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I had a quiet weekend. Levy sent countless messages apologizing for not being able to see me, as he had to work due to many unexpected situations.

Mari spent Sunday with us and spoiled Peter all day long. She had brought him a present from London, and he was enchanted - it was a building block set that reproduced Buckingham Palace, complete with a small carpet simulating the streets and one of those double-decker buses that are so common there. Everything was very colorful, and the bus even had a wind-up mechanism and working lights.

"Mari, how am I supposed to compete with that?" Melissa said with a smile, watching Peter dissolve into giggles of joy as he assembled and disassembled the blocks.

Mari gave me lots of advice and asked about Levy, counseling me to take things slow, suggesting that my situation with Alexander might still work out. I assured her that Levy was just a friend, and although he wanted something more, my love for Alexander was deeply rooted in my heart. But I couldn't put my life on hold and simply wait for the day when, maybe, possibly, Alexander would be free for me.

After that, the week flew by. Levy sent me messages every day but had to make a last-minute trip to handle some business at his father's company in California. He said he was sorry for having to be away but promised to bring me a present when he returned and would make it up to me by taking me somewhere I would love.

The following Monday, Mari returned to London sooner than any of us would have liked, leaving us already missing her. Melissa and I wanted to take her to the airport, but she said Alexander had already offered to do

that before heading to work.

I arrived at my office and, as every Monday, there was a beautiful arrangement of tulips with a card from Alexander, saying the same thing as always – that he would love me until his last breath and regretted putting us in this situation. I admired the tulips for a moment, then sat at my desk and put the card in a small box at the back of my drawer, along with all the others.

"Good morning, Cat. How are you today? I brought you something."

Patrick came in cheerful as always and placed a package of four chocolate chip muffins on my desk that were still warm. And they smelled delicious. I looked at him with sparkling eyes and a child-like smile.

"I love chocolate chip muffins. Thank you, Patrick!"

"That's great, because I brought this too." He placed a huge, steaming cup of cappuccino on my desk.

"You're the best boss in the world! Just what I needed." I said and watched his smile widen.

Patrick went into his office, and I invited Sam to eat with me at my desk, but she declined since he had brought her food too and she was swamped with work.

I was eating my pastries while working when Alexander walked into the room, gorgeous as always. He stopped by my side, scratched the back of his neck, and said:

"I came to talk to Patrick."

"Of course, go ahead."

I stared at him completely mesmerized. How I loved him. We hadn't seen each other the week before, with Mari here and the audit, he had worked from home all week. I was dying to see him and couldn't take my eyes off him.

Alexander bent down, bringing our faces to the same level, ran his thumb across the corner of my mouth, and sucked his own finger while looking at me with fire in his eyes.

"Mmm, Catherine, you covered in chocolate are irresistible!"

"Alex..." I choked and cleared my throat to recover my voice. "Alexander, don't do that."

"Do what, Catherine?" he smiled devilishly, teasing me.

"You know what."

"Why don't you tell me?"

"You're provoking me."

"Am I? What if I do this, Catherine?" He leaned in and licked the corner of my mouth where his finger had cleaned the chocolate. "And this?" And kissed the same spot. "And this?" He roughly pulled me by the waist, pressing my body against his and capturing my mouth in a hungry kiss.

Alexander's kisses made my blood turn to fire in my veins. They were full of desire, lustful, provocative, and sensual. Alexander broke down all my barriers. His mere touch left me surrendered.

We kissed with an urgent need to make up for all those days we couldn't touch each other. I ran my hands over his shoulders and grabbed the hair at the nape of his neck with both hands, trying to pull us even closer.

Alexander had his arms wrapped around my waist, and I felt one of his hands slide up my spine. Our breathing was ragged, matching our racing hearts.

Without breaking our kiss, Alexander lifted me and sat me on my desk, positioning himself between my legs and pressing our bodies together, creating a delicious friction between our still-clothed bodies. I had completely forgotten where I was - I just desperately wanted that contact. I moaned against his lips, and he kissed me even more deeply.

When we finally parted our lips, purely from needing air, he gave me one more soft peck and looked into my eyes, saying:

"My angel, you have no idea how much I miss you. I'm dying without you.

I looked at him completely surrendered - how I loved this man, how I missed him. I was yanked from my reverie by Rick's voice as he walked into the office absentmindedly holding some papers and saying:

"Pretty woman, I need to talk to the bosses, are they in..." - Rick froze when he saw us.

I startled, suddenly becoming aware of where I was, pushed Alexander away and got down from the desk, straightening my dress. Alexander groaned and closed his eyes, a flash of frustration crossing his handsome face.

"Damn it, Rick!" he said to his friend.

"I'm sorry, I'm leaving, I'm sorry..."

"Come back here, you've already killed the mood anyway!" Alexander called him back, then turned to me and ran his thumb over my kiss-

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swollen lips. "My angel, thank you, I needed that so badly!" His eyes welled up with tears, as did mine. "Come on in, Rick." He said, walking toward Patrick's office door.

Rick passed by me with his hands clasped in apology. I smiled at him, but my legs were still shaking. Samantha came into my office right after, wanting to know if I was okay. I quickly told her what happened and how much I loved kissing Alexander.

I spent the rest of the day in a daze, unable to focus on anything. The only thing on my mind was that kiss, the kiss from the man I loved but couldn't have.

