for her.

**Mason Little** (21, Black, M)

Mason is a supportive and loving boyfriend who deeply cares for Kaydence. He is patient and understanding, but also firm in his need for clarity and commitment in their relationship. Mason struggles with feeling sidelined by Kaydence's family dynamics and her father's dominant presence. His easy-going nature and genuine affection for Kaydence are evident, but he yearns to be seen as a priority in her life.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Kaydence approaches the parking lot, where Mason stands outside his car, clearly upset.

KAYDENCE

(softly)

Come back inside, Mason.

MASON

(frustrated)

I didn't appreciate being dismissed like that, Kaydence.

KAYDENCE

It wasn't about you, Mason. My father was having a moment.

MASON

(sighing)

I get that, but I was the one you asked to leave.

KAYDENCE

He needed space. We're all trying to balance this new dynamic.

MASON

When do I become a priority in this dynamic?

KAYDENCE

(smiling softly, trying to lighten the mood)

Do you feel like I'm neglecting you?

MASON

Stop deflecting.

KAYDENCE

(taking his hand)

You are my present and my future, Mason. You know that.

MASON

(shaking his head)

I don't think there's enough room on your throne for both me and your father.

Kaydence looks at him, understanding his frustration, and pulls him closer.

KAYDENCE

There's plenty of room. But I need you to understand that he's my father, and this is hard for him too.

MASON

(softening a bit)

I just want to feel like I matter in all of this.

KAYDENCE

You do matter. More than you know. Just give me some time to make him see that too.

Mason takes a deep breath, nodding slowly.

MASON

Alright. But don't keep me waiting forever, Kaydence.

KAYDENCE

I won't. Promise.

They embrace, the tension easing as they hold onto each other.