999 roses

When Levy stepped out of the break room and headed towards the main dining room, she walked past a couple of servers, their gaze darted to her almost sympathetically and that was enough to make her understand just how much of an annoyance that man was. She pursed her lips and shot them a light smile before walking out of the corridor and heading straight to Kyle. He was talking to the man in front of him, his face a mirror of annoyance...something about the ever-patient Kyle getting angry made Levy's lips twitch.

She never thought that someone could push Kyle's button like this. Suppressing the curl of her lips, Levy walked next to Kyle before turning her head to the politely smiling gentleman. He was still smiling innocently as if whatever was happening at this moment had nothing to do with him, Levy arched a brow not wanting to get further entangled with the man in front of her. He was handsome, probably even more handsome than most men she has seen in her life as a free bird but something about him maybe it was the mysterious air or maybe it was the way he smiled at her—— it made her feel icky.

"You go back Kyle," Levy glanced at Kyle sideways though she felt her nerves jingle in the presence of the man, she wasn't a coward, hiding behind someone or turning her face in front of trouble that was something Levy stopped doing when she was seventeen.

Kyle turned his head to look at her before letting out a sigh and then glancing at the man with a polite smile. "Please do not make things difficult for my worker, she is still new here and just returned from prison. If you make her uncomfortable then I will have no other choice but to make sure that you wouldn't be able to step inside our

shop ever again, Sir.*

His smile and voice were completely in control but his words were stern, he wasn't lying when he said that he was going to make things difficult for the customer in case he did anything he wasn't supposed to do.

" Call me if something happens I am just around the corner." Kyle patted her shoulder before lightly glaring at the man behind him. Levy was certain that he was threatening the man not to say anything upsetting to her because he will be watching them from the sidelines.

She wasn't used to being protected in fact she couldn't even remember the last time she was protected like this nonetheless her heart warmed up slightly as she watched the care and worry in Kyle's eyes.

- "Don't worry Kyle," she said with a smile, she has gone through much worse. Things that Kyle might have never even thought about so Levy didn't see how this chocolaty, pretty boy would be able to make things difficult for her.
- "If you say so." Kyle took one final glance and then walked away from Levy and the man, his gate peaceful and unhurried.

Levy turned her head to look at the man, still smiling but her experience has taught her that the most beautiful smiles hid the most dangerous lies. They were like poisonous snakes —— hidden but one wrong move and you die. She arched a brow suppressing the icky feeling of vulnerability in her heart. "How can I help you?"

She wasn't going to be polite if the man was looking for trouble then she will make sure to give him one.

"You look upset?" He asked with an inquisitive tone as if he couldn't understand why she was being so impolite to him when he was showing no signs of anger.

Levy stared at him, cursed him in her heart and then brushed her hair out of her eyes. "You sir made my coworkers anxious and disrupted their work because of you I am under someone's radar." She pointed to Leo whose glare was locked at the back of her head, Levy didn't even have to turn her head to look at him, she already knew that Leo must be standing next to the small corridor at the end of the dining room that led to the break room.

Arms crossed and a scowl decorating his face.

- " And this was supposed to be my first day at work here," she deadpanned.
- "I apologise." The man rubbed the head of his cane, a hissing serpent with a soft smile on his face. "I just wanted to see you before I go——"
- "Are you going for the classic 'I fell for you just at first sight' route? If you are then I will ask you to not bother with it. I do not believe in love and have no thoughts about mating with anyone at the moment especially not someone who makes my colleagues dance on a hot pan." Levy was calm in the face of the man on the verge of confessing when she was young she would have believed in those fickle promises but not anymore she knew that there was no such thing as love and affection. At least not for her

Anyone who approached her had some sort of motive in their hearts and Levy was tired of it. Even her mate betrayed her, the man who

was supposed to love her despite her every flaw... if even he could betray her then with what trust should she believe in someone else?

The man chuckled as he lowered his head and pressed his knuckles against his mouth. His laughter became louder and louder before he raised his head and snapped his fingers, a bouquet of large red roses with deliciously beautiful dew drops.

"You--"

- "I am a mage just like you." The man answered before she could ask him anything else. He pushed the bouquet of red roses in her hand and Levy almost felt her arms drop to the ground. She didn't know how many roses were in the bouquet but it didn't seem like they were less than a thousand, she had to grab the bouquet with both her hands to avoid it from falling on the floor.
- "I am Derek O'Neil by the way, apologies for the late introduction but.." he reached out his hands and touched her cheeks like he was caressing the finest porcelain. Soft to touch but easy to break. "I was just so lost in your beauty that I couldn't even think straight. Forgive me, if I came as rude to you."

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