

Becomes 76

Chapter 0076

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Calvin places a hand on his chest, his expression softening as he clearly feels touched by my words. “I feel like my heart’s going to explode right now,” he whispers. “Just remember I’m always here when you need me.”

I smile back at him, feeling a genuine connection. “And I’m here for you too, Calvin. I might not have much, but you’ll always have my support and loyalty.”

He gives me a warm, reassuring smile. “That’s more than enough, Serena. It really is.”

Calvin carefully picks up the cufflink from the box, holding it between his fingers to admire the craftsmanship. With a practiced motion, he rolls up his sleeve, exposing the cuff of his crisp white shirt. He expertly slides the cufflink into place, securing the fabric neatly. Once it’s fastened, he adjusts his sleeve, giving the cufflink a final gentle pat.

Calvin glances down at the newly fastened cufflink, a smile playing at the corners of his mouth. “Fits perfectly. This is definitely my new favorite cufflink now.”

I can’t help but smile wider. “I’m glad you like it, Calvin. It suits you.”

There’s a moment of comfortable silence between us. Then Calvin clears his throat and says, “Serena, would you like to go to dinner with me sometime? You know, just as friends.”

I hesitate, feeling conflicted. On one hand, I value our friendship and his support, but on the other, I’m wary of sending mixed signals, especially after turning down a deeper relationship.

“What are we doing, Calvin? I’m on TikTok enough to know what they call a ‘situationship?’” I ask.

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are we in

Calvin shakes his head, a shy smile spreading across his face. “I’m sorry, situation—what?” He chuckles lightly. “My age is showing, isn’t it?”

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We both laugh the teneich easing slightly it’s like a relationship, but without a clear label’ t explain briefly and chuckling Then I became a hit more serious just don’t want you to think I’m taking advantage of your kindness by not defining what we have, you know?” I add. *

get it, Serena And don’t worry, I don’t feel taken advantage of I just enjoy spending time with you, whatever we call it,” Calvin reassures.

Even though Calvin seems okay with how things are, I can’t help but feel a bit guilty. It’s great to hear him say he doesn’t feel taken advantage of, but part of me still worries. I really care about him and our friendship, and I just hope I’m not leading him on or hurting him without realizing it.

Stevie bursts through the door, her arms full of Chinese takeout, wine, and sparkling cider. “Hey, girl! I brought dinner to celebrate. We’ve officially signed the contract for the fashion show. Woohoo!” she announces

Stevie’s enthusiasm falters for a moment when she notices Calvin in the room. Her cheeks color slightly, and she shifts awkwardly on her feet. “Oh... I didn’t know you had company,” she stammers, then quickly recovers with a smile. “Hi, Calvin!”

Calvin smiles warmly at Stevie, quickly putting her at ease. “Hi, Stevie! No worries at all – it’s great to see you too.” [www.noVeLWorm.coM](#)

Stevie looks from the food to Calvin, a hint of regret crossing her face. Sorry, I only brought dinner for two.”

Calvin waves it off with a smile, standing up from his seat. “That’s okay. I was just leaving anyway.” He gives a friendly nod as he heads for the door.

As Calvin leaves, Stevie and I watch him go. She turns to me, eyebrows [Www.noVeLWorm.coM](#)

raised

“Okay, spill the tea... what just happened here?” she asks.

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I roll my eyes playfully and smile. “Impeccable timing as always,” I say as we sit down with our dinner. “Don’t worry, I’ll fill you in.”

I’m genuinely relieved to see Stevie I’ve never been so happy to have her company. This whole situation with Calvin is complicated, and honestly, I don’t know where to begin with it.