

Branded But
BROKE

The Journey Begins

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Branded But Broke – The Journey Begins

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Other books by L. A. Logan –

Love No Limit Series

Love No Limit

Gotta Believe

Round & Round

And The Room Went Silent

Scared of Lonely

Branded but Broke

This book is dedicated to anyone who thought fame,
fortune and material things could buy your happiness.

True happiness starts within. Matthew 16:26

The teachers and administrators at William Hall High Charter School in Austin, Texas have more love triangles going than the students they were hired to teach. With each secret affair that's discovered, it becomes apparent that each employee has a taste for the finer things in life and most are willing to do whatever it takes to obtain it.

But under the name brand tags are many broken pieces that refuse to be held together by material things. Each has a story to tell...

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The Ladies

L. A. Logan

Naylor

ONE

It was Monday morning and Naylor was inching in and out of the slow traffic on the I-35 in an effort to get to work on time. She should've been there at that very moment, instead of glaring at each driver that refused to let her merge in front of them, but instead she'd chosen to take those extra thirty minutes with Donavon, knowing she didn't have them to spare.

This would be her fourth time running late in the past two weeks and she knew Whitney Maxton, her boss, wasn't going to be happy with her. She decided to stop fighting with traffic and save all her energy for the *talk* she knew Whitney would be having with her before the day was out.

"I've got to stop this nonsense. If the church mothers could see me now," Naylor said out loud, gently hitting her palm on her wood-grained steering wheel.

As her music blared in the background, Naylor was not so much frustrated with the traffic, but more so with herself. She knew her nonchalant attitude and behavior needed to change, especially since it was starting to affect her job.

Although her job was technically fifteen minutes away, in heavy traffic, it could easily turn into forty-five minutes. Austin, TX morning traffic was now at a dead stop and

Naylor was even more frustrated as she could see exit 232A a few feet in front of her. She waited a few minutes before deciding that getting a ticket for driving on the shoulder was worth the risk if it bought her at least five more minutes of time. As soon as she reached her exit, her cell phone rang. She already knew who it was.

“Hello?” Naylor said, rolling her eyes in annoyance.

“Where are you? I told you I wanted you to show the new English teacher’s aide around! Candice is out on maternity leave and I didn’t want her substitute handling it,” Naylor heard Whitney say.

“I know, I know, I know. I wasn’t feeling too well this morning and almost called in but realized I promised to help out,” Naylor said, driving 30 mph through the employee parking lot instead of the posted 10 mph.

She had caught a break in the traffic along with running a couple of red lights.

“Okay, so, can you answer my original question please?” Whitney asked, irritation evident in her tone.

“I’m in the teachers’ lounge. Where is she?” Naylor asked, shuffling down the hall towards the office.

She was doing her best not to sound out of breath after the sprint she had made from the car to the lounge and now towards the main office.

“You mean where is *he* and his name is Eddie. He is in the office waiting on you to show up,” Whitney said, growing more frustrated.

“Okay, I must have misheard you, I thought you said the name was Edith. I’m coming through the office door now,” Naylor said, before hanging up.

Naylor stood outside in the hallway for a few more moments in an effort to catch her breath. There was no way

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she wanted Whitney to know just how late she was really running.

Naylor Jones was a 9th grade English teacher at William Hall High Charter School and had been there since its inception six years ago. She and Whitney had started at the school at the same time as the teachers, but Whitney was recently promoted to principal. Naylor was struggling to adjust to this change, mainly because Whitney had become one of her best friends throughout the past six years. Naylor was also secretly jealous that Whitney was promoted over her. Although she and Whitney had the same experience, Naylor felt her degree should have sealed the job for her, not for her best friend.

Naylor was doing her best to keep her true feelings under wraps since their council board members recently approved adding two assistant principal positions due to the increasing attendance at the school. She was sure as long as she acted accordingly she would be the number one pick for one of the two positions.

“There she is! Eddie, this is Naylor. Naylor, meet Eddie,” Naylor heard Whitney’s obnoxious voice say as soon as she entered the office.

Naylor, originally distracted by all the kids and parents that were in the office, hadn’t noticed Whitney or her new co-worker until she heard her name from the left of the room. She wondered how she had put up with Whitney’s voice for all these years or if maybe, her voice had only become nerve-racking because she was now her boss.

“Well hello, Naylor. It’s nice to meet you,” Eddie said, extending his hand for a handshake.

Naylor was slightly speechless at the sight that was before her. He wasn’t bad looking by her standards—a little short for her taste—but still doable. Eddie looked like he

stood 5'10" and weighed around 250lbs, give or take 10lbs. His skin was flawless, the color of night at its darkest moment. He was beautiful, but not in a metro sexual kind of way, but in a manly man way.

Before she started to undress him with her eyes, Naylor was distracted once again by that annoying voice.

"Naylor? Are you okay?" she heard Whitney ask.

"Yes, I'm fine. I'm sorry Eddie, you look familiar to me, and I was trying to figure out why. Anyway, give me a little time and it will come to me. It is nice to meet you. Are you ready to get your first day on the job started?" Naylor asked, purposely ignoring Whitney.

"No problem. I'm ready when you are," Eddie said, smiling.

Naylor thought she would faint at the sight of those pretty pearly white teeth. She had to really talk to herself because she felt her mind trying to take her to a thought that had no business taking place in a school. The one thing she was going to do was look up his Facebook profile to see what his relationship status was. Depending on what she saw, she just might have to give somebody a run for their money.

"Eddie, Naylor will take great care of you, but if you need anything, don't hesitate to contact me. Again, welcome to the team," Naylor heard Whitney talking as she was doing her best to get him out of the office.

Naylor was going to do everything within her power to make sure Eddie would never trust Whitney, even if she had to tell a couple of white lies to accomplish it.