

Chapter 23

I returned to my desk near the end of the workday. I finished up my daily tasks and heard Rick come in singing "Oh! Pretty Woman."

"Rick, you'd make it big as a singer," I smiled at him.

"Maybe, maybe, but I like the vibe in this office. Celeste told me everything – I was on the third floor making copies. Are you okay?" he looked at me, waiting for an answer.

"Yes, I am. Thanks."

"Well then, my friend, I'm heading out. My wife called, she got home early and said she has a surprise waiting for me. I love her surprises, I can't wait!"

"Look at you, lucky guy. Have a great night!"

"Thanks. I'll tell you what she was up to at lunch tomorrow. Oh, should we plan something for the weekend? I told her about you and she's excited to meet you."

"That would be great! Can I bring my friend?"

"Of course you can. See you tomorrow, pretty woman!"

I smiled at the nickname he gave me and then heard right behind me, close to my ear:

"Ah, Miss Vergara, what am I going to do with you? My friend whistles as if enchanted every time he sees you, his assistant calls you pretty woman, I can't control myself, and now I'm addicted to chocolate cake. How will this end?" Alexander spoke in such a seductive way, it was like hot



chocolate sauce dripping.

"Mr. Miller, be careful with those addictions," I said smiling without turning around.

"Come on, pretty woman, let's show off your beauty at a restaurant. Let's have dinner and enjoy a pleasant moment, because today was tense, wasn't it? But don't think I've forgotten about our conversation." He winked and walked toward the door. Patrick and Mari were already waiting for us at the elevator.

The dinner was truly pleasant and fun. The food was delicious, and after dinner, my boss ordered a slice of chocolate cake and whispered in my ear:

"Share this cake with me?"

I nodded; it was impossible to resist. He was charming, charismatic, and handsome. Patrick didn't miss the opportunity:

"Hey, Mari, Alexander's now addicted to chocolate cake. I've told him he's going to end up getting fat."

"That's why, my friend, I'm sharing my cake with my assistant."

"Catherine, you need to make it clear to these two and Rick that you're the one in charge. Don't forget what I taught you," Mariana said to me playfully.

"Oh look, Mari's already trained the new general," Patrick teased.

"The worst part is that the new general already has me wrapped around her finger," Alexander said, making me blush.



When it was time to leave, Mari offered to drop me home, but my boss wouldn't allow it, insisting on taking me himself so Mari wouldn't have to go out of her way. Stopping in front of my building, he turned off the car and looked at me: 1

"Today was intense!"

"Alexander, I want to apologize to you. I wasn't professional today, I gave in to provocations and crossed lines. I completely understand if you want to reconsider whether I'm the right person for the position. I was ready to hand in my resignation at the end of the day, but then that chaos happened. I can submit it tomorrow. I'm not like this, I don't behave vulgarly or act without thinking, but you awaken something in me that I can't explain, and then you provoke me, and I go crazy," I said honestly. When I looked at him, he was smiling.

"Cat, this is the first time you've called me by my name without formality. I liked it, can it be like this from now on?" I nodded, not understanding, and he continued, "Look, Cat, I know you're not like this. When I was in New York, I asked Mari to send me your resume, and I called your former boss. I know exactly who you are. And you'd have to be made of stone not to fall for my provocations. I confess I had a lot of fun today, but during the video conference, I wanted to smack that beautiful ass of yours because I didn't catch a damn thing that happened in that meeting, and I'm usually very focused on my work." He ran both hands over his face, in that gesture I already found adorable. "Do you have any idea how frustrated you left me watching you touch yourself when I couldn't participate?" 2

"I'm sorry! But... I was so angry at you for what you did after lunch."

"Damn, woman, don't apologize! Just remember next time that I want to play too," he said with a wicked smile on his lips. "I'm not going to fire



you, you're very competent, and whatever happens between us, I know it won't affect work. Right? So, can we just let things flow? And avoid leaving me speechless during important meetings?" I nodded, amused to know I had shaken up this powerful man. "Now go rest, you must be exhausted. We'll talk calmly tomorrow."

He took my hand, gave it a gentle kiss, and I got out of the car. Before I entered the building, he called out:

"Cat, I'm going to keep provoking you!" and burst into laughter.



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