

Chapter 14

I told Marina about what happened with my son's father, how that experience was incredible and changed my life, and how after that I decided never to get involved with anyone again. She looked at me smiling, but suddenly remembered something that wiped the smile off her face and said:

"You sound just like Alexander. He also closed himself off to love. He had met a girl and was with her when he received the news of his parents' death. He was devastated. When he tried to find her again, she had vanished into thin air. He tried to find her but couldn't, and he still hasn't gotten over it."

"Mari, how did his parents die?" I asked curiously.

"They died in a helicopter accident while returning from a party. Alexander's father received some urgent company information and had to return quickly. Alexander stayed at the party with the girl, and his parents couldn't find him to say goodbye, so they left a message with Patrick's parents. But at the party itself, Alex received the news of his parents' passing." Marina said, choking up with sadness. "That boy was never the same after that. He never got seriously involved with any woman again, he goes out with one or another, but it never goes beyond a meaningless one-night stand for him."

"Now I understand why he's so serious. It must have been really hard," I said, feeling sorry for his pain.

"It was. He wasn't ready to take over the company yet, but he had to face it. It was either that or leave it in Johnson's hands, who was already the financial director and had the skills to assume the presidency since he worked closely with Alexander's father. At that time, Alex was the vice



president, but his father was always by his side teaching him everything. He decided he wouldn't leave his legacy in the hands of strangers and would take over the presidency no matter what. I remember Johnson was very upset, saying he couldn't handle it, that he was just a spoiled kid who would run the company into the ground. They had a huge fight, and since then he only tolerates Johnson because he wanted to keep all the employees who worked with his father. Johnson thought he would become vice president then, but Alexander brought in Patrick - they had always been friends, like brothers, and their parents were very close too. It was the best thing Alexander ever did. The two of them breathed new life into the company, and it's grown even more since then. Patrick and I are the closest thing Alexander has to family."

Mel and I were stunned. Mel had tears in her eyes and asked Marina:

"But Mari, how long ago was this?"

"About three years ago. Alexander and Patrick are now thirty-one, they were very young when they took over that company."

"And how long have you been there?" Mel was very curious.

"I've been with the Miller family for thirty years. I changed that boy's diapers. I started as the president's secretary when I was twenty, had just gotten married. Two years later, I got pregnant and had twins. A year after that, my husband left me for some trashy woman. I raised my daughters alone, and Alexander's parents helped me a lot. I soon became senior advisor to Miller Mr. When he died, it was already settled that I would go to London to run the branch there, but I didn't want to leave Alexander, and we agreed that once he had the reins of the company firmly in his hands, I would go. And now the time has come." 3

"Mari, I didn't know you had children. Do they live with you?" I asked,

feeling guilty for not having taken the time to know her better.

"No, they live in London. They went to study at Oxford and never came back. They found fiancés there, got married, and have already given me three beautiful grandchildren," she said, proudly taking out her phone to show us the photos. "That's why I'm moving to London, to be closer to my family. But my heart aches to leave Alexander."

"That's wonderful, Mari. Family is so important," I said thoughtfully, remembering my own parents and feeling a pang of homesickness. "But doesn't Mr. Miller have any other family?"

"Only very distant relatives he barely has contact with. Like his parents, Alexander is an only child. But Cat, tell us how it was meeting your boss, because according to Patrick, it was quite intense."

Melissa immediately raised an eyebrow, intrigued by the news. I told them everything that happened, and Mariana kept highlighting parts of the story she had witnessed. It was really fun - we sat there chatting and sharing stories. Melissa had us dying of laughter when she told us about how her boss once sent a gift to his mother and another to his fling but mixed up the packages. His mother received a box of adult toys while the fling got a box with a rosary and a Bible. The funniest part was that both women showed up at the company at the same time to confront him, and his mother refused to return the box of toys. According to Mel, it was hilarious. 1

After lots of good conversation, Mari said goodbye and went home. While we were cleaning up, Melissa was quick to ask: 1

"Spill it, Cat. I want to know all the juicy details that Mari doesn't know about."



"What do you mean, Mel?"

"Don't play dumb with me, Catherine. You sent me a message saying your boss grabbed you – clearly there's more to the story than what you just told. Come on, talk."

There was no way around it. I told Mel about how worked up my boss got when he held me and how he got me all hot and bothered just by touching me. Mel looked at me and understood I was really in trouble, but she couldn't help laughing at my situation.

"Mel, do you think your uncle would really hire me back?"

"Girl, my uncle said if you want to come back, you'll have a job. He wouldn't leave you hanging. Plus, there's my dad's agency too – you won't be jobless. But why? Do you think your boss is going to fire you?"

"I don't know, Mel. But when he gets close, I feel different. I was instantly attracted to him in such an intense way. I kind of lose my mind."

"I'm not sure I follow, Cat."

"You know how I am, Mel. I always think about the consequences of everything, never act on impulse, always keep myself in check, but around my boss, it feels like I'm going to lose control. I feel my body burning, you know."

My friend let out a laugh, put her hand on my shoulder, and looking into my eyes, said:


"Girl, that's called being horny."

We burst out laughing. Mel always found everything so simple. But it was comforting to know I wouldn't end up on the street if this job didn't work



out.

"Oh, Cat. I almost forgot - my mom recommended a nanny for us since we'll need someone for emergencies now. I've already hired her, hope you don't mind. She'll pick up Peter from daycare every day and stay with him until we get home. I arranged for her to have him bathed and fed. And on weekends, she can stay if needed, including nights if we have to go to any events. So I've already arranged for her to watch Peter on Saturday so we can go out. Don't worry, she's great and used to be my nanny. She's very experienced, has already met Peter, and they got along really well. You'll meet her tomorrow. And her salary is on me. Her name is Lygia."

"Mel, what would I do without you? I was worried about making it in time to pick up Peter from daycare. It'll be great to have someone to help with him. Thank you! But let me pay Lygia's salary." 

"No way! I'm paying. He's my godson, and I want you to be able to go out with me at night, so I'm paying."

I decided not to argue - it would be pointless. I'd find a way to make it up to her later. But it was a relief that she found this nanny, and if her mom recommended her, I could rest assured she'd be an excellent person.

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