

Chapter 26

🔒 Rose's pov 🔒

My stomach twisted with nerves and my heart clenches in a painful way. Why do I feel jealous? Why does it hurt to know that he has a girlfriend? I'm staring into his piercing eyes, trying to see any signs of dishonesty but I see none. His face is stacked in indifference.

His lips tugs into a crooked grin. "Why do you want to know? Do you care?"

My grip on the broom is more deathly now as my nails dig into my flesh from my clenched fist. "I don't." The lie oozes out more smoother than I anticipated.

His smile gets wider as he gives me a once over before meeting my eyes. "You know, you're not very good at hiding your obvious jealousy." He taunts.

My nostrils flared as I glared into his blue orbs. "I'm not jealous." I spat through gritted teeth.

His eyes stares deep into my own intensely. "That's good because it'll be strange being jealous of yourself." He says smoothly.

I blink trying to comprehend his words. "What do you mean?" I voiced out.

He rolls his eyes and steps towards me, bends his head down to be eye level and flicks my forehead with his thumb and index finger. I hiss glaring at him. "You see blondie, as of today you're now considered my girlfriend."

The broom I still held drops on the floor from my loosened grip. I back away as my heart flips in my chest, stomach filled with a fluttering feeling. My eyes are wide in bewilderment staring at his nonchalant face.

Was this his way of getting a girl in his bed, labeling them as his girlfriend? No matter how much my stomach did somersaults and my emotions going haywire, I wouldn't be so easy and be one of those girls that he had slept with. "Are you mad!" I screech.

He chuckles. "I can assure you that I'm perfectly sane."

"Yo-u can't just say stuff like that Luke and think it's perfectly normal! We aren't even dating for fuck sake!" I stuttered. I could feel the heat crawling up to my cheeks, palms sweaty from nerves.

He stops smiling and groans. "Calm down Rose it's not like you're actually my girlfriend it's just for show."

I would be lying if I said his words didn't hurt. For show? Was I just a play thing to him. My brows are furrowed in confusion, trying to make sense of what he was saying. "What do you mean for show?"

He sighs and sits down on the stool. "Look I just need you to act as my girlfriend tomorrow. You'll come to lunch with me at my parents and we'll act like those sappy lovey dovey couples."

I blinked and scanned his face. He didn't once let his emotions show so I couldn't tell if he was joking or not. "Don't look as though I'm going to murder you Rose, it's just a favor I'm asking of you. I'm kind of desperate at this point." He uttered.

I study him. The way he rakes a hand through his hair in frustration and tensed muscles lets me know that he was speaking the truth. He seemed to be distressed and I wanted to ease the thoughts I knew that were racing through his mind. "You want me to act like your girlfriend as a favor to you?" I questioned.

He nods and bites his bottom lip. I wanted to do that, bite into the soft looking flesh. I tear my eyes away ashamed at where my thoughts have headed. "What's in it for me?" I folded my arms feigning being nonchalant. On the outside I looked like I didn't care but inside I was bursting with emotions. Emotions I didn't want coming out soon.

He smirks and rakes his eyes over my body, lingering on my legs and breast. "How about one night of bliss? Or do you want two nights, I can arrange that?"

My brows furrowed. "What do you mean?" I asked puzzled.

His smirk widens and he bites his bottom lip in a sexy way while goggling at my breast. My eyes widen when I understand his words and I suck in a sharp breath. "Oh, Oh." I gasped. My eyes narrow.

"You fucking pervert, what makes you think that I want sex as payment for helping you?" I yelled and turned around to leave. He burst into laughter before getting up, grabbing my arm to halt me.

"Sorry, I was joking Rose." He chuckles. His body was pressed to my back, head dipped as his lips brush against my ear. "Though I don't mind."

A pleasant sensation passes through me through my core. It takes everything in me to stop a moan from escaping my lips. I jerk my arm out of his hold and turn to glare at him. "That wasn't funny, that's insulting." I gritted out.

His eyes soften. "I'm sorry if I insulted you it wasn't my intention. Look, I need your help only for tomorrow. I'll pay you if you want, just pose as my girlfriend." He pleads.

I scanned his features and my eyes soften at his uneasiness. He really was desperate. But why? "If I happen to agree to this silly arrangement what becomes of the situation after we pretend to be lovers?"

His shrugs. "We'll go back to the way things were before. You resenting me."

I nibble on my lips. Somehow I doubt we could go back to how things were if we so happen to do this outrageous idea. "Mind I ask why you came up with that idea, why are you desperate to have me pose as your girlfriend?" I voiced out.

I waited for him to scowl like he usually did when I ask a personal question but he shocked me by answering calmly. "My dad has stupidly arranged for me to marry one of his business partner's daughter."

I raise my brow and before I could stop it a laugh erupts out of my mouth. His eyes narrow and he folds his arm in annoyance. "That's not humorous Rose. What's so funny about my predicament?"

I press my palm on my lips to try and stifle my laughter. When I finally calm down I answered. "It's not everyday I hear a grown man is being arranged to marry. Did your dad take out a page from Asher's parents book?" I couldn't help but let a giggle slip.

"I still don't get what's funny about being forced into marriage." He grumbles, lips pouted in the most adorable way. My eyes linger on them and my laughter ceases before I clear my throat.

"Okay I'll help you." I stated.

His blue eyes lit up and he smiles. "You will?"

I rolled my eyes. "Yes I will." I turned around and said over my shoulder as I walk away. "By the way I don't need your money. Now if you don't mind, I'm going to have a shower and finally grade those kids papers. I've been prolonging them for too long."