## Chapter 176

After lunch, I convinced Alexander that it was better for Peter to go home with my parents, Lygia and Jorge. We still had work to do and Peter needed some peace and quiet. So, our parents agreed that we still needed to work and they finally said their goodbyes and dispersed.

Alan and Mari went to the floor below to finish up the audit stuff.

"Finally! I thought they would never leave," Patrick said as the elevator doors closed, letting himself fall into his chair.

We all sighed in relief. Alexander called the guys into his office. Tess was already disassembling the brunch table that had been set up at the reception, as well as the beds in Patrick's office, and coordinating the entire organization of the floor. I went to my office with Virginia and Melissa to release urgent documents while Sam and Manu stayed at the reception sending emails, memos, and rescheduling postponed commitments.

Two hours later, we gathered in the pantry for coffee. We were all tired and needed to go home, but there were still things to be done.

"Ladies, we want to talk to you. We want to make some changes," Alexander began, arousing our interest.

"And what do you want to change?" I asked curiously.

"We want to change some of your positions," Henry said.

"What do you mean?" Melissa wanted to know.

"I want to offer Virginia a position as an executive assistant to a director. It's basically a position equal to Mel and Cat's," Alexander said. "I've already talked to Henry and he agreed. It's an administrative position and I think she has the necessary profile. I need someone I can absolutely trust and with leadership skills. I saw you working these past few days, Virginia, and I think you're perfect for the job. Of course, the salary is in line with the responsibilities of the position. So if you accept, you can start on Monday."

"Alexander, it's a great opportunity," Virginia was interested. "Sweetie, you won't be upset with me, will you?" Virginia asked Henry, taking the opportunity to tease him.

"If you keep calling me sweetie, I won't release you," Henry grumbled, making everyone laugh.

"I accept, Alexander. I'll love it," Virginia said excitedly. "This director doesn't know I'm going to work with him yet, does he?"

"No, he doesn't even know he's being appointed yet. But he'll really like having you assist him," Alexander smiled at her and she returned the smile, as if the two were sharing a big secret. "Well, I'm also going to relocate you, Sam..."

"You can fire me if you want, but I won't work at Henry's company," Samantha said, interrupting Alexander and making Henry snort.

"That's not it, Sam! We're going to hire several employees for the positions that were left vacant by the arrest of the employees who were involved in the fraud scheme, and we want to give you an administrative role," Patrick explained. "Something more in line with your qualifications." Samantha broke into a smile.

"Seriously?" she asked, very happy.

"Yes. And we want you to choose which department you prefer. We have openings in sales, accounting, finance, operations, and administration. In all of them, there is an open management position, which is the position we're going to offer you," Alexander informed, leaving Samantha euphoric.

"Sales, Alexander, please!" She replied immediately.

"Okay. Sales it is, then," Alexander agreed.

"And you, Manu, you're also coming here. You'll be our new secretary. If you want, of course," Patrick informed Manu.

"Are you kicking me out, Don Juan?" Manu asked Henry.

"These idiots decided to steal all my employees," Henry pouted. "But I made a deal with them, so yes, I'm releasing you too. Especially because the position and salary they have for you are much better. But it's up to you to decide whether to come or stay."

"I think I'll come!" Manu said, all smiling.

"Are you going to send me here too, prostitute?" Melissa was pouting.

"I can't live without you, you psychopathic, crazy, foulmouthed, and filterless woman," Henry took Melissa's hand on the table and smiled at her

"Ah, I've never been so happy to be insulted!" Melissa broke into a huge smile, making everyone laugh. "I can't live without you either, my pushover!"

"Should I be worried about you harassing my girlfriend, Henry?" Fred asked, jealous.

- "Relax, Fred, my thing with Melissa is purely mental!" Henry joked and winked at my friend. "But I want you, Tess."
- "Whoa, whoa! Hold on there, stud! I'm very happily married, and you're not my type," Tess hurried to say.
- "What the hell, cutie pie! You're part of the deal we made," Rick complained.
- "Rick, since when did I become a bargaining chip?" Tess questioned her husband, and the guys started laughing.
- "Oh, crazy woman, you're beautiful, but you're not my type either," Henry said, laughing.
- "I didn't know you had a type, Henry," Virginia commented. "I always thought you just haven't eaten the tick yet because you don't know which one is the female."
- "How horrible, Virginia," Henry pretended to be offended. "Tess, I know you never wanted to work in the same place as Rick, so I'm going to take you to work with me. You'll be the right-hand woman of my sales director. You'll like him. He's another crazy guy who is always singing!"
- "You know I have a job, right?!" Tess spoke as if announcing big news.
- "Which you've been at for a long time and have nowhere to evolve," Rick added.
- "Okay. I accept," Tess didn't even object anymore.
- "So, everything is settled. You're all off until Monday. That includes you, Rick. You've worked hard the last two days, and I really don't know what I would have done without you. I'll be grateful for the rest of my life. You

are the best friends in the world," Alexander said. "No, let me correct myself, actually, you are family, the best family in the world!"

"Ah, how beautiful!" Patrick smiled and patted his friend on the back.

We said goodbye, and I arranged with the girls that we would meet the next day to start preparing for my wedding. Rick assured me once again before leaving that I would have an engagement dinner worthy of royalty. I was about to enter the elevator, but Alexander pulled me by the arm, saying that he still had a pending issue to see with me.

