



## Chapter 44

The next day, we left early. When we arrived at the office, Mr. Martin called us into his room.

"Catherine, how are you? I spoke with Patrick, and he's worried. He filled me in on what happened, didn't go into details, but it seems Alexander was being an idiot."

"Mr. Martin, I'm not sure if he was being an idiot, but I didn't do what I'm being accused of," I replied, already imagining he had changed his mind about hiring me. 1

"I'm sure you didn't, Catherine. I've known the Larsons for very long time, they wouldn't vouch for you if they weren't certain of your integrity! And if Oliver Larson thinks you're the most honest person on Earth, I'm certain you are." Henry Martin said, giving me a warm smile. "Unfortunately, I can't offer you a position as good as the one you had, but I need another person in the sales department. The salary is good, and you'll handle the work easily, so if you want it, the job is yours."

I gave him a genuine smile, accepted the job, and thanked him for the opportunity—it was exactly what I needed. Mel took me to Human Resources, then introduced me to my supervisor, and I started my new job. I was relieved to have gotten this position. I was going to buy Mel a present; I needed to thank her for this support.

"Miss Catherine, the sales department works in a pretty laid-back flow. What matters here is productivity since we need to generate revenue," Mr. Maurice, my new boss, started explaining how the department worked. "We're a team and work together, helping each other for the best results. That's why we have this open floor plan, each employee has their cubicle, and if someone needs help, they always receive it."



"That's great, sir. Having a supportive team is very important. I'm sure I'll adapt well."

"I know you will. I like you! You'll make good friends here. I hope you like coffee because everyone here lives for coffee, and there'll always be someone inviting you for a cup or bringing you one." My boss smiled as he shared this information.

"Is this paradise?" I joked, making him laugh heartily.

We talked a bit more, he assigned my work and gave me a list of things I needed to do by the next day. Then he introduced me to the team and finally showed me to my desk.

Everyone was very friendly. I was really feeling good there. My boss returned to his office, and I sat down to start my tasks. Minutes later, someone caught my attention.

"Hey gorgeous, you've already got about fifteen admirers just on this floor!"

I looked up to see a young woman with red hair, green eyes, and freckles on her round face, extending a coffee mug to me. I smiled and took the mug.

"You're kind, because I doubt there's a single single man on this floor who isn't head over heels for you. You're very beautiful!" I was honest with her.

"Oh, nonsense! I'm not exactly standard beauty material; men don't look at me that way," she said, tossing her long fire-red hair back. "Nice to meet you, I'm Virginia."

I extended my hand to greet her. Her desk was next to mine, and we



chatted for a few minutes. Virginia was very friendly, always smiling, and funny. She introduced me to two guys working in the cubicles adjacent to ours and a few others.

"You'll get to know everyone gradually, Cat," she said as she sat down at her desk to work.

The day flew by. The department was very busy, but the work atmosphere was full of camaraderie. I felt very comfortable there, talked to many people, and everyone was making me feel at ease. The work was quite pleasant and was indeed proving to be easy.

At the end of the workday, Virginia walked out with me, telling me about her lawyer mom who never had time for anything, her dad who had married a witch, and her older brother who, in partnership with a friend, had opened a kind of dance bar with live Latin music.

"Oh, Cat, we should plan to go there one of these days! The place is really fun, and there are some really hot guys there," Virginia said excitedly.

"That sounds like a good idea! I'll talk to Mel - her boyfriend arrives this weekend, so maybe next week?" I agreed mostly not to discourage her, but I had no desire to go out.

"Oh, that'll be great. Talk to them, and I'll ask my brother to reserve a special table for us."

We talked a bit more, then Mel joined the conversation and loved the bar idea. We said our goodbyes and headed home. It had been a good day - my mind had stayed occupied most of the time, but my heart was broken. When we got home, I took care of my son, and when I went to bed, I cried myself to sleep. 1