



Chapter 209

We stayed at the police station for about four hours. Claude talked to his mother, who was crying heavily and begged her son to confess all his crimes and cooperate with the police. She apologized to me for what her son did and deeply regretted that Claude hadn't followed the right path as she had always tried to show him. In the end, my husband was even moved by that woman and said he was glad to be able to offer her better healthcare.

Claude had a lot to tell. He started by saying that he met Joseph through a friend from Bellwood who moved to Paradise Port right after turning eighteen. He didn't know how his friend knew Joseph and never cared to ask. He provided information about this friend, whose name is Kai Capiberibe, and where he could be found.

Claude said he met Joseph three months before the helicopter accident that killed Alexander's parents, and Joseph paid him good money to sabotage the helicopter, even paying for his helicopter maintenance course so he could learn how to sabotage the aircraft. After that, he did other small jobs for Joseph, things like finding people to be Joseph's front men, showing up where he couldn't, lending names and bank accounts for Joseph to move money around, things like that. 1

Claude provided all the information and, finally, assured that Kai would know where Joseph was hiding, as he did many jobs for him, including hiring people for dirty work.

"Catherine, thank you for my mother's treatment," Claude said before leaving the room. "I know I'm worthless, but she's a good woman. She always liked you. And if you can, forgive me for everything, including not telling you that this rich man here was Peter's father."



"What do you mean, Claude? What are you talking about?" I asked, not understanding.

"Right after that party, a detective came to town, I ran into him at the aerodrome. The rich man sent him to look for a woman in a red dress who had been at the party. When he told me about the case, I knew right away it was you. Your cousin had seen you leave Melissa's house to go to the ball and spent a week bothering me wanting a dress just like yours. The guy always looked for you. Joseph paid me to throw the detective off track. Later, two more showed up, and I did the same thing. Never told anyone." Claude kept talking, and I could hardly believe it.

"You're saying you always knew who my son's father was and kept quiet?" I asked, still not believing such an atrocity.

"Yeah. But then, look at destiny, you ended up working with the guy." Claude concluded.

"You know, Claude, I hope I never have to look at your face again!" I said and left the room, while the detective ordered Claude to sit down again to clarify what he had just said, which should also be included in the statements.

There was so much information, and I left there somewhat dizzy with everything I had heard. How could I have been so wrong about Claude when we were dating? Alexander followed me outside and hugged me.

"Let's get out of here." Alexander led me to the car.

"How could I date someone like that? How did I let him touch me? Let him into my home?" I was appalled.

"My angel, you were so young. We all make judgment errors. What



matters is that you chose the right guy to marry and have children with!" Alexander looked at me with a big confident smile on his face and made me laugh, relieving some of the tension I was feeling. "That's what I like to see!" My husband gave me a quick kiss and ran his fingers across my face. "Do you mind if we go to the office before heading home? I want to talk to Alan." Alexander asked me when we got in the car.

"No, we can go. It'll be good to see the girls." I agreed.

When we arrived at the office, I decided to stop by Sam's floor to see how she was doing. She still hadn't gotten back together with Henry, although they often met at my house, and she seemed quite down. I spent a few minutes there chatting and trying to cheer up my friend. 1

"Sam, don't you think you should forgive him? You've been so down lately..." I asked.

"Cat, I've lost trust in him. I'm not sure if I believe he's truly sorry," Samantha said, looking down.

Alexander sent me a message asking me to come to his office because he wanted me to join the conversation with Alan. I said goodbye to Sam and walked to the elevators. When the door opened, I stepped in, and there was someone already inside.

"Catherine! Great to see you again." Gus from the IT department greeted me. I vaguely remembered him. I met him on my first day at work when he gave me my phone and tablet.

"It's Gus, right?" I asked.

"That's right. You still remember me." He smiled, but something felt off. "Too bad you didn't remember to tell me you were interested in dating..."



but in the end, you married the boss, didn't you?"

"I'm sorry, I don't think I understand," I said, confused.

"When we met, you said you weren't interested in romantic relationships," Gus reminded me of his awkward attempt to hit on me.

"Oh yes, but things sometimes don't go as planned," I smiled at him. This was getting weird. I started hoping he would get off the elevator soon.

"Of course, the boss is quite a catch. He'd make even a nun reconsider her vows of chastity." Gus commented ironically. I chose not to respond. He rode up five floors in the elevator, but it felt like an eternity. When he finally got off, he made one last crude remark, "It was a pleasure seeing you again, Catherine. If you ever get bored up in the executive suite, come down to IT. It would be my pleasure to entertain you." His words were full of innuendo, and I hated it.

When the elevator door closed, I breathed a sigh of relief. After greeting Manu, I went to my husband's office, where Patrick, Rick, Alan, and Mari were already waiting. Alexander explained what had happened and everything Claude had said.

"Capiberibe?" Alan asked. "That's not a very common surname. And funny enough, it sounds familiar."

"What do you mean by familiar, Alan?" Mari questioned.

"I've seen that surname somewhere, but I can't remember where," Alan replied.

"Pretty woman, what planet are you on?" Rick asked, noticing that I was somewhat spaced out. The truth is, I had a really bad feeling after



running into Gus in the elevator.

"Oh, sorry, I just had a peculiar encounter in the elevator that left me with an uneasy feeling," I responded.

"What do you mean by peculiar encounter in the elevator, my angel?" Alexander asked seriously.

"Nothing major, just an employee I met on my first day of work, Gus from IT, he's the one who gave me the phone and tablet. He hit on me the day we met, and I found his behavior strange today," I replied dismissively. "But it's probably just because we're suspicious that Joseph's informant might be from the IT department."

"That's it! It was right under my nose!" Alan suddenly exclaimed.

"You don't have a beard, sweetie!" Mari teased, and Alan gave her a gentle smile.

"Gus Capiberibe! I reviewed his file last week. I found it interesting that his father is from Bellwood, but I didn't think much of it since he's always lived here. He must be Joseph's informant," Alan explained.

"Finally!" Patrick sighed. "So what do we do now?"

"We corner the son of a gun!" Alexander decided. "I'm going to call Bonfim and ask him to come. Patrick, find a way to bring Gus here, we'll keep him until Bonfim arrives." 1

"Leave it to me!" Patrick immediately called the IT head and asked him to send Gus to check his computer. Then he notified Manu to call him in when he arrived.

Moments later, Gus was sitting in front of Alexander, who didn't miss the



opportunity to mark his territory.

"So you hit on my wife, Gus?" Alexander pressed him.

"No way, Mr. Miller, absolutely not. Your wife misunderstood me," Gus replied, clearly nervous.

"Let me make something clear to you, my wife is a stunning woman, BUT SHE'S MINE!" Alexander raised his voice. "You had a lot of nerve even looking at her."

"Mr. Miller, I swear that..." Gus began to speak, but Alexander cut him off.

"Don't swear, you little piece of shit traitor! You know, we've been looking for you for quite a while, but you've been flying under the radar, hiding really well like the coward you are. You just made this mistake, this big mistake of trying to act cute with my wife." Alexander continued speaking. "When she came here talking about how strange your behavior was, we connected the dots."

"What are you talking about, Mr. Miller?" Gus started to get nervous.

The phone on Alexander's desk rang, and he just said to send them in. Detective Bonfim, Flavian, and two other police officers entered the room.

"So we've got another dirty rat in the trap, Alexander." Bonfim came in, speaking with a big smile on his face.

"Would you look at that, Bonfim!" Alexander leaned back in his chair, smiling. "And he's so small, so pathetic, that it took quite a while for him to fall into the trap. But now he's all yours." Alexander got up and walked to sit beside me, gesturing for Bonfim to take his chair.



"What's going on?" Gus asked.

"Mr. Gustavo Capiberibe. I can't say it's an honor to meet you, but I can tell you that I arrested your cousin Kai twenty minutes ago. And he's very willing to cooperate, you know." Bonfim spoke with a condescending air. 1

"Shit!" Gus sank into his chair.

"Start talking. I'm very patient, but my colleague Flavian, not so much." Bonfim pointed to Flavian, who had a hostile look that made Gus shrink even more.

He told a lot, including that he was approached by Joseph right after he joined the company six years ago. He went to fix Joseph's computer, and they talked for a long time. They met several times outside the company until Joseph made him a proposal to earn more money, and he agreed, and that was how things started from small pieces of information until he helped hide Joseph himself and spread spyware on the company's electronics.

Two hours later, Gus was leaving the company under arrest for complicity, obstruction of justice, participation in a criminal organization, among other things. Finally, we had the address of Joseph's possible hideout, and this would end.



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