



Chapter 137

It was Saturday morning. I was at home playing with Peter on the carpet while Melissa was sprawled on the couch. We were having an animated conversation. The meetings at Alexander's house weren't happening every Saturday anymore, only when Alan had something really important to announce. But today we had the day off and were making plans.

My phone rang on the kitchen counter and I went to answer it. When I looked at the screen, I recognized the number as being from the medical office and found it strange. I answered with quite a bit of surprise.

"Hello?"

"Catherine? This is Sylvia, Dr. Molina's secretary. How are you?"

"Yes, of course. I'm fine, Sylvia, and you?"

"Very well, thank you. I was waiting for you to call me back to reschedule your appointment. It's been a while."

"Oh my goodness, Sylvia, I completely forgot. I've had some really hectic days." I vaguely remembered having to cancel the last appointment and forgetting to reschedule it afterward.

"No problem, dear. I'm calling you precisely because I'm working on organizing some medical records and yours is right in front of me. And since you're without birth control coverage, maybe you could come in for an appointment today? Dr. Molina is seeing a patient and said he could see you too if you'd like."

When I heard the secretary saying I was without birth control coverage, my mind started doing calculations, but I couldn't remember... when did it expire again?



"Sylvia, since you have my records there, how long has my birth control coverage been expired?"

"About two months. You use the subcutaneous one that lasts for a year..."

I didn't hear anything else. Holy shit! No, not again, this couldn't happen another time. While I was freaking out, I heard Melissa's voice from far away and she took the phone from my hand, said something, and hung up.

"Cat, look at me and breathe." Melissa said.

I looked at her as if she were some fantastic being. My mind was short-circuiting. Melissa held my hands and told me to breathe with her. We breathed six or seven times and I felt my brain start to get oxygen again and I could think once more.

"Mel... one month... the elevator..." I could barely form complete sentences.

"I know, honey. I confirmed with Sylvia and we're going to the appointment. Go take a shower and get ready while I call Fred to stay with Peter." Melissa already had everything under control.

Half an hour later, we left the apartment, leaving Peter with Fred. Fred was worried about my nervous state, but Melissa didn't say a word to him, knowing he would immediately call Alexander.

When we arrived at the hospital, Melissa held my cold hands and looked into my eyes:

"Take a deep breath and don't freak out! Whatever happens, I'll always be here for you!"

I felt a tear rolling down my face. We arrived at the office reception, and Sylvia welcomed us with her usual warmth and a big smile. Seeing how nervous I was, she quickly prepared me a cup of tea. When Dr. Molina opened his office door, he greeted us with his usual cheerfulness.

"My beautiful girls! I've missed you!"

"Hi, Uncle, how are you?" Melissa hugged him affectionately. Fred's family considered her part of them, and since Dr. Molina was Fred's uncle, she called him uncle too.

"I'm very well. And you, moving nearby but never visiting your aunts and uncles? I saw you more often when you were my patient in Bellwood."

"Oh, uncle, everything's so hectic here. And you travel a lot too. I heard you were in Geneva?"

"A wonderful conference about advances in genetic studies." Dr. Molina spoke enthusiastically.

"And you, Catherine, how have you been?" He looked at me and extended his hand.

"In shock at the moment, Dr. Molina. I forgot something very important. I stood up and spoke tearfully.

"I know, but you need to stop suffering in advance. Come, let's take care of you." Dr. Molina led us into his office.

We sat down and Dr. Molina began with the medical history, mixing medical questions with stories and jokes to help me relax. When he noticed I was calmer, he asked me to change and lie down on the examination table. He performed the physical exam in silence. He personally collected the blood samples, handed them to his secretary



saying it was urgent, and notified the laboratory.

The test results would take an hour to be ready, so I changed and Dr. Molina took us to a sitting room inside his office where we sat down. He served us coffee and snacks that Sylvia had prepared. He asked how our life was here and how Peter was doing. I told him that my parents now lived on the farm, and he said he would visit them when he went to Bellwood.

An hour later, Sylvia knocked on the door and delivered the test results. Dr. Molina analyzed them and looked at me.

"Sweetheart, you're pregnant. It's good news, a little brother or sister for Peter..." Dr. Molina was speaking when my blood pressure dropped.

I woke up lying on the couch with Dr. Molina checking my blood pressure. I was in shock. It had happened again. Melissa looked at me with a small smile on her face.

"I'm going to have another godchild!!" Melissa celebrated.

"Oh, Mel, only you could make me laugh," I said between smiles and tears. "At least this time I know who the father is!" And we all burst out laughing in the room.

"Catherine, you're a strong woman, I know you'll do great," Dr. Molina told me. "Let's schedule your entire prenatal care at once, and I'll ask Sylvia to keep a close eye so you don't miss any appointments. For now, I'll prescribe some vitamins, medicine for your morning sickness - which now you know what it is - and other things, you know the drill."

"Of course," I agreed, calming down. "Melissa, I don't want Alexander to know." I noticed Dr. Molina looking at me over his glasses.



"Don't you think that's going to be really hard, Cat? I'm not talking about the girls, they'd guard your secret with their lives, but Fred is buddies with Miller now, and my boyfriend isn't good with secrets," Melissa reminded me.

"That's true, my nephew was never reliable with secrets," Dr. Molina commented. "Catherine, if I may, I think Alexander has the right to know. I understand you're in a delicate situation now, but..."

"Wait, uncle. What do you know about Cat and Alexander?" Melissa asked, and it was clear on the doctor's face that he had said too much.

"Fred introduced me to Alexander a few days ago. He needed to ask some questions about DNA testing. Actually, I came to work today to see him, you might run into him when you leave," Dr. Molina was honest. "That's all I can say."

"Oh, I'm going to kill Fred. He didn't tell me anything," Melissa commented.

"Doctor, I ask for your discretion. Alexander is getting married in the next few days, and I won't disrupt his life," I asked the doctor, and I was sure he would maintain professional confidentiality.

With prescriptions in hand and everything properly scheduled, we said goodbye with a promise to visit him and his family. When we left the office, I breathed a sigh of relief at not seeing Alexander there, but after saying goodbye to Sylvia and turning around, I came face to face with him and his insufferable fiancée hanging on his arm.