

ARDENT GRANDEUR EXCERPT

I. The Life

“Life can be pretty funny, contingent upon your sense of humor and how you view the world. Life is also unpredictable. We never know what will happen from one day to the next. We just have to cherish each moment and take nothing for granted. Love, as if you’ll never see that person again. Live, as if it is your last day on earth. Laugh, as if you heard the funniest joke. Your life is important and the way you live should reflect that. Don’t just exist, live your life the right way, on purpose, with purpose. Because, you only get one life to live and the decisions you make matter more than you might think.”

III. The Drop

“The next morning Jackie wakes up and notices Bryce sleeping next to her. She realizes how much she misses him being home and begins to kiss him. While Tia is still sleeping, Jackie picks Tia up and takes her into her own room and then comes back and continues to kiss Bryce all over, working her way down to his private area. Bryce begins to feel Jackie’s succulent wet kisses all over his body and gets aroused. He wakes up and makes passionate love to Jackie. Bryce realizes how much he missed Jackie as well. While making love to Jackie, Bryce begins to have flashbacks of Amira. To combat his thoughts, he talks quietly to himself and tells himself to refocus and think about his love for Jackie. He begins to tell Jackie that he loves her and that he is sorry that he

is not there much for her and Tia. “I love you so much baby, you feel so damn good. I missed you so much. I just want us to win, babe. I just want us to win,” Bryce says while looking deeply into Jackie’s eyes. Tia begins to cry and Bryce turns to look towards the door.”

“You put on me something that I truly didn’t deserve, and I haven’t been right since. When you went off to marry Wanda, after you and I had been together for so many years, it destroyed me completely.....and I still messed around with you, because I just couldn’t let no other woman come in and take you away from me completely...For some strange reason, that meant I got to keep a part of me that wasn’t completely destroyed...I hate what you did to me and Bryce....I felt like you owed me something better than that, but you don’t owe me anything...I don’t even want anything from you anymore. Besides, after all these years I finally realize that you’re not capable of loving me the way that I deserve and need to be loved. At this point, I don’t want anything from you and I’m so mad at myself for allowing you to break my heart over and over again for all these years...For stopping myself from loving someone else, after all these years...You don’t owe me anything.”