Chapter 141

My day was horrible. I was feeling nauseous and very sleepy. Patrick came back from the club and stopped by my desk.

"Cat, come here," he called.

"Yes, Pat!" I teased him.

"Hey, I like that!" He smiled, a beautiful and relaxed smile. "But come closer and smell me."

"I haven't turned into a dog, Patrick!" I joked with him.

"Silly! I changed my cologne, I want to know if you like this one." Patrick was such a sweetheart and very thoughtful.

"Ah, this one I like!" I said after catching his scent.

"Great, because I don't want my assistant running away from me." He let out a hearty laugh and went into his office.

Only then did I notice Rick standing at the door watching the scene.

"What did I miss?" Rick asked.

"Nothing much, Rick. I was bothered by the cologne Patrick was wearing earlier, and he was kind enough to change it," I replied with a smile.

"Showing who's boss! I like it!" Rick commented. "Cat, how are you? We're worried about you."

"I'm fine, Rick. It's just a lot of stress," I said.

"Really?" he persisted.

"Really," I assured him.

"Then come with me." He extended his hand. "Grab your purse because we're leaving the building."

"And where are we going?" I asked while picking up my purse.

"To de-stress!" He said with a smile.

We left the building and walked a bit, talking about casual things. We arrived at a small bakery and sat down to order coffee.

"Pretty woman, I'm not stupid!" I looked at Rick, not understanding. "I have five nephews, Cat, and I love my sisters, so I pampered them a lot during each pregnancy. Tell me, you're pregnant with Alexander's baby, aren't you?" Rick left me frozen.

"Rick..." I smiled awkwardly at him, trying to appear calm. "Where did you get that from?"

"Oh, come on, Cat!" Rick said. "You're pale, you've lost weight, everything makes you sick, you're always nauseous, you're constantly sleepy, and now you can't stand Patrick's cologne. And yes, I'm a man, I love my wife, but I've noticed your breasts are a bit bigger."

Only one thing was going through my mind: holy shit! Everything's fucked up! Rick was looking at me with a raised eyebrow that said "no point trying to deny it".

"Rick, please don't tell Alexander." I started crying.

"Oh, the hormones." Rick called a waitress and ordered a pineapple mint juice. "I won't tell Alexander or anyone else, for now. Because he has the right to hear it from you. But you're going to tell me exactly what's going on."

I explained to Rick how things happened and that I don't want Alexander to know, at least not before the wedding.

"Why don't you want him to know? He'll be so happy!"

"Because I won't use a child to make Alexander stay with me."

"And you really think Alexander would stay with you because of a child?"
Rick was in disbelief. "Woman, this man is crazy about you, wake up!
You're not together only because you don't want to be. I understand
partly, but Alexander would protect you from the world, Cat. I'll keep
quiet, but if I think you won't tell him, I will."

I started crying like a child and the tears wouldn't stop falling. Damn hormones. Rick spent the next hour trying to calm me down. The rest of the afternoon dragged on and my head was spinning.

When I got home I was exhausted, but I had arranged for Levy to come to my apartment after Peter fell asleep because I wanted to talk to him. Levy arrived and gave me a quick peck, looking handsome in his suit, having come straight from work.

"So, my beautiful, I'm worried. You haven't seemed very well lately." Levy said as he sat down.

"Levy, I have something to tell you that will change things between us." I said with a sigh, sitting beside him.

"The only thing that could change things between us is if you go back to Miller, or better yet, finally decide to date me." Levy was an optimist and that was very good.

"But it's neither one thing nor the other." I said, getting nervous.

"Then relax and tell me, because our situation will stay the same, so there's no reason to be nervous." He said, playing with a lock of my hair.

"Levy, remember when I told you about my relapse with Alexander?"

"Yes. Did you have another relapse? If that's it, Catherine, don't even

worry. You haven't agreed to be my girlfriend yet, and as much as I dislike the idea of another man touching you, I won't give up on you. Like I've told you before, you don't owe me any loyalty yet." Levy spoke while looking into my eyes with complete honesty.

"Thank you, Levy. But that's not it," I said.

"Then rip off the band-aid, Cat," he said gently.

"Levy, I'm pregnant," I said and closed my eyes, waiting for him to judge me.

I felt Levy move closer to me before whispering:

"Open your eyes, Catherine." I opened my eyes, and he was right in front of me, smiling. "I don't care!" He spoke each word slowly. "I want you, Peter, and I already want this little baby because they're part of you. I'm not going to run away. And I'm not going to hand you over to Miller on a silver platter. You decide if you'll tell him and if you'll let him be involved, but if you want, I'm more than willing to be this baby's father, just like I am with Peter."

"Are you serious?" I looked at him, unable to believe this simply perfect man sitting in front of me.

"Very serious," Levy confirmed. "You decide how it's going to be. For now, I'm happy that you've agreed to let things flow between us, like this, no strings attached. If you want to continue this way, okay, that's fine with me. I'm very patient. But the moment you say you want me, Cat, I'll hold onto you and never let go."

I felt an insane urge to kiss Levy. And how could I not? He's handsome and incredible. I looked at that beautiful man in front of me, who made me feel so much lighter, without complications, and decided to give it a try. Why not? My heart was broken, and he knew it. Maybe Levy could piece the fragments back together. I stood up and sat on his lap, sideways, with both legs on the sofa seat, wrapped my arm around his

