

## Chapter 12

"I'm here for tonight which means I can watch over Sophie."

"No." Vicky shook her head.

"I feel it's a waste of time. Why start a friendship when it wouldn't lead anywhere?"

"Oh, sweetheart." She reached for Victoria's hands and gave them a light squeeze.

"I know you are really avoiding falling in love again but don't deprive yourself of the good things life has to really offer."

"Not only do you deserve a good relationship, my dear. You also deserve good friendships too."

"You don't understand me, Lara. I really don't want to lead anyone on."

"You are leading no one on. You obviously need a break from being a mom and work so you're going for the date."

"No...." She shook her head.

"Why are you scared? What's the worst thing that can happen?"

Vicky shrugged,

"Let's get you all dressed up."

"I'm going nowhere."

"Right, take your phone and text him that you will meet him in an hour."

"Wait, where are you guys meant to meet?"

"I have no idea."

"You cannot be boring while I'm with you. Let's find you something to wear!" Lara rose to her feet.

"Noooo...." She grumbled. "I just want to get drunk, sleep and go to bed."

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Vicky had no idea how Lara did it but Lara was able to convince her to attend the date. She helped her pick out an outfit, styled her hair, and beautified her face a little after which she shoed her out of the house in no time.

After about twenty minutes driving, Vicky got to the restaurant. It was a popular one and only attended by the high people of the society because of how pricey it was. Handing her car keys to the valet, Victoria gently made her way in.

Before she could even have the time to look around to locate her guest, a waiter approached her with a smile. "Please come with me, Ma'am."

Sensing he was taking her to where Ashton was, she happily followed him. They were a couple of steps away from the VIP area when she sighted him, seated, smiling at her. She smiled

back at him.

"Two glasses of champagne please." He said, standing to his feet, the moment the waiter got there with Vicky.

"Right away, sir." She said and left.

"You look really stunning," Ashton mumbled, his eyes not leaving her.

Vicky smiled, trying to hide her blush. "Thank you. You don't look bad either."

"Nah, I'm just me. But you, you are so gorgeous. I'm used to seeing you in corporate wars but you look so damn gorgeous right now."

Vicky was lost for words so she smiled.

"Thank you."

She was putting on a tube dress, matching heels and jewelries and her hair was neatly styled.

Ashton pulled out a seat for her.

"Thank you," she mumbled, sitting down.

He took his seat too.

"Sorry I kept you waiting."

"It's fine. What matters is that you're here."

"You don't have to act all cool with me. I hate it when people

keep me waiting." Vicky said.

"I hate it too. But I guess this is a different situation. I know what I want. I'm the one pursuing you, so."

"Ashton..."

"It's fine, you need not apologize or say anything else. I understand you said we could only be friends. You've given me that opportunity and I wouldn't like to misuse it."

"I was crushed when I dialed your number and it wasn't going through so I called Kathie. I thought you were going to stand me up again."

"I'm not a bad person, I promise. I'm just not into mingling anymore so it irks me."

"I know you're not a bad person. You probably have your reason for all the excuses you gave. Regardless, I want you to know I'm glad you turned up tonight."

"I think I'm glad too. By the way, Happy Birthday. I would have gotten you a present but I had no idea that we would actually be seeing tonight."

"Who told you today's my birthday?" He asked with a small smile.

"Kathie."

"I guess I owe her a lot."

Vicky cursed softly, "Let me guess, today's not your

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birthday?"

"No." He responded with a small smile.

"I'm going to kill that girl."

"Please don't." Ashton chuckled. "She only wanted you to hang out with me, I guess."

"She guilt-tripped me about you not celebrating your birthday and me breaking your heart if I don't show up."

"She's actually right. I don't celebrate my birthdays and yeah I would have been heartbroken if you didn't show up but I'm very glad that you are here."

The waiter came, served them their drinks and they ordered the food they wanted instantly."

"It's good to see you out of work."

"Really?!" Vicky chuckled, "I'm still the same so?"

"No."

"I insist." She said, taking a sip of her drink.

"No. You seem really rigid at work. You hardly talk to people, especially if it's work-related."

"But now you look relaxed and you're smiling more. You've got a beautiful smile by the way."

"You really know how to flatter a woman."

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"I'm being sincere and you deserve all of the compliments."

"Thank you."

"How's Sophie by the way?"

"It seems she has more fans in that company than I do. She's good."

"Why not? She's charming."

"I know," Vicky said proudly.

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After sulking, drinking, and being deep in thought for almost two hours, Oscar found himself in the bathroom. He took a shower and dried himself after which he dressed up in a pair of pants and a matching tee. He reached for his wallet, and keycard, then exited his suit.

Oscar had no idea where he was heading to as he made his way into the elevator but he knew he needed to get out of his room.

It felt weird going places without his guards which made him do most things in this trip himself but he instructed them to stay back at home and take care of certain things for him

Walking out of the building, Oscar's eyes met with the restaurant/bar that was beside the hotel building.

Based on what he heard, the hotel he was lodged in and this restaurant were owned by the same person and only the

elites could afford to be there.

Sensing that the bar wouldn't be a bad place to relax and catch his breath and if possible find a lady to have fun with, Oscar found himself walking in the direction of the bar.

To get to the bar, one had to go through the restaurant. Oscar was on his way when he suddenly stopped in his tracks at the sight of HER.

No, she wasn't alone and this time around she was with a different man, not the one he saw with her earlier at the cafe.

His mind went back to the conversation he had with his personal Investigator about her being single but getting advances from a lot of people.

Oscar found his heart bleeding for the 100th time today. He had no idea what made him even angrier. The fact that she was in this stunning restaurant with a man or the fact that she was laughing freely with him and with the way she was dressed, anyone could tell that they were on a date, and that made Oscar's blood boil even more.

"Excuse me, Sir" A waiter called his attention since he was blocking the way."

Oscar was brought out of his thoughts. Without apologizing for blocking the way, he made her way to where she was seated.