

Chapter 21

Maxine

We left the school driving down into town a little farther. I see more and more different stores and small shops I've never been to this part of town before.

I just stared out the window watching everything.

He starts to slow down turning into a small parking lot he parks in front of this small building.

"This place has great food here, "

He says before he gets out of the truck. I start to reach for the handle when the door opens and he's standing there holding out his hand to me. I smile and take his hand and slide down out of the truck. He doesn't loop my arm with his this time but he keeps a hold of my hand and leads me up to the door.

He reaches out and opens the door for me letting me walk in first. I step in and I instantly can smell the wonderful scent of food. My stomach lets out a small rumble.

God, I hope he didn't hear that.

I look around and see this place is small it has the old-time look there were wooden booths on the right side down the wall. The left side had a bar that was full of people sitting and chatting. I can hear the calling of orders being filled as a waitress is walking back and forth.

Pictures were hanging up on the walls and lantern-looking lights were hanging from the ceiling, I just held that MA a Pa place.

"Prince Dexter, How nice to see you. "

I hear a very cheerful voice.

"Hello, Barb, "

Dexter greets her.

I look over and see this older woman maybe in her sixties walking towards us. She walks up to Dexter and gives him a hug he has to bend down a little but he returns the hug.

"Who's this lovely young lady with you? "

"This is Maxine, She is gonna be staying with us, "

"It's nice to meet you, Maxine, "

She reaches out and pulls me into a hug.

"Barb don't squeeze her to death, " he chuckles.

"Oh, you shush you know I love meeting new people, "

She says and waves her hand at him.

"Is it just the two of you? "

She asked him as she grabs some menus and silverware.

"Yeppers, " He replies

"You want your normal spot? It's open no one is there."

"Sure, Thanks Barb."

She walks in front of us motioning us to follow her. She leads us down past all the booths till we reach the last one. It is the corner was a larger booth than the others.

"Here you go, "

She sets the menus and silverware down. Your waitress will be with you guy in one moment. She turns and walks back behind the bar area I can see her talking

with some of the people and laughing as she passed by. She seemed to know everyone that was in there,

"She is the owner of this place, She and her husband opened like twenty-some years ago, He has recently passed away and she has remained running this place on her own."

I look at him as he looks over at her I can see the softness in his eyes as he speaks about her.

"She seems like a nice lady, Very cheerful. " I tell him

"Yeah that she is. She always has a smile on her face, Jon and I have been coming here since we were teenagers it was our favorite hang-out spot,"

"Oh, I can see you and him getting into all sorts of trouble in here, " I laughed.

"Yes well Barb had beat us a time or two with the broom, Believe me, their brooms hurt and Barb has one heck of a swing to her, "

"Oh god." I chuckled, " I can just see you now ducking and diving with a little lady with a broom,"

"Hey, that little lady had good aim. " He laughs.

Before I could come back with something the waitress walks up to the table.

"Good afternoon, What can I get you to drink?" I look up at her and she is staring at Dexter,

"I'll take a coke," he tells her, "Max what do you want?" He asked me.

I was too busy talking to Dexter that I didn't even look at what they had. I quickly pick up the menu and flip it over looking for the drinks.

"Um, I'll take a coke as well," I tell her she rolled her eyes and wrote it down.

"You need a minute to order, "

"Yes please, "Dexter tells her.

"Sure thing," she says in a flirty voice. She turns and walks back behind the bar.

I look back down at the menu. I was feeling kinda annoyed at her behavior. Why was I feeling this way it's not like we are a couple. We just met and his parents are helping me. So I have no right to be feeling like this.

"If you stare at that menu any harder you may set fire to it,"

I snap my head up and look at him. I must have had a confused look on my face.

"You were glaring at that menu like you were ready to attack it, You alright? "

"Oh, I'm sorry yeah I'm fine I didn't mean to zone out there,"

I quickly blurted out I didn't want him to know what I was thinking hopefully I covered well enough.

"So what's good here?" I ask as I'm looking over the list of foods.

"Well you said you wanted a sandwich, Here if you look on this page there is a whole list of different ones, "

He tells me as he opens the menu, Our waitress comes back with our drinks and sets them down. She slide Dexter over to him making sure that she leaned over the table far enough. I noticed she had undone the two top buttons of her shirt they weren't like that when she was here the first time.

"Here ya go darling, " She purrs out and it made me feel this ping of jealousy rise up in me. What the heck Maxine stop it I tell myself. I shift a bit in my seat and continue to look over the list of sandwiches. I finally spot what one I wanted I looked up to see if she had pulled herself off the table.

"Are you ready to order?" She asked Dexter.

"Maxine you go first," He says to me.

I look up at her and she seems annoyed at his gesture.

"I'll take the Italian sandwich everything on it. Please." I say to her but she was too busy staring at Dexter.

"Oh, I'm sorry I didn't hear what you said," She says to me.

I went to say it again. When I hear Dexter.

" She said Italian with everything, "

She writes it down quickly.

"An for you darling, " She says as she bats her lashes at him.

"Just put down Dexter on that, Dan will know who it's for, "

"Dexter, " she says as she writes it down.

She turns and heads back to the window rips the slip off and hands it to the person in the back.

"I'm sorry for her," I hear him say I turn and look at him.

" It's okay, " I tell him and look back down and fiddle with the menu that she forgot to take back with her,

"No Max it isn't okay, She can see I'm sitting with someone whether we be a couple or just friends it's very rude and inappropriate to act like that when we are sitting here together,"

I can see the anger rolling off him he was just as unhappy about her as I was. I don't know why but I felt the need to calm him down. I place my hand on his and my other on his shoulder.

"Dexter, Look at me, please." He turns his face towards me and you can see his eyes hold anger in them.

"It's okay really please calm down, She's not upsetting me I find her act kinda funny she is trying way too hard. Let's just get our lunch and continue to enjoy our afternoon. "

I rub my hand on his shoulder and use my thumb to rub across his knuckles on his hand. He seemed to relax at that and I can see his eyes softness a bit with what I said.

"Sorry Max, I didn't mean to get angry it just makes me mad when they act like that, "

"It's okay I understand, Now let's just enjoy our meal alright? "

He nods his head. I let my hand fall from his shoulder and when I went to pull my hand from on top of his he quickly grabbed it and kept mine in his while he rubbed the top of my hand with his thumb.

A few minutes pass when the waitress comes back and I noticed it wasn't the same one.

"Here you guys go " she sets the plates down in front of us. Thank you we tell her She smiles turns and walks to another table. I look at Dexter and he simply shrugs his shoulders. I wonder if Barb saw her little act. I push the thought aside I looked over at Dexter and saw this huge ass burger. I swear it had like four patties on it with everything you could mash on it.

"What?" He says looking at me.

"Your gonna eat that? " I asked him

"Heck yeah, Dan makes great burgers I always get this when I'm in here. Here is want to try, "

He leans his hands over towards me while holding the burger.

I put my hands up.

"No thanks, I don't want to die of a heart attack," I laughed.

"You're lost," he says and bites into it. I just laugh and shake my head I look down at my sandwich it looks good. I picked it up and began to eat my lunch. We ate and talked the whole time we got to learn a lot about each other. He had me laughing so hard at one point I began to cry.

We finished our lunch making our way up front to pay. We said goodbye to Barb she made me promise to come to see her again. I told her I would, especially after that sandwich.

"What I tell ya better than the subway,"

He says as we are walking out the door.

"Yeah, I have to agree."

"Well what have we got here, "

I hear someone say I look up at four guys standing by his truck and they all had that look that screamed trouble.