



Chapter 43

"Surprise!" Adrian said after uncovering Riley's eyes.

Riley's eyes widened in disbelief, and her jaw dropped. Before her stood an entire office floor. The space was a hive of activity, with people bustling in and out, setting up tables and arranging phones. Cubicles stood in neat rows, closed-door offices were already usable, and the company logo adorned the freshly painted walls.

Overwhelmed with joy, Riley exclaimed, "Oh, my god. This is real!"

Her eyes glistened with tears of happiness, her heart pounding with the realization that her dreams were still attainable. She cheerfully turned to Adrian. He was standing up, supporting himself by leaning into a wall. Riley threw her arms around him and kissed his lips.

"Thank you so much, Hun," Riley said, her voice filled with gratitude. "The office is beautiful."

Adrian smiled. He wrapped his arms around her waist and kissed her back twice. He responded, "Glad you like it, Hun."

Clint, standing behind them, coughed and said, "Ehem. Love is in the air."

Riley blushed at Clint's remark, while Adrian only glanced at his assistant. Yes, kisses had become part of their relationship now. It was a Friday, six days since they had been sharing the same room at night and five days since they had regularly kissed each other in the morning and night.

She did not feel like they were still pretending at all. Riley wished to clarify things with Adrian, but she was also reluctant. Nonetheless,



whether officially or unofficially, they were a couple.

"Miss Allen and Mister King, you both are adorable together," a woman in her late thirties said. This woman was Janice. Riley and Adrian had hired her to be their operations manager.

"Thank you, Janice. How is the production going?" Riley asked.

Janice smiled brightly and said, "Let's make our way to the conference room, and I'll show you the progress."

Adley and Co. were in the production stage, but to prepare for their launch, their online site had already gone live, and they were building a boutique at Halliport Mega Mall. In another week, they would have their official grand opening.

Riley could definitely say she was moving on from her past! And it was all thanks to the man beside her.

In the afternoon, Riley visited her mother while Adrian attended a meeting at The King's Enterprises. Riley knew they would plan out his temporary takeover, and she was excited for Adrian. If anything, she understood Adrian's desire to prove his worth to the board and his father. This was his golden opportunity, and Riley would support him in his goals.

At six in the evening, Adrian arrived at the King's Medical Center with good news. He said to Riley, "I'm going to be the stand-in CEO for the company starting Monday."

"And I am thrilled for you," Riley declared.



Renee was there the whole time. Riley had eagerly shared the same news with her mother, and Renee said, "I wish you all the best, Adrian. You deserve it. Riley and I will support you."

"Thank you, Renee," Adrian said. "I wish to celebrate it with Riley. Would you mind if we left early tonight?"

"Of course," Renee answered. "You both enjoy the rest of the night. I'll be fine here."

Riley and Adrian had made it into the hospital lobby. Clint greeted them by the driveway, and only then did Riley ask, "Where are we going?"

Adrian turned to her and answered, "On our second date."

Instantly, Riley gasped. She asked, "Date? Where?"

"We are going to watch a musical show," Adrian revealed.

"A musical show?" Riley thought deeply. This wasn't on Adrian's list of preferences. She asked, "Do you like musicals?"

"No," Adrian admitted. "But there must be something good in it for you to like them."

Riley sucked in a deep breath when she realized that he had arranged to watch a musical show only for her. She gleefully inquired, "What show?"

"Remember in college, you said you missed watching a musical because you got sick. It's that musical," Adrian said.

Riley's mind went blank. As they entered the car, she wondered which show it was. 'Damn, that had been too long.'



After a while, she finally remembered.

FLASHBACK

Over six and a half years ago, it was raining hard in Halliport. Riley was at the University, secured under the walkpath's roof. Just then, she noticed one of the disabled students slowly making his way to another area of the covered building.

Riley felt outraged that no one was helping him. She took out her umbrella and ran to the young man in a wheelchair. She covered him with her umbrella and walked with him toward the building.

"Thank you. Thank you so much," the young man said appreciatively.

In the process, however, Riley got soaked in the rain, but she didn't care. She was more worried about a younger student in a wheelchair.

While they slowly moved, Riley suddenly felt the rain stop pouring over her head. When she looked up, another umbrella was covering her. She glanced to her side and realized that Adrian was holding an umbrella for her.

By the time they reached the building, all three were wet in the rain, but not as much as Adrian King.

The next time Riley and Adrian saw each other, they were sick with the flu. Then, Riley told him, "I got sick over the weekend, and I missed this musical I have been dying to see."

"I'll take you to that show," Adrian offered.

"Really?" Riley asked in shock. "But they are no longer touring in town."



Adrian chuckled. He said, "I'm not Adrian King for nothing. Tell me what show it is. I'll make sure you see it after the semester break."

Sadly, however, Riley never got to see the show. They went on a semester break, and when school returned, Adrian had met an accident.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

~ "It's time to try defying gravity

I think I'll try defying gravity." ~

In the very front row of the opera house, Riley covered her mouth. Tears were brimming in her eyes as she listened to the song, Defying Gravity, sung by a Broadway actress on stage. They were watching the famous musical "Wicked."

"You might wanna close your mouth. A fly might get in there," Adrian teased because Riley's jaws had been open for minutes, so amazed. Adrian did not bring her to the musical, but he brought the entire Broadway cast to Halliport just for her!

"Haha!" Riley laughed at Adrian's remark. Her eyes twinkled as she said, "I can't believe you did this?"

"Has Brian ever taken you to a musical?" Adrian asked.

"No," Riley admitted. "We rarely get good musicals here in Halliport."

As the show went on, Riley leaned closer to Adrian. She asked, "But you brought Broadway to Halliport for me. Thank you! I just love you!"

"I mean, I love what you did for me," she quickly took it back, her face burning with the realization of what she had said.



Adrian continued to smile at Riley. Then, he revealed, "If you'll love me for this, then you'll love me more for what I am about to show you later... I hope."

Riley's eyes rounded again. She asked, "What is it?"



LiLhyz Author

June 3, 2024. Thank you for reading. I hope you love each chapter. Don't forget to send some love for this novel. Leave your review, comments, send gems or gifts. Kisses!



 35



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