

# PHOTO BOMBED by Daria White

## EXCERPT

“Did you feel that way when I got married? That I was leaving you behind in a way?”

“I was happy for you,” her mother said. “I think most parents are, but time goes by so fast. One moment your kids are babies and the next, they’re graduating and off to college.”

Bianca winced. “Don’t remind me, please.”

“See what I mean?” her mother continued. “Alyssa is not too far behind.”

“And now there’s a boy.”

Her mother grinned. “I see. How’s that going?”

Bianca’s eyes widened slightly. “No ‘she’s too young to be dating’? Isn’t that what you said to me at her age?”

Her mother waved off her question. “I’m the grandmother, so I can spoil her. I was only strict with you and Melanie.”

“Traitor.”

Her mother winked at her.

“Well, I want to meet the boy before she goes out with him.”

Her mother bobbed her head. “Now you remind me of your father. That’s exactly what he said when you told us about your crush on Malcom. He wanted to hire a private investigator.”

Bianca’s mouth fell open. “He didn’t.”

“I stopped him,” her mother said. “After I told him I would keep an eye on you two.”

“I still can’t believe you followed us on our first date.” Bianca ran a finger over her eyebrow.

“It was either him or me.” Her mother paused as her fingers drifted to her now bare ring finger. “Sometimes I can still hear him laughing. Even in my dreams, I can see his face. Hear his voice. To think we almost made forty years.”

Bianca touched her mother’s hand. “I miss him.” There’d been terrible beyond health circumstances. If only his heart had been stronger, but it took him away from the family too soon.

Her mother patted her hand. “Me too.”

“Ladies and gentlemen, the bride and groom are heading out!” the DJ announced through his microphone.

Bianca grabbed her small purse and the small drawstring bag that was filled with birdseed. She smiled, knowing her friend didn't want the birds to choke on rice. She followed along with her mother as they tossed the birdseed at the couple. The limo waited for them, but Chad kissed Nicole one more time before opening the door. The crowd cheered only louder.

Bianca managed one last glance at Jordan, but he slipped away from the crowd. She didn't blame him for not staying, but since he was Nicole's best friend, Bianca knew he would show his support. He'd do anything for Nicole.

Tossing more birdseed, family and friends cheered and whistled at the newlywed couple. Bianca's chest swelled. Her friend's bouquet was tucked underneath her arm. Would she get married again? Bianca would think about that later. Right now, she wanted to get out of her five-inch pumps. They'd served their purpose, but she was grateful that she had flats in her car.

Chad opened the door for his new wife, only to hear Nicole's high-pitched scream. Bianca's instincts kicked in and she scurried to her friend's side. Nicole's face paled. Looking inside the limousine, Bianca spotted someone sitting across from where they stood.

She didn't hesitate to walk to the other side. Bianca gasped at the sight.