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Gerard takes Luz to the beautiful part of Central Park, the one where you can walk without having to look at your back, he takes her by the hand and they laugh while they think of a beautiful surprise for the princess's birthday, which will be in two weeks.

They arrive at a part where people usually sit down to do something entertaining, they seek the shade of a tree and there Gerard hugs Luz, because the time has come to talk about that night.

-My love, go at your own pace, if you feel like you want to stop or leave here, you just have to say so.

-Thanks... – he looks at his hands for a few seconds and then fixes his eyes straight ahead -. That night Rafael left me on the second floor of that place, because it is assumed that the attendees would be more entertained with the girls of the place-he smiles ironically-.

"He assigned me with three boys, Tony, Sean and Rickon ... – that last name leaves his lips almost in a whisper and then he opens his eyes -. It was him... – he looks at Gerard with desperation -. He ... I went to the room where the things were to distribute among the guests and I sat down for a few minutes, I wasn't tired, I just needed to stop for a bit.

"Rickon offered me a drink... after that I went out to serve the attendees and I started to feel bad. I wanted... I wanted to go back to the living room or find Tony to take me to Rafael, I don't know. I just I remember that he told me he would take me to a secret place, I asked him to take me to Rafael, but he refused...

Luz covers her face with her hands and lets more tears come out of her, Gerard kisses her hair, only to not go out at that moment to look for that bastard and beat him to death.

-He told me that I was too much of a woman for so little of a man... I swear I wanted to scream, run away, but my body didn't respond as I wanted. He opened a door and ushered me in, promising to come back for me later.

"But someone beat him to it... there was a man there, he caught me in his arms and then... then he dumped me on a couch, where he pulled my clothes off me and then... – buries himself in Gerard's neck, who has a tense body, because he remembers that part -, I was nervous that night, so I walked around the room. The door opened and he just wanted to end that torture that he had in his pants and that covered his entire body.

She vividly remembers that as soon as her hands touched that small, frail body, she went into a state of frenzy that went beyond the stimulant Dan had given her

"Can you remember anything about the man who attacked you?" – he asks with a lump in his throat -.

-No – Luz moves away and looks him in the eyes -. That night we all wore masks, the room was dimly lit, so I don't know what color the man's eyes were or what color his skin was. I just remember... I remember he smelled like wood and the mask of him.

"It was black, adorned with gold threads, I know that because the light made them shine a little – he takes a deep breath and looks at something far away again -. I remember that he realized something, got scared and quickly dressed me. Then that's why he left there, I suppose he was fleeing because of what he had done, there I took advantage of escaping.

"Tony me encontró y me llevó con Rafael, quien no preguntó nada, solo me sacó de allí. No tuve que decirle nada, él solo se dio cuenta. Iba a volver para buscar al tipo, pero le pedí que no hiciera nada. No lo dejé me llevara a un hospital, ni a la policía. Esa noche me escondí en su departamento, renuncié a

mi empleo en si agencia y terminé aquí, con ustedes.

- -¿Por qué no quisiste poner la denuncia?
- Porque tenía vergüenza, porque no quería revivir esa noche una y otra vez. Preferí dejarlo todo atrás, olvidar y seguir adelante. Pero no contaba con que esa noche tendría consecuencias baja sus manos a su vientre y sonríe -. Al principio lo veía como algo malo, pero ahora creo que es la manera en que el universo quiere que vea lo bueno de todo eso.
- -¿Lo bueno? ¿Crees que lo que te pasó fue bueno? le pregunta Gerard, que quiere correr y lanzarsed e un edificio. Desde esa noche creyó que podría ayudar a su víctima, y habría sido fácil si no hubiese terminado enamorado de ella -,
- -Eso... fue horrible. Pero me obligó a salir de mi zona de confort, a tomar otras decisiones para mi vida y esas me llevaron a ti ella le acaricia el rostro y sonríe -. *M*e llevó a estar con mi pequeña princesa y pronto tendré un hijo.
- Tendremos un hijo le corrige Gerard -. Es tan tuyo como mío y te juro que por ustedes tres haré lo que sea para que vivan tranquilos... Luz, perdóname le dice él en un susurro y la besa con la imperiosa necesidad de que así sea un día, cuando ella sepa la verdad –
- Tú no hiciste nada, mi amor... no tengo nada que perdonarte.
- Sí... yo debí darme cuenta, cuando llegaste te veías alegre, pero tus ojos mostraban la tristeza que cargabas.

– Pero ya no, ¿verdad? Tú y la princesa me han dado tanto amor, que ya no siento ese dolor con el que llegué a su vida. Por eso te amo, porque me salvaste, porque sé que podrías romper las malditas leyes del universo, con tal de verme feliz... porque eres un celoso – se sienta a horcajadas sobre él y lo besa -. Te amo por ser tú, Gerard Finnick, un abogado despiadado y un hombre amoroso.

She kisses him again, while Gerard wraps his arms around her waist. A moan escapes from Luz when she feels that characteristic hardness of her, she pulls away from him and smiles, while Gerard blushes, that little girl makes him feel like a teenager...behave like a teenager. -I'm sorry, I shouldn't get like this, less after what you told me, but my body reacts to you and that position....

-We will repeat it tonight at home, I promise you – she stands up and Gerard follows her, careful to hide that bulge in his pants -. Now, can we go get something to eat? I am very hungry.

-As my queen wants.

Thus, both hand in hand, they go along the path they took to get there.

While Luz smiles more relieved of all that overwhelmed her, Gerard caresses that little box in his left pocket.

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The journey to the restaurant is light, at least for Luz. Because for Gerard... her stomach is a nervous wreck, never in her life was he so terrified, not even when she proposed to *Margaret*.

As soon as they arrive at the venue, the host comes out to greet them, gesturing to Gerard that the order is ready. Gerard surrounds Luz by her waist and draws her to her body, to imbibe that pure energy, that special shine that she has of her and that love that radiates from her woman.

Because Luz will always be his wife.

Upon entering, the man leads them to a huge wooden door. When they cross it, Luz is shocked by what she finds there.

There is a lonely table, for two people, surrounded by white flowers. Dim lights illuminate the space, as the sun is setting. The music, soft and calm, ends up enveloping the place. Luz stares at Gerard, who kneels in front of her and feels that he is going to give her something.

"I'll just take off your shoes," he tells her, smiling, and she feels her soul return to her body.

Although, to be honest, if Gerard had proposed to her at that moment, she would have said yes without hesitation.

He does the same with her shoes and they leave them at the side of the entrance, he takes her by the hand and leads her to one of the chairs.

Out of nowhere, a waiter appears, laying out a shrimp appetizer on a bed of leaves, and Gerard pours him orange juice and smiles at him.

- -Did you already have this ready long before? -she asks him without being able to remove the surprise from her face –
- -Yes, before leaving the house he says kissing one of her hands -. I knew that conversation would be painful, that's why I wanted to prepare this for you, because I want your life to be like this from now on, enlightened, calm, full of hope and with eyes only on the future.
- -Thank you... this is really beautiful, my love.
- And, so you can see that I've thought of everything, I spoke with Matías. We are both going to find a way for your parents to get closer, and only if you want, Matías can tell them what really happened.

-Me...

-I know that telling you the truth is painful, but Luz... I have plans for us and I don't want you to miss anyone. And if I'm more honest, I want to rub it in their faces that, despite everything, you found a man who loves you unconditionally.

Luz bites her lower lip, looking Gerard straight in the eye. Tears try to break through, but this time they are from happiness. She nods and Gerard imitates her, they begin to eat smiling, thinking about many nonsense things.

Then they bring the main course, risotto and grilled chicken."

Pero, cada segundo que pasa, Luz nota que Gerard está intranquilo y siente que no le está diciendo todo. Hasta que, cuando traen el postre, no aguanta más. -Amor, ¿te pasa algo?

- No... ¿por qué? le pregunta él sonriendo y bebiendo para ocultarse un poco -
- Porque es evidente que no estás tranquilo, tu rodilla no deja de moverse y eso pasa cuando estás nervioso.
- -Has aprendido a conocerme muy bien le dice bajando la mirada a la mesa y respira profundo Creo que... se pone de pie y luego se arrodilla frente a Luz, con aquella cajita entre sus manos Luz, eres la mujer más increíble, mi aliento,

mi esperanza, mi renacer – abre la cajita y ella sonríe con lágrimas en los ojos -. Eres mi sol, de día y de noche, iluminas mi camino y te juro que ya no me veo e n el futuro sin ti, sin nuestros hijos... Luz Méndez, ¿me harías el honor de ser mi esposa?

-¡Sí! – se lanza sobre él, cayendo al suave césped entre abrazos, besos y risas -. Será un honor ser la esposa de un hombre tan maravilloso y único como tú.

Luz cubre los labios de Gerard con los suyos y comienza a profundizarlo solo de esa manera que ella sabe, esa que el cuerpo de Gerard reconoce de inmediato, obligando a apartarla y mirarla con el deseo retratado en el rostro.

-Creo que este lugar no es apto para lo que sigue – su voz sale ronca y a Luz se le estremecen hasta los pensamientos –

Se ponen de pie, Gerard se coloca los zapatos, toma los de Luz y la toma entre sus brazos. Salen de allí, pero antes de que cierre la puerta del auto, ella lo mira asustada.

- -No pagamos la cuenta...
- -La cuenta estaba pagada desde antes de llegar, mi reina bella.

Deja un beso en los labios de su chica y se apresura en subir, solo quiere fundirse en ella de una vez, hacerla sentir todo eso que quiere dejar gravado en su piel, para cuando ya no estén juntos.

Pero llegar a la casa será una tortura, así que en una medida desesperada, se desvía a un hotel. Baja de allí como si le urgiera algo de vida o muerte, pero es que estar en el cuerpo de Luz puede ser el último aliento de vida cada vez que ocurre.

Entran al lugar, pide una suite por la noche, le entregan las llaves y corren al ascensor, Luz descalza y él con el dolor en su pantalón.

En cuanto las puertas se cierran, Gerard comienza a besar a Luz, cuando las puertas finalmente se abren, la toma por la cintura y la lleva a la puerta, entran de una vez y en cuanto cierran la puerta de la suite, corre con ella a la habitación.

Ambos se quitan la ropa con desesperación, entre caricias y besos que ya no son suficientes para la pasión que los invade.

They fall on the bed, Luz just wants Gerard to come in once and for all, because she needs him, it's the only way she has to feel clean and complete. But before Gerard can satisfy that need of hers, he pulls away from her and reaches for something of hers in her pants.

Luz recognizes the box and laughs when she remembers that she didn't have time to put the ring on her. She does so gently and then positions herself on top of her.

- -Now yes, Miss Méndez... she is officially engaged to Gerard Finnick, the luckiest man in the world.
- Tomorrow you should buy a lottery ticket she says caressing his cheeks –
- -I already have it... it's right in front of me right now.

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-iAh!

That cry of pleasure comes from Luz's lips as soon as Gerard penetrates her with desperate slowness, but she receives it happily and invites him to move, with the dance of her hip.

-I love you so much – she says looking into his eyes and then kisses him –

Everything in them is pure love, the best way for now to show what they feel for each other. Because later will come other proofs of love that will leave all this quite small.

The swaying of their bodies, the panting and the flow of overflowing passion extends for a couple more hours. Because once is not enough.

This time, all the passion they feel leads them to experience other positions, all proposed by Luz, and Gerard feels that he can't take it anymore with that girl. Although each one meant seeing her blush, it was precisely that that led him to accept.

Now, he is behind her, with his pelvis hitting her buttocks, his member bottoming out and she biting the pillow to quieten the cries of pleasure a little. Luz's walls contract and she lets go in a delicious orgasm, which Gerard follows seconds later.

Both fall satisfied on the bed, panting, trying to catch their breath. Gerard wraps his arms around her and showers her with little kisses, which make her smile. They stare at each other for a few seconds and say to each other at the same time.

-Love you.

Luz burrows into Gerard's neck, only to remember that she is safe there.

Meanwhile, far away, a woman driven mad by jealousy and a sick love, insists on her aunt's cell phone. She needs her here, it is time for her to finish her eternal vacations, she must take care of her son's life and even more so now that she has become entangled with a simple girl from the service.

That's going to ruin the reputation of the buffet, of the family... and it takes away from her the choice of whatever she wants with Gerard.

Finally, on call number twenty-three, the tired voice of a woman answers him.

- -Darcy, daughter... did something serious happen?
- Aunt, you must return as soon as possible, Gerard went crazy... He has a girlfriend!
- -But that's good, I mean... it's about time I stopped mourning that woman.

and that

- -You just don't know who the wretch is she takes a deep breath to break the news to Georgia and almost spits it out through the earpiece -. She's Charlize's babysitter!
- -What?! That can not be! Did my son go crazy?!
- -That seems... and that's not all, the little woman played the victim and Gerard took me out of the house, girl. I had to come to the apartment that my parents left me.
- -I can't believe it, look... in a week we'll touch port, as soon as we get to land, I'll take a return flight, I'll go put order in that house. I think I've left Gerard alone for too long and he must remember that he has duties to his family, he can't mix with any mustia that...
- -Se le abra de piernas, porque es obvio que de esa manera lo atrapó, es una zorra, pero mi primo no

entiende de razones.

- Tú tranquila, hija, en unos días todo esto se arreglará y sacaremos a esa mujer... ¡Qué horror, mi nieta! Oh por dios, ella está viendo todo ese espectáculo... Darcy, en cuanto llegue, me tienes que poner al corriente de todo, no vaya a ser que mi hijo quiera casarse.
- -Te juro que me largo, tía "pero después de matar a la pārra esa" se dice Darcy -. Si Gerard decide unirse en matrimonio con esa desgraciada oportunista, yo me pierdo de sus vidas.
- No, mi niña, solo nos tenemos a nosotros mismos. Verás que todo se arreglará. No voy a permitir que mi hijo cometa una locura como esa.

Ambas mujeres se despiden y Darcy cuelga con una sonrisa de satisfacción, porque sabe lo que para su tía es todo lo relacionado a las apariencias y que Luz sea de una familia desconocida, pobre, de los peores lugares de la ciudad, es una aberración de primer nivel.

-Aunque no seas para mí, Gerard Ethan Finnick, me conformo con que no seas de nadie... mucho menos de esa mujerzuela.

Se va a la habitación contigua, en donde tiene su oficina y busca aquella fotografía que tiene escondida, porque le causa escozor.

Solo están ella y Gerard, abrazados, sonrientes, jóvenes. Él tenía dieciséis años y ella trece, hacía un año que había llegado a casa de su tía, Gerard a veces hasta dormía la siesta con ella, cuando estaba en sus días malos, aquellos donde el dolor por haber perdido a sus padres la abrumaba.

Él nunca la dejó sola, hasta que tuvo la mala idea de llevar a Margaret a la casa. Ella no era de alta cuna, sus padres a penas estaban armando su imperio, pero Gerard en cuanto la vio, perdió la cabeza por ella.

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Margaret era un año mayor a mí, por eso no aceptó ser la novia de Gerard de inmediato, pero cuando cumplió los dieciocho años, se lanzó a sus brazos en plena fiesta de cumpleaños. Años más tarde, se casaron y ella tuvo que ser la madrina de aquel matrimonio.

El despecho la llevó a aceptar a Dan, que estaba coladísimo por ella. Y no lo culpa, en ese momento ella era muy diferente, seguía siendo dulce y soñadora, luchando por convertirse en la mejor abogada para acompañar a Gerard al menos en el trabajo.

Pero al tiempo de *M*argaret anunciaba su embarazo, tres meses después de casarse, ella recibía la misma noticia de un pobre test de farmacia. Su amiga tendría un hijo del hombre que ella amaba locamente, mientras que Darcy tendría un hijo del hombre que aceptó por despecho.

Del último cajón del escritorio, saca una carpeta agrietada por los años, de allí toma una fotografía blanco y negra, donde se ve claramente a ese hijo que no nació, porque ella se fue a otro país de vacaciones y a terminar con ese embarazo.

La misma fotografía que Dan encontrara tiempo después y que Darcy le gritara que ya no existía, porque se había desecho de él. Iba a ser la mejor abogada en el estudio de la familia y un hijo solo estorbaría.

It broke Dan's heart like it had hers on an altar, and it never stopped from there. She knew that if she wanted something, she must take it herself, if it was necessary to snatch it from the hands of her adversary...and so she did.

Gerard was left alone, with a small encumbrance that he couldn't easily get rid of, but as he grew up he would make sure that he went to an orphanage.

All those were Darcy's plans, but that wretched woman came along, damn woman with the face of

innocent. Men love that, it drives them crazy and it sure didn't take long for him to get between her legs.

-But I'll take care of you, I just have to find a way to be as quiet and casual as Margaret.

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Reluctantly Gerard gets out of bed and that's only because Luz forces him to get up, they can't stay out of the house, because Charlize is their responsibility. Evangeline can stay with her for a few hours, but not overnight.

She gets into the shower, without getting her hair wet, and Gerard rests his chin on Luz's left shoulder, while his arms go around her.

- -I don't want to rush anything, but it would be good if we looked for a date soon.
- -Yes, I don't want to get married with a huge belly, do you think in two months?
- -I think it's perfect, in a month we can announce our engagement.
- -It is necessary? -she asks him nervously, because she knows that this involves inviting people with money and that makes her nervous-. 1
- -There are friends with whom I want to share the news, it won't be something big either, for that we will have 1 wedding, only if you want it.

They finish showering in silence, Luz taking on the weight of being Gerard Finnick's wife and he taking on the weight of marrying a girl who doesn't aspire to great things, other than loving him, having his son and being a good lawyer in a future.

Leaving the room, Luz stands in front of Gerard and tells him.

-I think I can give in about the guests. You are an important lawyer and I will be your wife, I must get used to that, especially if one day I will be the most ruthless lawyer in New York. -So you want to be the most ruthless – he brings her closer to her body and she smiles – For whom?

-For the rapists, the abusers of women and minors, if I have to go myself to enter a brothel where migrant women are exploited, I will do it, as long as I seek justice.

"You know I won't let you do such a thing." She wrinkles her forehead and Gerard kisses her there. For that you will have me, I will take care of dismantling brothels and you will lock up those bastards.

"No, Mr. Finnick, the further from the women the better."

-You are very jealous, Miss Mendez.

-Not as much as you, but there are things that I will not allow. That is my fight, no one else will fight it for me.

They dress quickly and leave the hotel, hand in hand, heading for the house.

A sleepy Charlize awaits them there, who has wanted to wait for them to arrive, because no one tells her stories like Luz or tucks her in like her father.

Both take care of the little girl and once she is asleep, Gerard kisses her on the head.

- -Little light he whispers as they leave the room Wait for me in our room, I must make a call and I'll catch up with you in a while.
- Very well, but don't be late, I can't fall asleep if you don't hug me she says pouting, which Gerard erases with a tender kiss -.
- -It's not very long, just something I have to fix with Dan.

She smiles and goes into the bedroom, while Gerard looks up Dan in the address book and dials him.

- -Do you already have the name?
- Rickon Bowman. -Damn, I'll put him under <u>investigation</u> ... -It's not necessary, Luz told me that after he gave her a soda, she felt bad and took her to the room where I was, to come back for her. .. you know.

I can't write the profanities that Dan blurted out, because it wouldn't be correct. It is better that they continue to maintain the image of him, as a gentleman, with lousy taste, but a gentleman nonetheless.

I'll report to Alpha right now. -Five more days. -How will you do it so that he doesn't recognize you? -There are masks, my dear friend. "You scared me already..." Dan sighs tiredly and adds, "Well, I think he'll only get what he deserves."

- -He won't want to do the same thing again, I'll make sure he begs me to put him in jail, although he won't do any better there.
- -Nope, those in prison are doing very badly. Rest, let your wife's arms calm you down a bit and let everything else be as it is.
- -Thank you, Dan. Rest.

The friends hang up, Gerard looks at that mask again and the darkest smile escapes from his face. He locks it up again and decides that for today nothing can disturb him, he already knows who was the unhappy one who helped all this and he will have his own revenge.

He walks into the room he now shares with his wife and their baby on the way. She will listen to Dan, he will let his arms, his body, his breathing help him calm down...just for now.

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