

## Chapter 0008

### The Billionaires Heirs

Ashley...

I am finally done. The cake is finished for the birthday party. I'm happy with my small coffee shop. I don't just make cakes and pastries for the shop; I also do catering for parties. Even though I only started three years ago, I must say that the business is doing well.

I had my first big event when I was about three months open when a young woman came in and asked if I could cater for her son's sixteenth birthday. After that party, the woman was impressed and told her friends about me and soon I had events one or sometimes four times a week. My employees are supportive and don't complain when we have so much work. Overall, I'm happy with my life now.

I looked at the time and saw that it was almost five and tonight I don't have any events, which means I can get the twins to daycare. I decided to walk since the daycare isn't that far from my shop.

When I arrived at the school, they were already waiting for me.

"Hey babies," I say, kneeling and opening up my arms for a hug and they come running and jump into my arms.

"I missed you, mommy," Ashton says, kissing my cheeks, followed by Isabella.

"I have missed you two as well." I kiss them, hugging them close to me.

I got up and looked at Riana. "Say goodbye to Riana," I said.

"Bye, Riana," They said together and waved at her.

"Goodbye Ashton, Isabella; see you Monday."

"Goodbye, Riana; enjoy your weekend," I said, taking the twins' hand.

"Thank you, Ashley; you too."

"Are we going to granny?" Isabella asked as we walked.

It has become a habit to eat out on Friday nights when my parents take us to their favorite place.

"Yes, baby, but first we need to bathe before they come to pick us up."

My parents and Domenic soon arrive and we are all on our way to Lemon Tree. The others are all waiting for us. I can't help but smile at the thought that I'm not alone.

We were talking and laughing when Sandra look at someone standing at our table, We all looked up and my smile instantly faded. The person I spent five years forgetting was here but not alone.

I sit here and unwittingly, my eyes were moving from their faces to their intertwined hands. I was completely shocked for a few seconds; I couldn't move. I can tell Adrian was

shocked as well but masked it really fast. I knew they were engaged I heard it in the news through the tabloids but seeing them together is another story. It's like my heart broke into a million pieces again.

I gulped hard and looked at Jason, who was waiting for my reaction I pleaded with my eyes that he should take the kids and go. I don't want them to see Adrian because they will notice the similarities they have with him. Luckily, the kids were playing and it seems as though Jason snapped what I was trying to say, "If you will excuse us, we have to get going," Jason says, tapping Freddie, who was confused but as soon as he looked at me, he understood.

"Um, yes, we have a long day tomorrow. Thank you for the lovely dinner."

The two of them walk to the playground and when I look up, I saw Adrian looking at me with a frown but I quickly look away.

"Ashley, what are you doing here?" I hear Tonya ask and when I look at her, she has her hands on Adrian's chest and smirking at me.

"Oh, yes Mr. Black you haven't heard the news yet," my father began, and I knew he was trying to hide his anger.

Adrian looks at my father and shakes his head.

"Three years ago, we found our long-lost daughter I would like to introduce you to Ashley or, shall I say, Ginevra Lia Marino," my father says, taking both of them by surprise. That sentence seemed to wipe that smirk off her face.

I looked at the playgrounds and saw Jason and Freddie already walking to the door with the twins and I was in relief.

"Your daughter? That can't be true, Mr. Marino," Tonya says with wide eyes.

"It is we have done DNA to confirm," my mother smiled.

Adrian stands there still shocked by the news but he once again quickly covers it up: "I'm glad you found her. If you will excuse us, we are waiting on my sister and her husband to arrive," Adrian says, taking Tonya's hand.

They leave our table and I can feel her staring daggers at me.

"Are you okay?" Sandra asked as soon as they were gone.

"Yes, it was just a surprise to see them here," I say, giving her a fake smile.

"I'm sorry, honey; if I knew they were going to be here, I would have never come," my father said, taking my hand. 1

"It's fine; besides, how would you have known he was here in L.A.? I'm just glad Jason and Freddie took the twins."

They all look at me as if they are waiting for me to burst out into tears.

"I'm fine, guys. Stop looking at me like that," I say, giving them the best smile I could master.

I saw Tonya staring at me but decided to ignore her and luckily, my father asked for the bill.

Sandra offered to take me home but I declined, telling her

that Dominic would take me, which was true.

"Are you sure you are alright?" Dominic asked as soon as we were in the car.

"Why does it still hurt to see him, Dom? Even after all these years?" I cry out.

Dominic pulled over and took my face in his hands.

"He was able to move on and I... I am here, not even able to love another man again."

"I know, Ash; we are all proud of you. The way you handled being a single mother with two beautiful angels' without anyone helping you financially. You are an amazing, strong woman. Look how far you have come without him in your life. I know it hurts to see him again but I also know you are strong enough to face whatever happens." I was a crying mess when he finished talking. 2

"It's okay to let it all out, you can't be strong all the time," he says, taking me in for a hug.


I don't know how long we have been sitting like this but after I felt better, I backed away and wiped my tears.

"Thank you, Dom," I said.

"I'm sorry, I messed up your shirt with my tears," I added, pointing to his shirt.

"It's nothing, princess, as long as you feel better."

I smiled at him, I'm lucky to have a brother like him.

 +20 BONUS

"Let's get you home before those two angels turn into devils,  
" Dominic says, laughing.

I will move on and forget about him, I promise myself as we  
drive home.

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