

## Chapter 24

🔒 Rose's pov 🔒

I'm gaping at their elated smiles, wanting nothing more but to hide under the table or preferably dig a hole and bury myself. My eyes shift anywhere but to Luke.

"No, I could never-" I rushed out flustered beyond imaginable.

"We're not-" Luke rushes out at the same time.

Ivory looks at the two of us confused before her face shifts into one of realization. "Oh Lily did say you guys were in denial. I guess I didn't see how much." She jokes and saunters over to Ashley. She picks her up and smothers her in kisses.

If it were even possible I became more flustered than before, my cheeks were so hot that an egg could be fried on the surface. My eyes flicker to Luke and I find him already staring at me. Feeling the heat of his stare I tear my eyes away.

"We seriously are just here to look after Ashley until Lily and Asher get back. Nothing is going on between the two of us." I insist.

"Oh, so both of you happen to want to stay together to look after Ashley?" Ivan was the one teasing us now. His eyes held a mischievous glint as he walks over to his wife to pry Ashley away. Ivory pouts but doesn't say anything while her husband embraces little Ashley's body to his huge one.

My eyes widen at what they were implying. "It's not like that seriously. Lily called me first and I agreed to stay with her, this guy-" I point to Luke whose arms were folded as he leaned back on the counter. "Just so happen to have been called too and didn't want to go home even though I was already here first." I hissed at the end scowling at Luke.

He scoffed. "Mind you, I was called first and sorry to burst your bubble blondie but if you had a problem with me staying you could've easily gone home."

I snorted and folded my arms. "Yeah and give you exactly what you want? Not a chance."

"Just admit it already, I was the better choice to stay with Ashley." He rolls his eyes.

I gasp. "If you were the better choice then why weren't you here last night!" I growled. My teeth were clenched so hard that I was afraid they would start to break off. He flinches and now the atmosphere was zapping with awkwardness and tension.

It feels like eternity as we continue to glare and scowl at each other. It was like we were arguing using our eyes. A clearing of a throat has us breaking the glare to look at the one who interrupted us.

"Well we should be on our way." Ivory laughed uneasily, no doubt feeling the tension. My eyes drop to the bag she held and watch her tuck one of Ashley's clothes inside before zipping. When had she gone to Ashley's room to pack her stuff? How long have Luke and I been glaring at each other?

Ivan nods eagerly, obviously wanting to get away from Luke and I. I nodded and walked over to Ashley to poke her cheek playfully. "See you later little Ash."

"Oh about that, we'll bring her back tomorrow morning, we want to spend as much as we can with her before we leave." Ivory says.

"Oh, I see. Then I'll see you guys tomorrow then?"

She nods and pushes the bag in her husband's hands and tugs Ashley out of his arms. He sighs holding the bag. "You always want to hog her Ivory, it's not fair." Ivan complained.

Ivory rolls her eyes and starts walking away, Ivan in tow. "Oh don't be such a baby Ivan, you'll get your chance. Just not now." She responds snarkily.

I follow after them intending to close the door after them when they leave. But heavy footsteps follow after me and I refrain from groaning. It was like he was doing it on purpose as he continues to walk, now beside me.

Ivan opens the door and lets Ivory pass first. They turn around when they hear us approaching and smile. "Well we'll be on our way, have fun you two." Ivan says with a teasing tone.

I groaned and placed my hands on the door only to have a hand hold it as well. I glare at Luke's big hand wanting nothing more than to chop it. I forced out a smile onto my face and faced Ivory and Ivan. "Drive safe."

"Yeah we'll see you guys tomorrow." Luke says. He was so close to me that I could feel him pressed to my back. Every muscle screaming for me to turn around and skim my hands over them.

I itched away and pressed my palm on the door planning to close it. He stops it and lets out a low chuckle that I could only hear. Ivory smirks before they wave and walk over to their car. They drive off a minute after.

I push at the door again, gritting my teeth when Luke refuses to budge. "Let me close the door Luke. Are you seriously looking for any means to irritate me? Because it's working." I hissed pushing at the door.

"What was the meaning of that back there?" He asked, his tone was void of emotion. Almost cold.

I let out a frustrated breath, let go of the door and turned around. When I came face to face with his chest, I couldn't help but let my eyes linger on his abs. Hearing his amused chuckle makes me tear my eyes away and side step him to walk to the kitchen.

I hear the door close behind me, letting me know he had shut it. I rolled my eyes. "You didn't answer my question." Luke grumbles, prancing to catch up to me. He grabs a hold of my arm and turns me around to face him.

"What are you even talking about Luke?" I questioned and jerked my hand out of his hold. I turn around to continue to the kitchen, planning on finishing my breakfast. I was still hungry and wanted nothing more than to get away from where this conversation was heading.

I slid on the stool and took a piece of bacon to start eating. "I'm talking about you trying to embarrass me in front of Ivory and Ivan. You didn't have to mention last night Rose." He hisses.

I snorted while throwing in another piece of bacon in my mouth. "What because it's the truth? They left us both in charge of Ashley but you left me here last night alone. What a best choice you are." I mocked.

He storms around the counter to face me. Palms flatly propped on the counter, face inches apart from my own as he glares into my soul. "Are you sure you're mad about me leaving you last night or the intention behind it?"

I tear my eyes away from him, all of a sudden feeling nervous and gulped down the bacon before answering. "Don't flatter yourself." I didn't sound convincing even to my own ears.

"I don't have to baby, your reaction just confirmed it." His voice was now low, taking on a husky one as his blue eyes flick down to my lips. It takes everything in me to suppress the way his words affected me.

His phone starts blaring again and the muscles in his jaw contracts as he grunts. He reaches over, clasp it and answers the phone. His voice lacks any compassion as he roars. "What the fuck do you want father?"