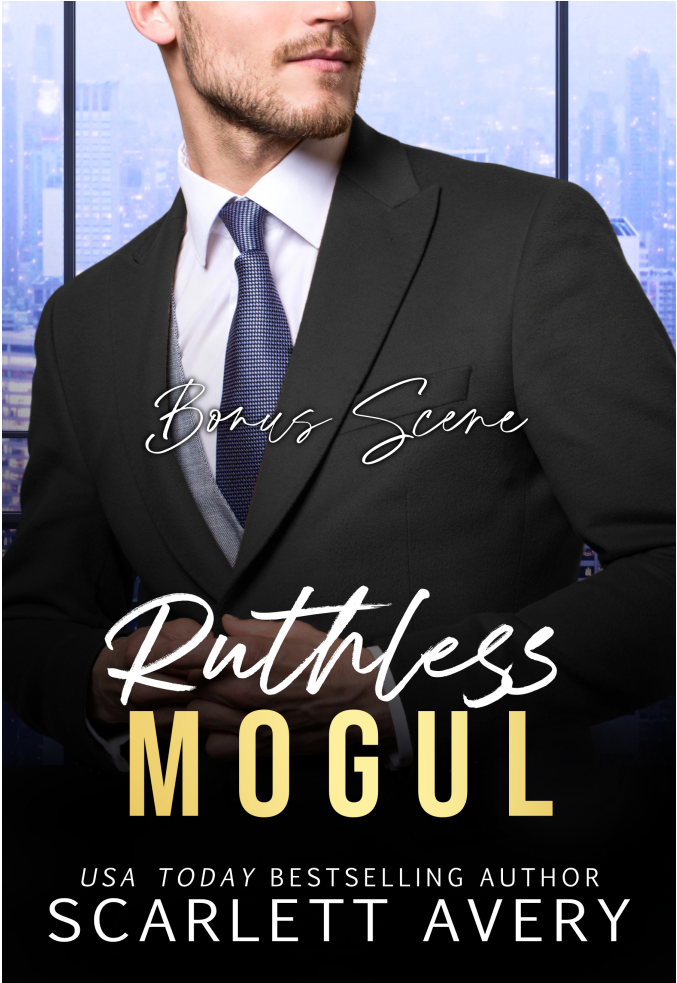


A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred city skyline at night, visible through a window.

Bonus Scene

Ruthless
MOGUL

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SCARLETT AVERY

About This Bonus Scene

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Scarlett Avery

Michaela overhears the Phoenix's response to Slate's accusations

Michaela

I step into our bedroom, plop myself on the chaise, and stretch my legs out to talk to my friend. After the customary catch-up chitchat, I fill Keira in on the mind-boggling interaction between Soren, Phoenix, and me that took place in the König family shrine.

“Oh my God, your father-in-law said that?” Keira says when I finish telling her about what happened.

“I couldn’t believe he thought Phoenix and me were meant to be together,” I say.

“And Phoenix acknowledged that and didn’t freak out?”

“Wild, right?” I say. “I expected him to ignore the comment because he didn’t share his father’s view, but to my surprise, he agreed.”

“Wow. Just wow,” Keira says. “Honestly, your father needs to change profession.”

“You mean he should become either a matchmaker or a psychic?”

“#Fact.”

I laugh. “That’s funny.”

“I’m barely over the Ripley Madigan shock, aka the dirty and perverted grandpa, wanted to turn you into his sex slave and integrate you into his already existing

harem, and now I find out your fake relationship is becoming more real with each passing day. I can't keep up anymore."

"I'm sure if I were to recount the story of the last two weeks of my life to someone who isn't in the know, they'd think I was lying through my teeth."

"#Fact," Keira says again.

"Can I ask you a question?"

"Shoot."

"How do you know?"

"How do I know what?"

"How do you know when it's love and not infatuation?"

"Oh my God, Mikki."

I hang my head low. "I know."

"So, it's more than hotter than hell sex?" Her question holds no mockery.

"It is for me," I say. "I know Phoenix agreed with his father about us being meant to be together, but only because this is a comfortable relationship for him that will get him what he wants in the end—the CEO position—it doesn't mean it runs deeper."

"You're addressing two separate and distinct things here," Keira says. "Let's start with the first one. Do you love him?"

"I do." The admission flows out of my mouth. "I don't know when I went from hating King Kong Tycoon to loving Phoenix König, but every time I'm around him,

my heart trips. I don't want this to end at the one-year mark."

"If that's the case, you don't need me to answer your initial question. You already have the answer, Mikki. This isn't a passing thing or even lust. You already know you love him."

I let out a long sigh. "I do, and there's nothing more soul-crushing than unrequited love."

"I was there at your wedding and it didn't look fake—"

"As crazy as it sounds, it didn't feel fake for me."

"I wasn't talking about you," she says. "I was talking about Phoenix."

"Oh."

"Rhys noticed it as well. He says he's known Phoenix for a while and the guy is a lifelong bachelor. Even though my boyfriend knew the truth, he pointed out how affectionate the two of you were in a way that wasn't an act."

My eyebrows hit my forehead. "Really?"

"Yes, really."

"Why haven't you mentioned this before?"

"You said it yourself, your life trumps the most over-the-top Spanish *telenovelas* on TV. I didn't want to open my big mouth and confuse things for you."

"I've never felt like this in my life—"

"Fuck you." Phoenix's voice carries from the balcony, interrupting me.

That doesn't sound too good. "Keira, wait a sec."

“No problem.”

I get up from the chaise, walk to the window, open it fully and look down.

Phoenix is pacing, his fingers raking through his thick, brown hair.

He's aggravated.

I'm not sure what Slate is saying, but it seems my brother-in-law has a lot to get off his chest.

Phoenix listens, his jaw clenched.

I'm sure it's nothing more than a spat between siblings.

I return to the chaise to continue my conversation.

“Is everything okay, Mikki?”

“I think so,” I say. “Phoenix and Slate are in disagreement about something.”

“Siblings. We fight,” she says with a laugh.

“I wouldn't know. In any case, where were we?”

“We were talking about your—”

Keira's words are swallowed up by Phoenix's shouting. “Michaela isn't a distraction. Securing our legacy is top priority,”

What?

Why would Slate think I'm a distraction to Phoenix?

More shouting ensues.

“I'm sorry, Keira, can I call you back?”

“What's going on?”

“I have a sneaky suspicion Phoenix and Slate are fighting over me.”

“What? Slate is into you?”

“I suspect it’s the opposite.”

“What do you mean?”

“I don’t think Slate likes me,” I say. “At the very least, it doesn’t sound like he approves of our relationship taking a steamy turn. I’m guessing that’s what this is about, given what I just heard.”

“Does it matter what he thinks?”

“At this point, everything matters,” I say. “If there’s discord within the König clan, we won’t present a united front. Any crack in the armor is a liability. And that’s a potential threat to Phoenix stepping into the CEO position. If that were to happen, God knows what would happen to our family hotel.”

“Crap.”

“Exactly,” I say. “Let me find out what’s going on.”

“Call me back when you do—”

“Watch your goddamn mouth, little brother,” Phoenix says. “She’s more than a piece of ass, you fucking moron.”

“Jesus.” I stand up and rush to the open window. I look down and gasp.

Phoenix is jabbing an angry finger in the air.

“I think Slate just called me a piece of ass, and Phoenix looks like he’s ready to start World War III.”

Keira shrieks. “What?”

My shoulders slump in defeat. “Yeah.”

“Oh, no.”

“Fuck. You.”

Why is Phoenix shouting—

“Asshole.”

“Holy shit, I heard that,” Keira says.

“I really have to go.”

“Okay. Call me when you can.”

“I will.”

I end the call and peek down.

Phoenix looks up, meeting my worried gaze. “I’ll come right up and explain.”

I nod. “Okay.”

A few minutes later, Phoenix bursts through the door of our bedroom. “I’m sorry you had to hear that.”

“What’s going on?”

He extends a hand. “Let’s sit on the bed.”

I don’t argue.

He leads me by the hand and we sit side by side.

I glance at him from the corner of my eye. “Did Slate really say those hurtful things?”

“He’s being a dick.”

“But did he say those hurtful things?”

He nods.

“Why does he hate me?”

He tells me everything.

I wasn’t aware of this sibling rivalry. “It was a toss between you and Slate as my husband?”

I can’t even fathom not being married to Phoenix anymore. Not to mention, I doubt Slate and I could’ve fooled everyone.

“No, kitten. The moment Niels showed me your photo, it was game over for my little brother. No way was I going to let Slate put a ring on your finger. *I* was going to be the one walking down the aisle with you.”

“But now we have a problem.” I twist my lips. “Slate doesn’t approve of us... wanting more than what we initially signed up for?” That’s the best way I can sum it up.

“Slate can be stubborn when he puts his mind to it. I wouldn’t waste time worrying about it—”

“I’m sorry, but when my brother-in-law calls me a piece of ass, I take offense.”

“That was the first and last time my brother disrespects you.” Fury burns in his blue eyes. “He does it again, and we’ll exchange more than words.”

His answer shocks me. “You’d fight your own brother over me?”

“Yes.”

One word.

One steadfast word.

One word that says everything about this man.

“Oh, wow.”

“Come here.” He slides his hands underneath my armpits and lifts me off the bed until I’m straddling him.

“Ignore Slate. He’s a sore loser. I got the hot girl. He’s still chasing skirt.”

I’m unconvinced.

“Listen, kitten, I wholeheartedly agree with what Dad said. What we share now goes beyond an

arrangement or a contract. I can't change my brother's mind—nor do I intend to waste precious time doing so. I just have to show him how dead wrong he is. But one thing is certain, I'm not giving you up."

His words spike through me like a hot fire.

I wrap my arms around him, pulling him to me before planting a big fat kiss on his lips.

He moans as his tongue pushes against my mouth, and I part my lips to give him entrance as he growls into the kiss.

"Fuck the hot tub," he says, breaking the kiss. "I need to ravish your body right the hell now."

"Oh God, yes."

His lips are back on mine, his hands roaming all over my body.

I throw myself into the kiss, clutching at him and pressing my body against his in case somehow this mind-blowing moment turns out to be merely a dream—as if I don't hold on to him tight enough, I'll lose him...

My illicit fantasy.

My real husband.

The man I love.

The distinct hissing sound of the zipper of his jeans coming down sends a flood of tingles coursing through my body.

I can't wait to surrender to him.

* * *

**Thank you so much for reading Phoenix and
Michaela's story.**



If you loved this romance, please leave a review. My sexy book boyfriends LOVE reviews. So do I.

Pssst... reviews are better than cake. They're sweet and I don't gain a pound.

Thanks in advance.

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Reviews on BookBub are also appreciated:

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Thanks in advance.

Who's The Next Book Boyfriend?

I'm in full brainstorming mode for my next billionaire romance. That said, it would be unkind of me to leave you hanging. Out of all of my couples, I'd say, Nikolaj and Ciara ([Forever Us](#)) share the same over-the-top passion as Phoenix and Michaela.

Billionaire Factor—Nikolaj is a sensual romance featuring an illegally hot billionaire with the determination of a thousand warriors and a take-no-prisoners heroine.

★★★★★ “OMG that was hot! I can't believe that book pulled me in and kept dragging me until the end. HOT. HOT. HOT. Didn't want it to end.” —Cassie

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www.ScarlettAvery.com *Bonus Scene: Ruthless Mogul.*

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Since Bryce Van Der Linden has a cameo appearance in Phoenix's book, you might as start with Book 1 of the series. I invite you to read Ciara's sister Sofia's provocative romance with dominant billionaire Bryce.

Forever You is a provocative billionaire romance, age gap romance. This "like Pretty Woman steamy romance" is a guaranteed page-turner.

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