



Chapter 32

I arrived at Alexander's building and was impressed by the place, the facade was beautiful and very modern. I identified myself, and the doorman let me in. In the elevator, I started mentally going through all the things I would do to torment my boss.

Mel and I had stayed up late choosing clothes, shoes, lingerie, and plotting what she called the "seduction strategy."

She convinced me to wear an orange dress, a bright and eye-catching color. She said it contrasted nicely with my fair skin and dark hair, making me look radiant. The dress was knee-length, form-fitting with a slit on each side that showed too much leg when I sat down, had a square neckline and wide straps. She picked out a white lace lingerie set with ribbons, super high black strappy sandals, and styled my hair half-up with two strands falling around my face. She did my makeup very naturally. According to Melissa, I was ready to drive anyone crazy.

At that time I was in this elevator, thinking about how to provoke my boss when I should be focusing on work.

The building had one apartment per floor, and the elevator opened directly into the apartment. I was impressed - everything was very bright and elegant, but not overly ostentatious. It was more modern and exuded power, perfectly reflecting my boss's personality.

I entered and walked through the hall, already hearing Patrick's laughter. A man in his fifties came to greet me very courteously.

"Miss Catherine, good morning, I'm Jorge. They're on the terrace, please follow me."

I thanked him and followed Jorge. Alexander, Mariana, Rick, and Patrick were on the terrace. When I entered, they fell silent, and I heard Patrick whistle while Rick started singing "Pretty Woman." This was becoming routine.

"Good morning, were you talking about me?" I greeted them playfully.

"Catherine, you look stunning in that dress!" Patrick complimented me.

"If I weren't married, Cat, I wouldn't leave you alone," Rick added.

"If you weren't married, Rick, and I didn't know you were crazy about Tess, you'd be fired right now!" Alexander said with a smile. "And you, miss, will have to start wearing a burqa!" He stood up, walked over to me, gave me a kiss on the cheek, and pulled me by the hand rather possessively.

I greeted Mariana before sitting down. When I crossed my legs, I heard Alexander whisper in my ear:

"I'm going to have Jorge bring a blanket to cover those wonderful legs!"

I smiled, but he didn't even have time as Mr. Alan arrived right after.

"Good morning everyone!" He greeted cheerfully. "Catherine, dear, how wonderful to see you again. How are you?" he said, kissing me on both cheeks.

"Very well, Mr. Alan, thank you. And you?" I replied, very happy to see him again.

"Thanks to you, I'm getting back on my feet, my dear!"

"Oh please, I didn't do anything. But I'm glad things are going well."



He shook my hand and said to my boss:

"Alexander, take good care of her, this young lady is a precious gem!"

"I know that, Alan, I'm keeping a close eye on her," Alexander replied and winked at me.

"And you, Mariana, are you really going to London?" he asked with a very sentimental look at Mari.

"Yes, I am, Alberto. To be close to my daughters and grandchildren," she replied with a smile, but the way they looked at each other made me think there was something more there.

"This city will be sadder without you!" he responded very gallantly.

Could they have a history? I knew Mr. Alan had been widowed for many years and hadn't been with anyone since his wife died. I was pondering this when I heard Alexander say my name.

"So that's it, Alan. Cat mentioned you went through something similar and suggested we ask for your help," Alexander concluded.

"Look, Alexander, you know your father was a great friend of mine. Helping you will be very gratifying for me, especially since it was recommended by this young lady who became like a daughter to me and dedicated herself to helping me so much," Mr. Alan said with sparkling eyes. "It was Catherine who alerted me about my accountant when we started reviewing the documents. I hadn't realized he wasn't being honest with me."

"Sometimes you need an outside perspective, Mr. Alan, because from the inside, you can't see everything," I said softly.



We spent the rest of the morning sorting out how things would work. At lunchtime, Jorge announced that the table was set, and my boss invited everyone to join. While eating, we continued discussing work.

"So, Alexander, after we talked yesterday, I called Mariana. We had lunch together, she gave me some information, and I mapped out the strategy for moving the finance department with her," Alan spoke confidently. 1

"Yes, Alberto will help me with that," Mariana confirmed.

"How will it work?" Patrick asked curiously.

"I've already assembled the team we'll need. All absolutely trustworthy people. Mariana and I are going to your building this afternoon, and the team will meet us there. While we're moving, we'll copy all documents. Actually, we'll copy every single paper in that sector. We'll go through accounting and do the same, as well as the commercial department, which were the first departments you suspected. These documents will go directly to our new floor." 1

"Excellent, Alan. You work fast!" Alexander was impressed.

"We can't waste time, son," Alan replied with a smile. "It'll be hard work until Monday morning, but when business hours start, everything will be ready. Another thing, you're going to hire strategic employees - I'm already selecting them, but the first is Marcus Paul. He's tech-savvy, a first-rate hacker. He'll install spy programs on all company computers, and we'll have access to everything. But you'll hire him as a nerdy guy who, theoretically, just fixes and updates machines - basically, a low-level IT employee."

"But I could make him department head," Alexander responded.



"If you do that, it might raise red flags, and nobody will trust him," Alan explained. "All the employees you need to hire will be brought in for less important positions. This ensures nobody pays attention to them, and they go unnoticed. You'll also add an extra coffee server and janitor on each floor."

"And why's that?" Patrick asked.

"Explain it to them, Cat. You taught me this," Alan said enthusiastically.

"They're invisible people. They're everywhere, but nobody sees them. People tend to mistakenly think they're not very intelligent, so they don't worry about what they say around them. There's prejudice against humble people - arrogant folks with better financial situations think they're incapable. In Mr. Alan's case, one of the janitors knew exactly where the accountant was sending the diverted money, but she didn't have all the pieces to be sure he was stealing from the company," I said with conviction.

"And it was exactly this janitor who got me the evidence I needed to report the accountant, thanks to Catherine paying attention to what she had to say. Today, that woman is my personal secretary, she's studying, and she'll be a great professional - she has remarkable intelligence," Alan added.

"It's really a brilliant idea!" Rick said. "At the office, I see how some people simply ignore the existence of general service workers and others. It's great that you noticed them, Cat." I smiled sheepishly.

"Let's get moving then. Alan, give Patrick the list of everyone who needs to be hired and in which positions," Alexander said, smiling at me. "Patrick, I don't know how you'll do it, but these people need to be hired without anyone suspecting."



"Oh, that's easy. I can make sure Nestor from HR hires exactly who we want," Rick said with a smile. "He owes me some favors. Our families have known each other forever. He's an honest guy - I can find a way to make him hire without him realizing he's being directed. I just think we should do the hiring gradually; it might look suspicious to hire several people at once." 1

"Perfect, Rick. Nestor and the hiring pace are up to you," Alexander nodded.

We finished lunch, and everyone left for the company to handle the move and figure out the hiring process. Alexander and I stayed at his apartment to analyze the Group's bank statements, and there was a lot to go through.



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