Chapter 1

7am

Brooklyn is returning from her morning run. She’s about to meets her neighbor Jacob for the first time;

“Hello–Hello” says Jacob waving his hands trying to get her attention.

“Oh hello” She replied looking at him strangely as she removes her headphones from her ears.

“I’m Jacob I live across the hall, you live here? He asked point to her door. Brooklyn step back smiling

“Hello Jacob my name is Brooklyn and yes I do live here” She replied with a half-smile. He tilted his head to the side while looking her up and down.

“I haven’t seen you around here before, how long ago did you move in?” He asked

“I’ve been here for about 3 weeks.” She replied. She notices him staring at her so she quickly cuts their conversation short by pulling out her keys.

“Well it was nice meeting you Jacob.” She said opening her apartment door. He tries to peck inside her place

“It’s Brooklyn right, if you ever wanna just hang out or have me show you around I’m always free after 7pm just knock on my door I’m always home.” He said handing her his phone number. She looks down at the piece of paper and laughs;

“Oh ok, I’ll keep that in mind”. She replied closes the door. Jacob walks slowly to the elevator talking to himself, “Ok Ms. Brooklyn let’s see how long it takes me across ya bridge” He laughs to himself as get on the elevator.

Brooklyn lays her things down on the counter as she turned on her computer to check her messages and to go over her notes for her interview today. Her interview is with Jones Designs; they are looking for someone to design and decorate their new clients house, If she gets this job it could definitely put her right where she wants to be.

Brooklyn notice the time and realizes she needs to get ready. She showers and gets dressed, while getting her notes together she looked at Jacob’s number and starts thinking about her conversation with her neighbor so she decides to text him.

Hey Jacob

This is Brooklyn here is my number

471-350-7446

Have a good day Neighbor 

Brooklyn thinking herself; “Hmm he is sexy with his chocolate self; He could definitely get it.” She laughing as she grabs her briefcase going out the door.

Jacob arrives to work early today to get caught up on some of his work and to avoid the morning crowd of women who greet him every day when he enters the building. Normally he would like the attention but since the recent loss of his Uncle and dealing with bad breakup; his mind has been elsewhere. While waiting for the elevator his checks his emails on his phone, he doesn’t realize the elevator doors have opened until he hears someone clearing their throat, he looked up to see the group of women who are normal outside when he come into working in the morning. He smiles;

“After you ladies” he said stepping to the side so they can get off. A voice from the back of the groups yells;

“no were staying on you just get in” said the voice. All the women begin to laugh. Jacob gets on the elevator smiling and shaking his head. The elevator ride is silent until a voice from the back of the elevator yells out “damn he smells good!”. The women being to laugh uncontrollably as the doors open to the 12floor. Jacob steps of the elevator holding the door “after you ladies” he said smiling at them. They exit slowly pass him getting close enough to inhale his scent, the last lady to get off the elevator looks at him and smiles “have a good day Mr. Bonner” she said softly. He looks her tilting his “Oh now you whispering” he said laughing “You have a good day too” he said walking toward his office.

 Jacob’s secretary Felicia is walking towards him; “Good morning Mr. Bonner, I’ll be right back I have to go see Mr. Young” she said hurrying down the hallway, before he can respond to her she’s gone. He goes into his office to get ready for his meeting when his phone beeps he takes it out of his pocket to check his messages, he doesn’t recognize the number so he opens the text to read it;

***Hey Jacob***

***This is Brooklyn here is my number***

***471-350-7446.***

***Have a good day***

He laughs out loud “Ok Brookie baby” He said smiling to himself. He sits down to check his email when his cell phone rings, he answers it and quickly regret’s not check his caller id;

“Hello?” He said

“Hello Jake, how are you? Replied the voice.

He is silent for a moment trying to catch the voice; he looked at the caller id to who it is, he shakes his head when he sees its Kim. He put his head down on his “damn” he mumbles

“Hey Kim what’s up?” he replied

 “Hey Jake what’s with you” she asked.

But before he can answer she hits him with another question “why haven’t you been returning my calls?” She asked with a pitched tone in her voice.

 “Come on with that Kim, you know it’s been really busy for me and my family since my Uncle O passed away.” He replied

“I know that, that’s why I had been calling you. I just wanted to make sure you were ok but you just kept sending my calls straight to voice mail” she replied sarcastically.

He laughed closing his office door “Naw my phone was broke, I’m just left the sprint store I had to get a new phone” He replied.

“So you don’t you know my number by heart?” She asked with sarcasm in her voice

“Kim didn’t I just say my phone was broke?” He replied “yo what do you want man” he asked. She can hear the annoyance in his voice. She sighed rolling her eyes

“When am I going to see you Jake, kitty misses you so much? She asked popping her gum in his ear.

“I don’t know?” He asked.

“Well I’m cooking your favorite tonight if you want to come over” She said

“I have to let you know I’m not sure what time I’m getting off tonight.” He replied.

She sucks her teeth

“Whatever Jacob you need to ms. kitty is getting tired of you, she’s ready to go back outside and play” She replied

“Ok well you better remind ms kitty that nobody likes a stray alley cat!” He replied laughing

“What?!! Fuck you Jake, bye boi” She yelled into the phone as she hangs.

“Bye Kim” he laughed

 He puts his phone in his pocket and grabs his reports and head to the main conference for his meeting.

The meeting was over pretty quick but before everyone leaves the conference room Mr. Young makes an announcement; “There will be a few changes around the office in the weeks to come; I will keep everyone posted daily on these changes.” He said walking out the conference room.

Jacob goes back to his office to finish up his reports so he can leave early to go run ball with his buddy Grant.

Felicia his secretary knocked on the door;

“Yes coming in” he responded. The door opens slowly, he looks up to see her standing there holding a large stack of papers. “ahh what is all this” he asked getting up to help her.

“Mr. Bonner I’m not sure but a courier just dropped this off for you, is says it’s from your father’s office” she replied taking a deep breath. He takes the pile of papers from and puts them on his desk, He just looked at the pile of papers.

“Well Felicia I think we are done for tonight we can figure this out in the morning” he said picking up his bag

“I agree Mr. Bonner I agree. Good night” she replied going back to her desk.

“Good night see you in the morning” he replied closing his office door behind him.

He takes out his phone to call his homie Grant on his way to the elevator; it rings a few times before Grant answers;

“Wat up Jake” he said

“Wat up G.” replied Jacob.

As Jacob walks towards the elevator the women in the office all start to stand up saying good night to him as he walks pass; “Good night Mr. Bonner” said they ladies smiling and waving to him.

“Man who is that” asked Grant laughing.

“Yo it’s the women in the office they do this all day long, every morning and every night” he replied laughing.

Jacob gets on the elevator as the doors closes he yells out; “good night ladies”. He smiling to the sounds of their laughter as the elevator head to the lobby

“Jake, you still coming tonight right?” asked grant

“Yea 7-7:30 right” he replied.

“Yes and don’t be late” said grant

“Man I’m not, I’m going home to change and then I‘ll be there. yo did you tell them niggas I’m playing tonight?” He asked. Grant sigh shaking head;

“Yeaaaa LeBron Jordan they know but them niggas are not scared of ya old ass no more.” Laughed Grant

“Whatever I’m sure you are only saying that cause I’m on your team.” He replied laughing.

“Whatever man, see you in few Peace” replied Grant hanging up.

Jacob arrives home he stops to get his mail when he notices that Brooklyn’s name is her mail box; “Brooklyn DeVore I can’t wait to welcome you to my building” he said to himself getting on the elevator. When he gets off the elevator he starts looking for his keys but he is distracted by the scent lingering in the hallway he walks down the hallway enjoying the delightful scent when Jacob gets to his apartment he sees a note on his door. He grabs it and read it.

***Hey Jakie Bear***

***I’m sorry I snapped on you earlier,***

***I really miss you***

***Love Kim***

Jacob shakes his head as he opens his apartment door, He said putting his bag down on the counter as he walks towards his bedroom, he abruptly stopped in the hallway “Wait how does she know where I live, I don’t remember bring her here. Let me find out you stalking Kim.” He said walking into his room “You don’t miss the kid you miss this good dickkk!!” He laughs at himself as he gets in the shower.

Jacob is putting on his t-shirt as he walks pass the window he sees Brooklyn getting out of a cab; he grabs his gym bag and rushes to his door. He stands in his doorway until sees her getting off the elevator, he starts walking slowly up the hallway acting like he doesn’t see her coming; he puts his head phones on with the music down low.

Brooklyn gets off the elevator and sees him walking towards her;

 “mmm Hello Neighbor now I can get a good look at you Mr. Jacob” She mumbles to herself. She looks at him from head to toe as he walks towards her; “umm that tank fits him perfectly, he has nice broad shoulders, nice strong arms, chest and abs ok neighbor, now let’s check for the most important thing what’s his basketball shorts hiding” she thinks to herself a he gets closer. She quickly looks down as he walks pass “ok neighbor I see you” she mumbles. She looked up at him smiling and laughing to herself. she starts looking for her keys when he stops halfway down the hall and turns around taking his head phones off;

 “Hi its Brooklyn, right?” He asked pretending he’s not sure about her name.

“Yes, hi how are you” She replies not look up at him.

“So Brooklyn did you think about my offer to show you around?” He asked as he leaned against the walk trying to get her to look up at him.

She looked at him out of the corner of her eye “Umm no, you just asked me this morning” She replied sounding annoyed

“Oh ok” He laughed “Well the offer is still always open.” He said while backing down the hall waiting for her to turn around.

“Ok I’ll keep that in mind” She replied. she pulls out her keys to open her apartment door. “Good night Jacob” She said opening her door and quickly closing it behind her.

“Wow good night Brooklyn; ok so she’s want to playing hard to get, I like a challenge this should be fun.” he said to himself while waiting for the elevator.

 Brooklyn rushes over to the window to watch him walk to his car. “Damn he’s fine but I need to stay focused right now no distraction” She said to herself

Jacob comes out the building and get into his car and heads to the gym to meets up with Grant, where they run a few games of basketball. after the game, they walked to the parking lot. Grant stops besides his car wipe his face with his T-shirt when he asked him about Kim;

“So what’s up with you and Kim?” He asked

“Nothing why?” Jacob replied shrugging his shoulders.

“She’s has been driving crazy my girl’s telling her about you and your shenanigans, how she is tired of ya shit and that she is going to break up with you and cut you off for good.” He replied laughing

“Breakup with who me, really how is she going to do that she’s not even my girl.” replied Jacob

“Yeah well she thinks she is, you needs to fix that before she cause more problems for you and your real girlfriend.” He replied

“Hey did ya girl tell her where I live ?” asked Jacob

“No why” he asked. Jacob looked around the parking lot.

“Yo why did you ask me that?” said Grant looking around too.

“She was at my place today” he replied.

Grant looked at him puzzled; “Who, my girl was at your place today” asked Grant

“What, no Kim was at my apartment today she left a note on my door saying how she’s sorry for snapping out on me today for not wanting to come over for dinner tonight.” He said putting his bag in his car.

Grant shakes his head; “I told you to stop playing with her you know she’s crazy man” he replied with a smirk on his face. “you know she licensed to carry right” said grant

 “Whatever man” he replied laughing

“So, can she cook?” asked Grant trying to keep a straight face.

“I don’t fucking know I just smash and roll, plus that cooking stuff make me nervous” he replied with his face frowned up

“What makes you nervous? Asked Grant “Roots” he replied

“What?” replied Grant looking confused?

“My grandma warned me a about girls who always want to cook for you, she said that’s how they put the roots on you” he replied

Grant just looked at him shaking head

“For real man she might be trying to root me or something.” He replied

“Man, you’re crazy as hell you know that right.” Laughed Grant

“Whatever she’s not gonna get me” he laughed “Plus I have a new victim on my hit list, she just moved in down the hall from me” he replied

“Whatever man you keep playing with fire and your ass is gonna get burnt.” Replied Grant getting into his car, Jacob gets in his car and rolls down his window;

“You know I’m too cool to ever get burnt.” replied Jacob

Grant shakes his head; “I hear you bro, alright I’m out be safe” he said driving off.

“Peace G” he replied rolling up his window. They both drive off.

On the way home Jacob stops to get something to eat. When he gets out his car he hears loud music coming from the building, when he gets off the elevator he realizes the music is coming from Brooklyn’s apartment, he stands by her door tempted to knock but he doesn’t he goes home, eats dinner, showers and watches ESPN until he falls asleep.