

Love Impaired by Tonya Franklin

CHAPTER REVEAL

Jared loved being at home, but the first ten minutes was always the struggle for him. Although it had been two years, it was still seared in his mind his routine of when he came home, Monica was right there at the door waiting for him with a cold drink and that gorgeous smile.

These days no smile or cold drink met him at the door, and it hurt. He hated being alone, but he hated being heartbroken even more. He had two blind dates that his brother set him up on, but they turned out to be disasters. Jared just wasn't ready to date, and he didn't know if he'd ever be ready again.

That fateful day when he came home early and didn't find his Monica there. He figured she was still at work, and didn't even flinch in worry. But after his usual getting off time came and gone, and he hadn't heard from her, he decided to call her. When he didn't get an answer, he became worried that something had happened to her. He hopped in his car and drove nearly sixteen miles to her small cottage outside of town. To his surprise, he saw his boss's car in her driveway. With pierced eyes of concern and a feeling he couldn't quite describe and shake, he turned the motor off to his car, parking it nearly two blocks away. He walked up to the house, and walked around quietly to her bedroom. Through a tiny crack in the open curtain, he could see what his eyes dreaded and his stomach couldn't handle. Vomiting right there where he stood, catatonic as he walked back to his car. His boss and his woman? Was this why she urged him to take that extra shift? So she could screw around with his boss?

To this day, Jared doesn't know how he made it back home. He remembered pulling in the parking lot. Getting out, Jared packed up the few things that Monica kept at his house, and set her boxes on the front porch.

He drunk himself under his own bed that night, which was something he rarely did. After waking up, the chirping birds made him want to pull out his bible – which he did. He poured into the words that comforted him as much as it broke him. He cried and cried until his soul was empty. Nothing now was left in his heart except distance.