Chapter 124

Alexander's POV

Johnson was really wearing me out. Now he was throwing a fit about the floor, but he would stay right where he was. I couldn't stand this pain in the neck anymore. The audit needed to go deeper and was combing through years of business activity. Alan said this might take a while. Meanwhile, I had to put up with this idiot.

I've been locked in my office all day because of the New York clients. The contract was going very well and they're thinking about expanding their business with us, but they've asked for a lot of information that Rick and I were organizing. I'd probably have to travel, but maybe getting away for a bit wouldn't be bad.

"I come back from a trip after a month away, and I don't get confetti and balloons? What kind of friends are you?" Mari walked in joking. "Wow! But this office looks beautiful!"

"Mari! I'm so glad you're here. I've missed you so much!" I got up to meet the woman who was like a mother to me.

"Oh, dear, I've missed you too. How are you?"

"Wrecked! A shell of a human being, stressed, anxious, and weepy. Like a fifteen-year-old who lost his high school girlfriend," Rick stood up and walked toward us.

"Yeah, I can see you look terrible," Mari agreed.

"Mari, how do I fix this? Help me! Patrick suggested buying time, postponing the wedding as long as I can. I managed three months for now, but what's the point?" I spoke desperately.

"Son, treat this like business, think like a businessman in a negotiation. Be cold and rational. If you let emotions take over, you'll mess up - that's how you got here in the first place. You let emotions control you, got drunk, made mistakes, and might have gotten that idiot pregnant," Mari said.

"Besides, man, you need the DNA test. I can't accept that this child is yours," Rick said.

"Neither can I!" Mari concluded, "But why won't she take the test?"

"The test carries a risk of miscarriage, and she refuses to put the pregnancy at risk," I explained. "But it could only be done after the twelfth week of pregnancy anyway."

"Well, but you've gained time now. She must be about four weeks along now. You have to convince her," Mari encouraged.

"Patrick and I are analyzing the possibilities, Mari, because Alexander gets too worked up and loses his patience," Rick added.

"But tell me everything in detail," Mari requested.

We spent the next hour updating Mari with all the news, about this mess with the creepy family, about the company, and about the audit. Patrick joined us, and we ended up ordering food and eating right there in the office.

I decided to get up and walk around a bit since I'd spent the entire morning in front of the computer, and my body was starting to complain. I went to the break room to get some coffee, but before entering, I heard Catherine's voice and stopped, unsure whether to go in or not. She was on her phone, and I heard her say:

"Not at all, Levy, I know you're very busy. How was your trip? I thought you'd be gone longer." Cat asked cheerfully. "Really? That's great!" Another pause as she listened to what he was saying. "A present for me? Oh, Levy, you shouldn't have!" She listened intently to what he was saying and laughed. "Alright, Levy, when do you want to give me my present?" Another pause. "Tomorrow is perfect for me. Where are we going?" She was going out with him again? "No, you always surprise me, and I really like the places you choose. Great! See you tomorrow then. Kiss." She hung up the phone, and through the door crack, I could see the little smile on her lips.

Well, Levy sure didn't waste time. But I was not going to make things easy for him either. She might be going out with him, but she'd be thinking about me all night. I took a deep breath and calmly entered the break room. I closed the door behind me and walked up to Catherine, who was standing in front of the coffee maker getting her coffee. I stopped behind her and placed my hands on the counter, one on each side of her body. Catherine was trapped between my arms.

I breathed in her delicious perfume. I pressed my body against hers, trapping her between the counter and me, my body immediately reacting to her presence as I felt myself getting hard. I sighed and whispered in her ear:

"Going out with Levy again, my angel? Is that how it's going to be? Here I am, dying for you, while you're off having fun with someone else?" I was consumed with jealousy.

"Alexander..." she breathed heavily, gasping as she felt my erection against her back.

"Tell me, my angel. Tell me if your body responds to him like this." I brushed her hair to one side and peppered kisses on her neck. I gently

sucked on her earlobe and spread more kisses, finally giving a little bite to her nape. Catherine was breathless.

"Alexander, please, don't do this to me!" She begged. "Can't you see how much I'm suffering because of you? But you're getting married, and I need to move on with my life."

A tear rolled down her face, and I gently turned her head and kissed the path that tear had traced, stopping near her mouth. I looked into her eyes and saw that all the love I felt was reflected in her eyes too, those beautiful green eyes.

"My angel, I don't know how to live without you anymore."

I turned her to face me and kissed her with intensity, love, and longing. It was a long kiss, she was there in my embrace and kissed me back. Our lips were hungry for each other. The longing to be together was consuming us. Our tears mingled. When our lips parted, I kept her tight in my embrace, resting her head against my chest as I stroked her hair.

"My angel, I know I'm being very selfish. Levy is a good guy. But I can't stand the thought of you being with someone else. I managed to postpone that damn wedding for another three months, that's enough time to try to convince that creature to do the DNA test. This child might not be mine, Cat. Please, just give me some time."

"And what if the child is yours?" she said between sobs. "We'll only have prolonged the suffering."

"Oh, my love... forgive me," I pleaded once more.

"I just accepted an invitation from a friend, Alexander. It doesn't mean I'm going to be with him. But I can't drown in this sadness, I have a son and he needs me," she tried to explain.

"And how's our boy? I miss him, I want to see him," I asked.

"He misses you too. But it's better if you two don't see each other anymore. I don't want Johnson and his daughter going after my son. He's just a child. I'm afraid they might mistreat him." She was right.

"Alright, I understand. But can you tell him that I love him and miss him?

"I will, he'll be happy. Thank you!" She pulled away and placed her hand on my face. "I'll never love anyone the way I love you."

Catherine gave me a quick peck on the lips and left my embrace, leaving me there alone with her perfume. I sat down and like a little boy, buried my head in my arms and let the tears fall.

When I calmed down, I went back to my office. I took my phone and sent a message to my Cat:

"I just want you to be happy!"

I tried to get back to work, but my mind was already far away from there.

