
A HOME FOR HER HEART

Slater Brothers - Book One

HANNAH KANE



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This book contains fantasy themes appropriate for mature readers only. Nothing in this book should be interpreted as Blushing Books' or the author's advocating any non-consensual sexual activity.

Chapter 1

Detective Anson Slater of the Madison Police looked around the room at the women gathered there. All of them were young and attractive. Anson's eye had been drawn immediately to a victim named Emily Jonas. She had an almost ethereal look, which caused his protective instincts to rise to the surface. Her long, light curls floated around a young, delicate face with large eyes and sensuous lips. His strong and sudden reaction to her vulnerability surprised him.

Anson kept his seething emotions at bay as he listened to the young women talk about the fear, anger and guilt they had suffered since their horrific experiences with the state senator who had sexually preyed on them.

Because the senator threatened to ruin their lives or the lives of those they loved, most of the women had not called the police to level charges. Only in the most recent case, involving Lydia McCauley, had the police been called, after Jacobi attacked her in her home but was thwarted by her husband. This was the first police report filed on the senator so his high power lawyer was quite sure the charges would be dropped. That case was pending.

Tracy Anders, one of the victims, had been brave enough to

dig into rumors and records to contact women who had worked for the senator and whom she thought might have been subjected to violation from the misogynistic and perverse legislator.

Tracy had carefully approached the other women, told them of her experience and encouraged them to come forward as a group, maintaining that there was strength in numbers. Four of them had met the day before in secret in a nearby park, to determine who wanted to move forward with accusations against the senator and how that might look. They had agreed to try to meet again today. For that meeting to happen, Lydia and Sarah had to come clean with Cade and Connor about their secret meeting with the other victims. They had defied their men, put themselves in danger and then lied. Needless to say, both women paid the price for their actions with epic spankings, but in the end they were able to convince Cade and Connor to allow another meeting with the victims, the journalist, and the lawyer. It was important for the men to also attend the meeting, so they invited everyone to Connor's house, which had the advantage of being located outside of Madison on a private cul-de-sac. Reporters who had been harassing Lydia since the attack were unfamiliar with the location so they hoped they had some privacy there.

Just hearing each other's stories had been powerfully liberating to the women in this small group, and they were now meeting with a reporter who had a plan to expose the senator by using strategically timed press releases and even a video featuring statements from the women. As encouraged as the women were, "coming out" was a big risk. That's why none of them had felt confident enough to do this alone.

Tracy had contacted the others gathered in the room. First, there was Anita Black, who was a well-respected journalist covering women's issues effectively and thoughtfully. Anita's fiancé, Jackson, was also there. Jackson was a lawyer whose perspective on the legal options for both the victims and the

perpetrator would be helpful. Also in attendance, were victims Lydia MacCauley, Coco Bentley, and Emily Jonas.

And then there was Detective Anson Slater. He had a vested interest in this case. First, his own sister had been murdered a few years earlier by a man who was sexually obsessed with her. She had tried to get help but, as the man was the CEO of the company where she interned, she was not believed. Anson's family was devastated by the profound loss and he lived with the tremendous guilt that he could have done more to prevent her death.

Secondly, Senator Jacobi's most recent victim was married to Anson's good friend Cade McCauley. They had been childhood friends and played sports together later on. Cade had called Anson in a panic about his wife being attacked, Anson responded immediately, dedicated to the idea that he would help Cade keep his wife safe. Also there, at Anson's suggestion, were the significant others attached to each woman. From experience, he knew it was helpful to have everyone who lived together on the same page if a plan was to be successful.

Anson was there so he could take statements from each woman about what had happened to her. It was essential if formal charges were going to be leveled. He understood this would be very difficult for the women but he was a professional and knew how to guide people through difficult narratives. It was important that they get the statements as soon as possible to maintain protocol, and also to help the women articulate their stories when interviewed for the video.

Anson felt that the discussion had gone very well so far, with the young women and their partners asking relevant questions. Anson, Anita and Jackson were able to field most concerns and questions and a consensus might have been reached quickly if not for Emily's boyfriend, Frank.

At the onset, Emily's partner Frank was the most vocal against proceeding with the video to be used to expose Senator

Jacobi. "I don't think I want Emily involved in this. I think all of you risk your own reputations by making these accusations," he said. "And I know I don't want my girl mixed up in this. Come on, Emily. I've heard enough. Let's go."

The room got very quiet as everyone watched to see how Emily would respond.

"I think I'll stay, Frank. You can leave if you want to. Someone here will bring me home," Emily responded, trying to sound casual even though she was upset.

"No. I want you to come with me now. We need to talk about this," Frank said as he took her arm to propel her toward the door.

Emily wrested her arm away and said, "This is not about you, Frank. I am staying to hear Anita out. As I said, if you want to go, go."

Now Frank looked angry. "We *are* going to discuss this later. Don't make any commitments if you know what's good for you."

Emily's face turned red but she turned away from him and made a dismissive gesture with her arm. "Just go, Frank."

Frank looked around the room. "You're all going to be sorry about this. No one will believe you. I'm not sure I even believe you."

Emily Jonas was a petite woman whose scattered freckles across her nose made her look younger than her twenty-five years. Her strawberry-blonde hair fell in soft curls to the middle of her back and her eyes were large and notably gray in color. Emily surprised everyone when she tugged her arm out of Frank's grip and replied to her boyfriend, "Nothing good? Nothing good will come of this? How about preventing this pervert from hurting another woman? You don't think that's good?"

Cade McCauley and Anson Slater moved in at the same time, going after Frank. Both of them were large, muscular men and they towered over Frank.

Anson spoke first, "Hold up right there, Frank. Let's ask Emily what she would like to do." Then he turned to Emily and asked, "Do you want to stay and take part in this discussion, Emily?"

She made eye contact with Anson and said, "Yes, I believe we are doing the right thing." Then she gave Frank a look of disgust and said, "If you disagree, Frank, maybe you should just leave. I'll get a ride home."

"I'll be taking statements from those who wish to give them later. I'll take Emily home after I'm finished."

Frank saw he was bested but he leveled an angry gaze on Emily and said, "You're going to be sorry you didn't come home with me, Emily."

"Just go, Frank," Emily said and turned back to the room.

Anson moved toward him and said, "Let me show you to the door, Frank."

About twenty minutes later, a plan had been outlined and Anson took the women downstairs, one by one, to the lower level where he could privately get statements from each.

Emily was the last one. Before they began, Anson said, "It's clear Frank doesn't approve of you giving a statement. How do you feel about it?"

"I have to do it, Detective. I can't bear to think of anyone else going through what we did because I was afraid to speak up," she said bravely.

"Please. Call me Anson," he said gently. Then he continued, "I have to ask. Do you feel safe going home when we are finished here?"

Emily paused just long enough to concern him. When she finally spoke, she said, "I can usually handle Frank. I will be okay."

Anson didn't press her and said, "Let's get started with your statement then. Why don't you sit down and get comfortable? I'm going to be recording our conversation. You can begin your story anytime."

Anson noticed that Emily was steeling herself for the pain it would take to talk about what had happened to her. She was brave—and beautiful.