



Chapter 183

Friday flew by, but I managed to get through the entire schedule Melissa had planned. But Mel complained a lot that I cheated by sleeping with Alexander the night before. After the morning with the priest and Alexander, we separated and the girls took me to fulfill the agenda, our mothers went with us and the fathers and Peter went with Alexander and his friends. At the end of the day I was exhausted and passed out as soon as I lay down to sleep.

It was already my wedding day. Melissa woke me up super early with a wonderful breakfast, which I had with my friends, my mom, Lygia and Mari. We would get ready at the house that used to belong to my in-laws and would now be my home. So after breakfast, we headed there.

Melissa had already converted the office into a beauty salon and soon the professionals arrived with many bags and cases and started getting us ready. Amidst the hair dryers and brushes, a waitress brought us drinks and snacks. We were having a great time and being beautified there by a very upbeat team.

I was almost ready, I just needed to put on the dress. My mom and my friends helped me get dressed. Then, all the girls left the room leaving me alone with my mom.

"Daughter, you look so beautiful!" My mom was already crying.

"Oh mom, don't cry, or I'll cry too." I hugged her, already with my eyes tearing up.

"Daughter, I know you will be very happy, but know that for a marriage to work, you have to know when to speak and when to be quiet, to know how to choose the battles worth fighting and the ones that aren't worth

letting go. Now, it's not how you want it, but how you both want it. Understand?"

"Yes mom. I understand. I love you so much, mom. Thank you for supporting me even when it was very difficult."

"Daughter, I will always support you, because my love for you is unique and unconditional, a perfect connection that will never be undone." When she said that I couldn't help myself and cried. It's a good thing the makeup was waterproof.

We heard a knock on the door and said together to come in. My father entered the room and opened a huge smile with his eyes shining with emotion.

"Catherine, my daughter, you look so beautiful!" My father wiped his eyes. "I'm so happy to see you so happy, and building a life alongside a good man and a family that extends my family and fills me with pride and gratitude to be your father."

"Oh, Dad, you're going to make me keep crying." I hugged my father, it was a brief moment, but it was like capturing a piece of eternity. I would always have that hug in my heart.

"Daughter," my father said when he let me go, "your mother and I have a gift for you." I hadn't noticed, but my father was holding two small velvet boxes. "I hope you like it."

When I opened the first box there was a pair of pearl drop earrings inside. The pearls hung from a yellow gold hoop and set in the hoop were three diamonds. They were beautiful and delicate.

"Dad, Mom, they're wonderful! Can you help me put them on?"

And my mother put the earrings on my ears. And they were perfect with my dress.

I opened the second box and pulled out a large and beautiful rosary, with mother-of-pearl beads.

"This one, you would honor me greatly if you held it with your bouquet. My mother got married with it. Now it's yours." My father explained and made me cry again. It was a small treasure that I had in my hands and I was proud of it.

"The honor will be mine, Dad!" I affirmed with conviction.

Again there was a knock at the door. When it opened, Patrick entered.

"They're asking here if you're crying." Patrick spoke from the door and turned outside. "He's shedding a Mississippi of tears, but before you come in give me two little minutes with her."

Patrick entered and closed the door. Looking at me from head to toe, he let out a whistle that made me laugh, reminding me of the many other times he had done that.

"Catherine, I don't even have enough words to define your beauty," Patrick said, eliciting another smile from me. "I'm here as a spokesperson, since the groom can't see you before the ceremony, but he sent this for you."

Patrick handed me a box and a small envelope. I opened the envelope and read the card.

"Don't feel obligated to wear it. I just want to share a little piece of my parents with you. If they were here, they would love you like a daughter and would be very happy that I found you. It was my mother's and now



it's yours. With love. Your Alexander."

I was already crying. I opened the box and inside rested a beautiful and delicate tiara. It was a fine work in gold, imitating the branches and leaves of a rose bush, with beautiful roses perfectly sculpted in the metal. The flowers and leaves were covered with tiny diamonds and there were pearls scattered among the leaves. It was perfect!

I thanked Patrick for being the bearer of something so beautiful, important, and precious, not for its value as a jewel, but for what it meant to Alexander and now to me.

Patrick left arm in arm with my mother, who would make the entrance with Alan, and asked the hair and makeup team to come in. They entered, touched up my makeup, and adorned my head with that beautiful tiara.

I took my father's arm with a huge smile and my heart leaping with anxiety, we walked slowly to the ceremony. There were French glass doors that opened onto the garden, and Melissa had drawn the curtains so that we couldn't be seen.

"Girlfriend, you look like a goddess of beauty!" Melissa put her hands on her face. "Let me tell you, Alexander walked in with Mari, Sam, even though she was upset, walked in with Henry, and little Manu is making the officer sigh. I had already walked in with my prince, but I came running because I wanted to give you your bouquet!" Melissa handed me a beautiful bouquet of white and red tulips tied with a white satin ribbon, whose ribbon made a beautiful path through the flowers. She had made a secret about the bouquet, saying it was a special gift she was preparing for me.

"Mel, it's perfect!" I said, already feeling the emotion taking over me once more.



"Girlfriend, the time has come, when they open that curtain everyone will see you and Alexander will be waiting for you at the altar. Maybe he will faint, because he is very nervous and you are the most beautiful bride in the world." Melissa joked and hugged me. "I will be by your side all the time, for life." My friend, who was like my sister, whispered in my ear.

Melissa left and I went back to holding my father's arm, who asked me if I was ready and when I confirmed, after taking a deep breath, he signaled for the ceremonial girls to open the white curtains. The music started playing immediately. I looked at my smiling father and opened my best smile looking forward, seeing the love of my life waiting for me.



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