

A Vow Replay

Hillary

"This is so damn stupid Garrett! We are already married, so why did you make me agree to let our parents throw a wedding reception!"

"Baby, get your cute ass back in bed before we have to get up and look excited. You know our friends wanted to be part of us getting married and were pissed when we went to Vegas."

I march over and get back into bed. I knew agreeing with my parents about the reception was going to backfire. They created this big event for the two of us when we didn't need it. "It's a waste of money."

"Your dad wants the honor of walking your sexy pain in the ass down the aisle. It doesn't matter that we went and got married by Elvis in Vegas. You can't honestly sit here and tell me you don't want to make your dad happy."

"Of course, I do but they could have done this on a much smaller scale Garrett. Three hundred people! They have invited three hundred fucking people! Do we even know that many people? Is the whole damn town coming to this thing? Stop laughing at me!"

"I am not laughing at you, well, okay I am but because you are getting upset over something that is a moot point. The replay wedding is tomorrow. Tonight, we have our co-Bachelor and Bachelorette party with our friends and then tomorrow I am going to marry you again in front of three hundred people. I get to share my written vows with you in front of three hundred people, so they know that you are the most important thing in the world to me."

"Your vows better be awesome."

"Baby, they will be amazing, and I know that yours will be just as sassy and smart as the beautiful woman I already married."

The party is at Julia and Jackson's because they have the biggest space for all of us. Everyone is here enjoying themselves and eating delicious food and enjoying two themed drinks. Julia and her damn themes. In my honor, she is serving a jalapeno margarita since she says I'm spicy and a lot to handle which I don't find funny.

In honor of my stable and handsome husband, she is serving an imperial stout beer.

I am standing in the corner of her family room with my three best friends looking around at the room of all the people in our lives that matter. There are the typical characters from our close group of friends and then we have some local cops that work for Garrett, the firemen he knows, and some of our other close family friends that fall within our age group.

"Hillary," Julia shouts at me.

"What?"

"Did you hear anything I just said to you?"

"Um, sorry no. What did I miss," I ask. "I was just looking around the room at everyone that is here tonight."

"I asked if you have everything that you need for the wedding tomorrow?"

"It's a replay, Jules. I will say this again and I mean it... we are sorry that we ran off to Vegas and didn't ask any of you to join us but that's kind of who we are. Tomorrow we will make sure to have a beautiful replay of events where we will share the vows we wrote to each other in front of all of you and then you can celebrate with us. It will be wonderful because, between my parents and yours, nothing will be missed. I am surprised that you didn't have a hand in it."

"None of them would let me. I asked but they told me very clearly that my help was not needed and that my only requirement was to show up and enjoy myself."

"Oh, I bet that put your panties in a twist!"

"Shut up. Are you ready or do you need anything Hill?"

I put my arm around her waist and lean into her, "I just want you to show up and enjoy yourself because we are going to party like it's nineteen ninety-nine, girlfriend!"

"You are ridiculous."

"Yes. Yes, I am and I will own that. Thank you for hosting our co-Bachelor and Bachelorette party tonight. You've outdone yourself as usual and I love you. Now, I am going to go over there and tease my husband, so he is closer to ravishing me when we get home."

"You aren't going home with him tonight?"

“What the hell are you talking about? I am going home with my husband.”

“Oh Hill, you can’t see him before the wedding silly,” Bree answers. He is staying at Cooper’s house tonight and then getting ready with the guys in the morning. When you leave here tonight you won’t see him again until we have you ready to walk down the aisle.”

“Oh Jesus, are you all nuts! Fine! Julia if you would excuse me because I need to use your washroom for about twenty minutes.”

“Are you sick?”

“No, friend. I’m going to get a quickie in with your brother.”

“I didn’t need to hear that.”

I’m in a beautiful gold silk gown that hugs my curves, and I am ready to get this party started. My three best friends are surrounding me in their beautiful dresses and driving me crazy with all their pestering.

Our parents are getting the wedding replay ceremony and then reception, but my friends will be up front not marching down the aisle and their husbands will be waiting at the altar with Garrett. Some things didn’t need to have a traditional spin.

Julia answers the knock on the door and my dad’s head pops around the door, “You ready to do this and knock his socks off Hillary?”

“Hey Daddy, come on in. I am ready to have you walk me down the aisle to my gorgeous husband.”

“Wow! You look stunning. He may faint when he gets a look at you. I’d ask you if you were sure about this, but you’re already married, and I know that man has loved you since you were a young girl. I couldn’t have asked for a better man to love you.”

“Don’t make me cry, Daddy. I love him with everything I’ve got, and he loves me even when I go a little crazy.”

“Always love each other, support each other, and listen. Remember to be partners so when one of you needs to be stronger for the other you can. He’s a good man and your mom and I are very happy for you. Come on, let’s get you married-- again!”

The girls head out to get to the front and Dad and I move to the end of the aisle. My eyes go directly to Garrett, and I see my handsome husband looking strong except for the lone tear that he wipes away. I keep my eyes on him as we walk down the aisle toward the altar. I adore that man. I would marry him a thousand times if I could. Dad hands me off to Garrett and says, "Take good care of my girl."

"Always and forever," Garrett answers and looks at me. "You take my breath away baby."

"I love you. Let's do this," I say and wink at my husband.

The minister tells the three hundred invited guests that we have written our own vows to each other and that Garrett will read his vows first.

Garrett turns towards me and takes both of my hands, "Hillary, I've loved you since I was a teenager. You were my sister's best friend and off-limits. I knew Julia would be upset if I asked you out and I was honestly afraid you would tell me no if I did. I decided I needed to make something of myself and went into the service. Not only to protect my country but to protect my heart from being close to you but not able to touch or have you as my own. Then, after a day on the lake with friends and a lot of drinks, you gave me hope. Your boldness and actions shredded the last of my will to keep you in the friend zone. It didn't help that you stripped out of your bikini, and I had to watch you walk around in a sheer cover. I love you baby, but a man can only take so much!"

Our guests laugh and chuckle. "Then you pulled a typical Hillary stunt and got mad at me, kept me at arm's length forcing me to finally admit to you how much I loved you. I have always loved you and I always will. I promise to always be your partner in your crazy ass schemes if it means that you curl up in my arms every night. I will continue to smile when you sing as loud as possible even though you probably shouldn't. With you by my side, I know that every day will be an adventure filled with laughter, love, and maybe even a touch of accidental injury. And as we start this incredible journey together as husband and wife, AGAIN, I can't wait to see what hilarious and sexy adventures await us. When we're old and gray, I'll still look at you with the same sparkle in my eyes that I have today. Hillary, my beautiful wife, my partner-in-

crime, and the love of my life. I promise to cherish you, tease you, and adore you, today and for all the sexy tomorrows to come."

"Hillary if you would please share your vows now with Garrett," the minister says.

"Well said, hubby-I approve." I lean in and give him a kiss and hear more chuckles from the peanut gallery. "Garrett, from the moment that you said *I love you; I have always loved you*-- I've been yours. I love your strength and your body, and I promise to love you in sickness and in health, even if I have to wear a hazmat suit and watch endless reruns of action movies. Now, let's talk about the sexy stuff. I vow to be your partner in crime, even if that involves midnight refrigerator raids for ice cream, dressed in nothing but a cape and a grin. We'll conquer the world one dessert at a time, leaving a trail of chocolate sauce and whipped cream in our wake. I promise to keep the spark alive in our marriage, whether that's with flirty texts or spontaneous gifts sent to you at work. I'll surprise you with intimate candlelit dinners that may or may not involve edible body paint. Our passion will be the envy of everyone who knows us, and the stuff of legends whispered in hushed tones.

Garrett, my sexy husband, I promise to love you with a fire that burns hotter than a thousand suns, to laugh with you until our sides hurt, and to create a life together that's as exciting and memorable as a secret pact. I want you by my side for a lifetime of laughter, love, and maybe even a few scandalous escapades here and there."

The minister then says, "Since Hillary and Garrett have already exchanged rings, I will go straight to... You may now kiss the bride."

Garrett grabs me, dips me, and gives me a passionate kiss while all our friends and family are cheering and whistling behind us. He stands me back up and puts his hands on my face, "I love you."

"I love you too."

"Ladies and gentlemen, let's give them a round of applause that they'll remember for a lifetime, as they embark on this incredible journey of love and adventure together! Introducing Mr. and Mrs. Stone!"