

## A ery passion

Ariel entered the room, having just showered and changed into one of Dominik's long shirts. The subdued lighting in the room made her uneasy, and she couldn't locate Dominik.

A cool breeze from the window made her shiver, prompting her to hurry and close it. But when she turned around, Ariel was startled to find Dominik right in front of her. His eyes held a clear desire, but there was something more in them that made her apprehensive.

"I-I was feeling cold, so I wanted to close the window," Ariel stammered. His intense gaze left her feeling self-conscious, and she averted her eyes to the bed.

Dominik approached her, taking her left hand in his and kissing her knuckles. He locked his gaze with hers. "You look incredibly sexy in my shirt," he whispered, moving to kiss the side of her lips.

Ariel placed her hands on his chest and gently pushed him back. "What happened last night was because I wanted it," she asserted, blinking her eyes, her tone clear.

"I know," Dominik said. "Are you saying we shouldn't do it today?" he asked.

"I don't love you. Yesterday I did it because I wanted to forget what Adrian did to me. I mean... He betrayed my love for him. He cheated on me," Ariel pronounced, her eyes welled up in tears. She lowered her gaze for a moment.

"I don't know why you stepped up to marry me. I was happy that Adrian didn't come to the wedding hall," she stated while furrowing her brows together. The tears trailed down her cheeks and she began weeping.

Dominik felt upset seeing her crying. He embraced her, his large hand resting on the back of her head and he caressed it. His free hand rested on her back as he tried composing her. His blood boiled and he felt like killing Adrian.

"I loved him so much. I was always loyal to him. How could he lie to me for three years? I always did what he asked me to. I was so naive, Dominik," Ariel expressed her frustration while crying her heart out.

After a crying session of half an hour, Ariel pulled away from Dominik's hug. Her eyes and nose were red as she wiped the tears from her cheeks.

"Ariel, look at me," Dominik said as he cupped her face. She locked her gaze with his and sighed. "This is the last time I allowed you to cry like this," he stated.

"I did a one-night stand because I wanted to forget that pain of betrayal," Ariel said. "But it's important to love a person, to be physical with that person. Why did you marry me? You are older than me and I bet you will find better women than me," she asserted.

"Last night, I told you once I claimed you, you would be mine. I kept that promise and married you. Well, you are mine now," Dominik smiled. His thumbs gently stroked her cheeks. "So, forget Adrian and consider me your life partner," he stated.

Ariel was still confused about his statements. However, her head was aching, and all she wanted was to sleep.

"Let's go to bed," Dominik said, making her feel as if he read her mind. "You must be tired," he added.

"Where should I sleep?" Ariel asked.

"On the bed," Dominik answered. "You should not shy away from me when we both already did everything last night," he smiled.

Ariel hummed and got into bed while pulling up the duvet. Dominik also slid into the blanket and clapped his hands. The lights switched off and the entire room fell into the darkness.

Ariel kept her back toward him, her heart was still racing with the fact that she was married to a man nine years older than him. She felt his arm sink into the pillow and the next second his voice reverberated in her ear, "Ariel, place your head over my arm."

"I am here," Ariel said.

"You aren't. I will hug you to sleep," Dominik said. She moved her head up when he deftly moved his arm under her head. He snuggled her close, his free hand resting on her belly.

"You don't have to go to classes for a few days. I can plan a vacation for us if you want," Dominik suggested.

"I will attend college. There is no need for any vacation for now," Ariel stated.

"Fine," Dominik respected her choice. "What are your hobbies, Ariel?" he asked.

"My hobbies?" Ariel confirmed the question.

"Yeah, your hobbies," Dominik stated.

"I love gardening and playing piano. I have several hobbies, but these are my major hobbies," Ariel replied. "What about you?" she asked.

"Shooting," a quick reply came from Dominik's mouth.

"That is quite unique hobby," Ariel said. Even in the darkness, he could sense her smile and his heart uttered just to imagine that. He kissed the spot right below her ear, and his nose nuzzled her skin, thus freezing Ariel at her place.

"Every aspect of you is utterly enchanting, Ariel," Dominik murmured into her ear before planting a tender kiss on her earlobe.

Ariel could feel herself succumbing to the delicate allure of his kisses. "Dominik," she breathed out his name.

"I promise, Ariel, all I desire is to share kisses with you, only if you grant me permission," Dominik whispered once more, nibbling her earlobe this time. She couldn't help but release a soft moan before finally turning towards him. Her mind surrendered, and all she yearned for was to be cherished once more by the man who was now her beloved husband.

Dominik gently traced her lips with his thumb before placing a gentle kiss on them. At that moment, the world around them faded away, and he caressed her lips with the lightest of nibbles, his hand tenderly exploring her waist.

Ariel trembled, her toes curling with a delicious shiver as their feet met. She was clad only in a shirt, and with each lingering kiss, her resolve weakened. Her hand found its way to the nape of his neck, and with a ery passion, she ardently reciprocated those kisses.