

Chapter 31

👁️ Rose's pov 👁️

Luke is stiff beside me. His hands are now cold against my skin." You fucking invited them?!" He hissed. From his tone and his reaction from seeing the guests, lets me know that he isn't fond of them.

Who were they?

The girl that seemed to be around my age, comes towards Sophie and bends down to give her a hug. She places a peck on Sophie's cheek. I couldn't help but notice how Sophie seemed to be happy to see her. Her face was now beaming.

The man comes to sit on one of the vacant chairs that was opposite to us. His stare was unnerving and I quickly tore my eyes away. "Rathic, Sophie." He greets and completely ignores Luke and I.

I bring my gaze back to the girl who was chattering happily to Sophie. She removes her shades and I'm left stunned. I was right, she was beautiful with her wild looking green eyes.

I couldn't help but feel self conscious. While she had curves in all the right places I was skinny. No matter how many times I stuffed my face I could never gain weight. It was a blessing and a curse.

She turns to us, well more specifically Luke. It was like she didn't acknowledge my presence as she scamper towards Luke. The black skin tight leather dress she wore prevents her from reaching quicker.

Hot boiling rage of jealousy shoots through my entire body. My fists are clenched on my thigh as she sends her arms around Luke. Burying his face between her boobs.

"Luke baby, I've missed you. You haven't called." She lets go and pouts. I would've said she was ugly doing that but in reality she wasn't.

As if coming back from shock Luke pushes her away. Roughly. "What the fuck Riley." He roars.

She looks stunned and a bit embarrassed. Sophie lets out an unamused chuckle. It was so cold that it sent shivers down my spine. "Luke's girlfriend is here Riley so he doesn't want to show off his bad manners." She spat.

For a second the girl named Riley looks confused before her head snaps in my direction. Her green eyes widen in disbelief before they turn to slits of rage. Her lips curl up into a snarl.

"Oh I see why you've ignored my calls." She bites out, walks over to her father and plops down on the seat beside him.

Her eyes didn't shift away from me once as she glared into my soul. I frown and looked at Luke. Was I seriously in the middle of a family feud and lovers spat?

But he wasn't looking at me. His eyes are focused on glaring at his elated father. Rathic smirks and calls for the food to be served. All the while his guests are frowning at me like I didn't belong here. I was starting to think that too.

"Thank you." I said to the maid who placed the food before me. She smiles, looks up, then like her ass was on fire scurry away.

I stare at her retreating form puzzled. Then looked over where or more specifically who had caused her to be this frightened. I found Sophie smirking at me. She reaches for her fork and starts stabbing the food on her plate.

"So Rose, what do you do for a living?" She questions not sounding the bit interested. I contemplated not answering, but a firm squeeze on my thigh from Luke has me opening my mouth to speak. "I'm an elementary school teacher."

"So a basic job." Riley snorts and Sophie joins her in laughter.

I narrow my eyes feeling heated by her words. My palms are itching to wipe that smirk off her pretty face but I refrain. "My job is anything but basic, I love it wholeheartedly. At least I'm not sitting on my ass while daddy does the work." I spat. Even though I had stopped myself from knocking some senses into her, I couldn't stop my mouth.

She gasps audibly whilst Luke chuckles beside me. "You don't know me." She sneered.

I rolled my eyes and looked at her uninterested. "And you don't know me either yet you judge me. So why can't I do the same?" I said with a bored tone.

Her nostrils flared, fist clenching the fork in her hand. Rathic laughs and speaks up. "Now now girls no fighting at the table." He warns.

Riley turns to her father, watching him beneath her fake lashes. "Daddy say something." She whines.

Her dad puffs out a breath. "Leave it be Riley."

"Fine, I don't speak to dirty rats anyway." She huffs.

Luke tenses and drops the fork he was holding on the plate. It makes a loud clattering sound that has everyone looking at him. "I won't take lightly to you disrespecting my girlfriend Riley. Make it the last time you do. Don't mistake Rose for yourself." He warns. His eyes are blazing with anger, jaw clenched tightly.

"Now Luke, you've gone too far, leave Riley alone." Her dad speaks up. Even though he seems to look at Luke with unwavering eyes, I could see the way he gulped in unease. The way his forehead starts to have a sheen of sweat. He was afraid.

I place my hand on Luke's hand that is currently gripping my thighs. I began to massage circles on his flesh trying to ease his anger. He soon relaxes and Riley sends me an unpleasant scowl.

"So Rose, how did you and Luke meet?" Rathic questions. Either he was trying to ease the tension or create more of it.

"At the hospital." Both Luke and I answered simultaneously. I smiled knowing that we were on the same page and wasn't unaware of how to respond.

He raises his brow and pushes the filled fork into his mouth. "Oh really? That's a strange place to meet. Tell me was it love at first sight like you young folks say it?" He laughs but I couldn't find any traces of humor.

Luke nods quickly. "I thought she was beautiful that night, the most gorgeous girl I've ever seen. So to answer your question yes I did fall in love that night." He answers. My heart leaps into my throat.

He did? I thought, stunned by the idea. Or was this his acting coming to play?

I couldn't help but stare at him and let my eyes trace his handsome features. Someone snorts and I turn my gaze to the culprit. I'm faced with a seething Sophie and Riley. "I call bullshit!" Sophie roars slamming her hands on the table.

"There's no way you two are really together. You haven't been affectionate enough from the moment y'all have gotten here. I say this is a way for Luke to pull himself out of the arrangement with Riley. This is a lie, a game!" She rages on. Her face red and nails digging into the wooden table.

"We haven't been affectionate enough?" Luke chuckles. "Well let me show you affection mother, since you've been lacking it." He says dryly.

I turn towards him confused at his words only to be shocked when he grabs me behind my head and pulls me forward. "Luke-" I breathed out. He smirks and before I could say anything else, brings my lips to meet his.

He hungrily starts molding them, sucking in my bottom lip. The moment he tongue licks the bottom of my lip felt like a rush, a drug. I couldn't get enough. It felt so good, so good.

A gasp escapes my lips when he starts nibbling them. He takes that opportunity to let his tongue sneak in. Our tongues are now sliding together in the most intoxicating way. It was like he couldn't get enough and was branding me as his.

A sudden warmth fills my lower stomach and settles in my core. We are so lost in each other that I had forgotten where we were. A clearing of a throat makes us reluctantly break away.

I'm left breathing harsh and the same thing could be said for Luke as we stare at each other. His blue eyes are dark with desire that I had triggered. This wasn't how I pictured my first kiss to be. But God, nothing could compare to what just happened.