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# SAPPHIRE

Midnight Oasis Book Two

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Published by Blushing Books  
An Imprint of  
ABCD Graphics and Design, Inc.  
A Virginia Corporation  
977 Seminole Trail #233  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

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Jill Shannon  
Sapphire

eBook ISBN: 978-1-68259-949-5  
v3

Cover Art by ABCD Graphics & Design  
This book contains fantasy themes appropriate for mature readers only.  
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## Chapter 1

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**M**adison stood holding the maid-of-honor dress she had agreed to wear for Sadie and Cameron's wedding. She couldn't believe how fast the time had passed. It seemed like yesterday they announced their engagement.

Isabella came into the dressing room carrying a similar looking dress, as they were both Sadie's maids-of-honor. However, Sadie didn't want them in the same dress, so they were here, trying to decide.

"I kind of like the one you're holding," Isabella said.

"Here, you try it on." Madison handed her the dress. "Can you believe the wedding is a month away?" she shouted when Isabella closed the dressing room door.

"I know. They say time goes faster as you get older." Isabella came out with the dress on, laughing.

"Wow, that really looks good on you. It's a good color too." Madison turned her toward the mirror.

"It does look nice if I do say so." Isabella turned to the left, the right, then all the way around, to see the back. "They'll have to hem it a little, but if you don't mind, I'd like this one?"

Madison looked over her shoulder in the mirror. "I think you should wear it; it really does look better on you." The gown was a satin sapphire blue, thick sash halter dress, leaving her shoulders exposed. It was gathered in the waist to one side, held by a silver clasp designed like angel wings. The bottom flowed to the floor with a small train in the back.

The dress hugged her curves in all the right places. "Sadie said to just buy what we liked, and Matthew from costume design will do the alterations we need. Cameron set up an account for us for anything we need."

"Shoes included?" Isabella asked with glee in her eyes.

"Yes, even shoes," Madison confirmed.

"Do you think Cameron's brother will be at the wedding?" Isabella shouted from the dressing room.

Madison hoped he wouldn't but wasn't too confident he wasn't coming. "I don't know. Sadie hasn't said whether or not he sent back the response card they sent with his invitation." Every day Madison prayed he wouldn't be there.

She and Dimitri had been together since the launch of the *Onyx*, but with the launch of the *Sapphire* a month away, she hadn't seen much of him, and when she did, he just dragged himself into bed.

She was starting to think he was losing interest with her. They hardly played anymore, and when he wasn't working, he was catching up with his friends. She had been feeling very neglected lately, and with her past relationship with Xavier hanging in the balance, it was better if she didn't see him.

Isabella came out of the dressing room again. "Hey, where'd you go? I was asking you if Dimitri has hinted about a collaring ceremony for you and him on the ship."

Madison stared blankly at her. "Hey, what's the matter?" Isabella went to her, holding both her hands.

"I don't know, it's just that he's been so distant lately. I

think instead of a collaring ceremony, he's going to end our contract." A single tear slid down her cheek.

Isabella wiped it away. "Madison, he's just really busy. Caleb comes home and does the same thing, I'm sure."

"Okay, does Caleb fall asleep when you're talking to him in bed?"

"Well, we don't talk much in bed, but when we have, no, he's stayed awake." Isabella hesitated. "But I'm sure all that will change after the launch."

"You know if it wasn't for the wedding being planned for the ship, I wouldn't go." Madison sounded so sad.

"You have to go. You can't let his work get in the way. You'll have his total attention when we're underway."

"Well, of course, I'm going. I wouldn't miss Sadie's wedding. I just think I might book my own cabin with Melanie. Nothing like being prepared. Besides, it's either do that or bunk with you, and I don't think Caleb would be on board with that."

"I think you're seeing something that's not there, but you do what you have to."

They left the store, bags full to the brim with what they would need for the wedding. Madison dropped Isabella at her apartment then headed home feeling a little better after talking to her.

When she got there, she carried her bags in and threw them on the couch. She called for Dimitri but got no answer. She headed to the answering machine and pressed play.

The first message was from the dress shop, reminding her that they could do the alterations on the dress. Delete. The next message was from her sister, telling her that her father was in town. "Big deal," Madison muttered under her breath. Delete.

The last message had her holding her breath; it was from Xavier. "You refused to talk to me on the ship, and now you've

blocked my number from your cell phone. We need to talk eventually. I've missed you, Amber, please call me."

She stood and stared blankly at the answering machine. Then she thought, *what if Dimitri heard this message, and left?* She headed to the bedroom to look for his stuff. Thankfully it was all still there. She raced back into the other room to erase the message.

Madison was in the process of pushing delete when Dimitri walked in the apartment. "Who called?" he questioned as she pressed the delete button.

"Just some newspaper looking for an interview."

"Why did you delete it? We can use all the publicity we can get, and if it's free, that's the best kind." He smiled, giving her a kiss on the cheek.

"Oh, sorry. I thought Melanie had set up all your interviews for the launch."

"She did, but the more the merrier." He put his stuff down on the couch and headed back toward her, scooping her up in his arms. "We are just about a month away from the launch. I don't remember being this nervous with the last one."

"Maybe because last time, Cameron took some of the edge off by helping. Remember, he did all the groundwork so he wouldn't run into Sadie."

"Oh, yeah, that's right. I did forget that. He has helped, but not as much as the last time. He's too preoccupied with his bride-to-be."

"Can you blame him? It's exciting getting married, so I'm told."

"Well, they can keep it, I'm just fine being a Master to my sub. Don't you agree?" Dimitri questioned, placing her on the ground.

"I guess so." Madison's response was close to a whisper.

"No rings and collars for us. We know who we are, Right?"

With every question Dimitri asked, Madison retreated a

little more within herself. "Yes, you are correct, Master." She reached for her bag and keys.

"Where are you going?"

"I have to meet Isabella to go over wedding stuff. I'll be home late so don't wait up. I'm sure you're tired." She stood where she was as he bent to kiss her goodbye.

"Say hello for me." Then turning on his heel, he waved over his shoulder as he walked down the hall to the bedroom.

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Madison sat in her car, her phone in her hand, looking at the *Sapphire*. It really was a beautiful ship, similar to the *Onyx*, but the colors were all in blues and grays.

She looked at her phone in her hand. If she didn't call him, he could call the apartment and leave another message, and she couldn't have that. She dialed Xavier's number.

"Hello, beautiful. I knew I'd be hearing from you. Still haven't said anything to Dimitri about me, have you?"

"No, and I plan on keeping it that way. You have to stop this. There is nothing between us, and there never will be."

"That's where you're wrong, Amber. I would have never let you go if I had known what was happening. Where are you? I will meet you."

Madison knew he wasn't going to go away until he saw that she had moved on and was with Dimitri. "Fine, I'm at the docks by the *Sapphire*, and Xavier, it's Madison now."

"I'll be there in ten minutes. Don't go anywhere." Then the phone went dead.

Madison looked around the area. Usually, it was busy with activity, but it was a Sunday and everyone but security had the day off. That reminded her. *Stay away from the cameras.*

Xavier pulled up next to Madison's car and joined her in it. "You look the same, yet different. I mean, your hair is

longer and a different color, but there's a maturity in your face that wasn't there when we were together. It suits you."

"Xavier, we can't do this. We weren't right then, and I can't imagine us being good now. Why can't you just let me go?" As much as the words were coming out of her mouth, he knew there was no conviction behind them.

"Because deep down you know I'm right. We had a few bumps in our relationship, but nothing we couldn't have worked through. You just disappeared." There was a pleading look in his clear blue eyes.

Madison started to panic; she didn't know how to answer him. There were things in her past no one knew about and she wanted to keep it that way. Hearing the plea in his request pulled at her heart, though. The timbre of his voice vibrated through her, making her wet. She needed to concentrate or she'd be in deep shit. She couldn't hurt Dimitri.

She shook those thoughts off. "Things have been hectic with the launch of the new ship, then the planning for the wedding. No one has had time for anything," she lied with a straight face.

"There is always time for the person you love," Xavier said as he brushed some hair from her face, cradling her cheek in his palm.

She leaned into the warmth of his hand, remembering a time when she craved his touch all over her body.

"You still remember my touch; I can feel it." He captured her lips. Coaxing them open, he deepened the kiss.

She responded just like he knew she would. She was everything he had hoped to find in his perfect mate, but she had disappeared from his life in the blink of an eye, and he planned on getting her back. No matter what it took.



Dimitri had waited for Madison to leave the garage before he climbed into his black Mercedes SLK550. Then he followed her to the dock.

He watched as an Audi R8 Spyder pulled up. He saw Xavier Legend get out, then climb into the passenger seat of Madison's car. His anger grew with every lie he caught her in. He had heard Xavier's message but had left it to see what Madison or Amber would do with it. Amber, that was the name Ryan had called her.

From where he sat, he couldn't see what was happening in her car, and her tinted windows didn't help, either. He sat there for almost thirty minutes before the passenger door opened and Xavier got out.

Dimitri liked Xavier. Cameron had introduced them on the launch of the *Onyx* and he had ended up going to lunch with them. The conversation had covered a wide range of topics, and then it hit on the upcoming launch, and with that, the wedding.

"Dimitri is going to be my best man, but Sadie has asked both Madison and Isabella to be her maids-of-honor, so I guess I need two best men. You up for the job?"

"To walk down the aisle with Madison. Hell yeah!" The words were out of Xavier's mouth before he could stop them. "Sorry, dude, but she's hot," he said quickly to cover his admission.

"I get it. Don't think I don't know what I have," Dimitri countered. He looked at Xavier as if seeing him for the first time. He had a military cut hairstyle, a chiseled jaw, with thick brown eyebrows that covered crystal blue eyes. His olive skin gave him a Mediterranean look. His shoulders were wide, his arms bulged with muscles, and around both biceps, he had tattoos wrapping around them. He imagined he had a six-pack under his shirt. His gaze had traveled farther, catching a

look at the bulge in his pants, and as he raised his eyes, he caught Xavier looking at him as well.

Dimitri had never been attracted to men before, but there was something about Cameron's brother that affected him. Dimitri hid his growing erection, not knowing how to deal with the feelings he was having. He had had a similar feeling when they had met on the cruise. He had excused himself from lunch and had not seen Xavier since.

Now, he watched him adjust the bulge in his pants before closing the door and getting back into his own car. He wasn't sure if he was mad at Madison for meeting Xavier behind his back, or for Xavier having the same effect on him.

Dimitri knew there was something missing from his relationship with Madison. Things had changed after Xavier came into their life, but now sitting in the car, an idea was forming. He figured it could be a win for everyone. He just wasn't sure if he could really follow through on it. Sharing Madison would take a lot of getting used to, but if that's what it took to keep her, he would.

Dimitri watched until both cars had left before he started his car and headed toward Cameron's penthouse. He knew if anyone could convince him this was right, it would be Cameron.