

One year later...

"Ya, Tanner, don't worry everything in my department is arranged, fixed and everything else, you get the picture right, you need to chill" I somewhat scolded to him over the phone as I ate my breakfast "I would be at the office a whole lot quicker if you didn't keep calling me every 10 minutes" I snapped in retort, I rolled my eyes at the panicking man that I was talking with over the phone "Yes, I'll see you there, kisses" and with that I ended the call

Today was gonna be a very busy day, Tanner's company was going to be partnering up with Dmitri's company and another company who I wasn't aware of

I slipped on a black button up blouse and a white high waisted skirt that went right above my knees, I pull my hair back to a pony tail to look more mature since red isn't really a business appropriate hair color, and with that I walked out of my apartment and too my car to go to go get coffee and go to work

It was already 8:45 am by the time I got to work so I quickly raced upstairs to the floor where the meeting was being held and where Tanner's office is, while still carrying my purse, coffee and my new designs I have been working on, along the way I was greeted by my coworkers and other people that work there, but I was in too big of a rush to pay attention to them, so I only nodded my head and smiled

"Red" a deep voice boomed from across the room as I entered the board room, his voice sending chills down my spine and not in a good way, and I knew exactly who it was

Dmitri Petrov.

Even after a year of knowing him, he still scares the shit out of me, Rosie was right about not getting used to his aura

"Sir?" I ask, speaking formally, even though outside of work we addressed one another by our names I rather keep things professional while at work

"Your gonna be in the meeting room correct?" His eyes looking at me emotionless, I could only nod in reply, keeping my face void of any emotions "good, please prepare your portfolio of your own designs, just in case he wants to start working right away"

I gave him a tight smile, nodding in reply in understanding and give them one last smile before walking over to Tanner's office, knocking twice before entering

"Hey Tanny" I joke playful as I shut the door on my way in, Tanny was a nickname I only say to a reaction from him, and it works every single time

"Don't call me that" He groans annoyed sounding like a toddler doing so, I laugh as I place his coffee down on his desk while taking mine in my hands and began drinking it

"You know I don't ever listen too you Tanny Poo" I giggle playfully at him "by the way your people are waiting for you" I inform him "You have my portfolios with you right" I ask, the main reason why I came in here

"I gave it to an intern to place in the records, just in case we might need it for reference in the future"

"Ya well the future is here now, Dmitri wanted me to prepare it, just in case this CEO wants to start, by the way do you know who he is?"

He didn't look at me, as he was scrambling around his office looking for heaven knows what, it was obvious "I haven't met him, he is a friend of Dmitri, and that everyone is stressed over his arrival" I let out a soft laugh, even though Tanner is a CEO, the boss, sometimes he can be completely clueless, honestly sometimes the department heads know more than him, maybe cause he is busy keeping everything running smoothly I suppose "Red I do you mind going up, and getting the rest of the paper work, and fixing up any loose ends" he asks looking up towards me with pleading eyes, I grinned but nodded

When Tanner told me that people were stressing over the CEO's arrival, he wasn't kidding, the second I entered the floor the whole area was in chaos, everyone was running around, shouting, arguing, it was just out of control, and if this kept continuing the whole building will be a big mess and we wouldn't have anything to show to the CEO, so I did the only thing I could do

I grabbed an empty coffee mug that was on the desk beside me and picked it up throwing to the wall beside me where no one stood, and once the glass shattered all eyes were on me

"Would you all shut up, and calm down before you ruin this company's good name" I shout, the room grew quiet everyone waiting for my next insult, comment or order "We don't have much time to fix this mess but we can do the best we can, so now I want interns to sort the mess on the floor, and the designers to collect the important designs as well" I began to shout and when they stood still I glared at them, not liking how they were wasting our time

"I'm sorry did I hesitate" I ask snapping at them, they shook their heads no "okay then move people" I say again, and right away they begin to move but in much more of an orderly fashion, I turn my head towards my two personal interns

"Go to my office and get me my red and blue folder" I say to the first intern, she nodded her head and rushed to my office, once she left I turned my head toward the other intern "Oh and I need the overall company documentation about the current status of the different departments" I ordered,

"And you go to the entrance and wait for the CEO to get here and when he does page me" I order to her as well and once both of them walk off to complete their task I went off to complete mine,

Soon enough everything was back to normal pace, and ready for the CEO's arrival

"Ms Stone, the CEO is already here" the intern says from behind I turn myself to face her as she speaks again "he's heading up to the board room now"

I smile at her and nod before rushing up to the board room, everyone was already there sitting down talking amongst themselves, I noticed Tanner was already talking to someone who I presume is the CEO but I couldn't tell because his back was towards me, I made my way towards them, Tanner was the first to see me, and once he did he have lit up like a Christmas tree

"And this is my head designer Vallie Stone" Tanner stated proudly, I wanted to roll my eyes but I held against it, as Tanner finished his sentence the CEO turned around and once he did I almost choked

"Val I want you to meet-" Tanner started but before he could finish

"Oh my ghad" My voice somewhat shaking, I felt frozen in my spot, as we stared at one another, it felt like a year was longer than what it actually was, I couldn't believe he was actually here I didn't know what to feel, or say, how was I suppose to react, is this a big deal? No it isn't he is a business associate now, that's all that there is too it, I am overthinking again, I haven't overthink in a while now, mainly because there was nothing to overthink anymore, expect for him

Tanner was trying to say something, I suppose or maybe it was Dmitri I wasn't sure, I was unable to comprehend what was happening, looking at him made time stand still, like we were the only two people in the room

Crazy right?

The tension, and the emotion from our last encounter was still there even after a year

We were both looking at each other baffled and surprised, different emotions were running through me as I stare at the guy I haven't spoke with for so long, it amazes me how I can feel so speechless to a guy I didn't even know that well, we didn't say a word, we just stood there in silence but finally he was the first to speak and the words that left his mouth were ones that I almost didn't hear, ones that I even more speechless

"finally found you"

Hey guys so yes there is a time jump, mainly because I feel like she needed that time to have a normal life and to change, the once meek blonde girl is no more as ya'll can see she dyed her hair red, and is the head designer who else is proud of our girl? Who do y'all think the CEO is??

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