

Chapter 46

Alexander's POV

I returned to the office feeling like a caged animal. I was desperate; all I wanted was to run after Catherine and beg for her forgiveness. But I couldn't just do that – she was at work, at Martin's company, and I couldn't simply barge in there. That would be disrespectful, and she would hate me even more.

But I wasn't going to wait until the end of the day. So I decided to go after her. I left the office, telling Celeste I wouldn't be back. I wanted to drag that snake out and kick her out of my building, but I couldn't do that either. I had to wait, wait... it was maddening.

I went to Martin's company with a whirlwind of thoughts racing through my mind. But I would ask Henry for help to speak with Catherine without causing her any embarrassment.


"Good afternoon, Mr. Miller. How may I help you?" Martin's secretary was always very professional, even though she found it strange that I showed up there without an appointment in the middle of the workday.

"I'll handle this, Julia. I'll take care of Mr. Miller." I heard Melissa's voice and felt her eyes boring into my back.

"Good afternoon, Miss Melissa. How are you?" I tried to maintain my composure, but I knew she wouldn't make things easy for me.

"Please, follow me to my office. I'll see if Mr. Martin can meet with you." Melissa spoke coldly, gesturing for me to enter her office. Once we were away from the secretary's eyes, she pointed her finger in my face and spoke aggressively: "Look here, Alexander, don't you dare try to harm my friend. My boss won't fire her, and if you insist on this nonsense of blocking Catherine's work, my father's lawyer will sue you, and you know he's the best in the country." 1

It was the last thing I needed – Catherine's best friend preventing me from getting close and threatening me. I took a deep breath and spoke patiently:

"Melissa, I'm not here to hurt Catherine. I just want to talk to her, but I thought it would be proper to come to Henry first." 

Melissa looked at me with eyes flashing in fury; she hated me at that moment.

"Alexander, stay away from Cat. You've already crushed her. What more do you want? I won't let you hurt her again."

"Melissa, I was an idiot, and I want to apologize to her. We've discovered what happened. I was unfair to Catherine, and I want her to forgive me and come back."

At that moment, I heard Henry's voice behind me. Today wasn't my day!

"Well, I'd love to hear what nonsense you did to Catherine, Alexander. Let me tell you, I barely know her, but I got very solid references about her. I assume you did the same background check when you hired her, so I don't understand what happened." Henry paused with his hands in his pockets, sizing me up. "Let's go to my office. Melissa, you too."

We entered Henry's office and sat down. Melissa's look toward me was pure hatred, and Henry, who had been a friend since childhood, looked at me with disapproval.

"So, Alexander, I've known you for a very long time, and you've never been unfair to anyone. What happened?" Henry asked.

"You don't know?" I asked, looking at Melissa.

"No, I don't. Catherine is very discreet; she only told me that you blamed her for leaking information, which she didn't do, and I believe her. As for Melissa, the only thing she told me is that you're a jerk, an idiot, and a



fool. Which I also believe." Henry replied with a half-smile.

At this point, Melissa's opinion of me was the worst possible, but I couldn't blame her. I also knew she would move heaven and earth to protect her friend, and that meant keeping me away because I had hurt her.


I ran my hands over my face and tried to explain everything that happened to them both, including the discovery of who had actually planted the messages on Catherine's computer.

"So that's what happened. When we discovered the messages, everything pointed to Catherine's guilt; it was the only possibility at that time. The plan was well orchestrated, and only today did I get confirmation that it wasn't Catherine but Celeste." I said after explaining everything.

I heard Melissa's sarcastic laugh beside me as she spoke mockingly:

"Oh, so the spoiled brat was sure there was no other possibility and that Catherine was the only person in the world who could betray him. He needed proof that it wasn't her; he couldn't simply believe the woman he claimed to care about. You're such a jerk, Alexander! You have no idea how much you hurt my friend. You better stay far away from her."

"Easy, Melissa. Men are idiots." Henry tried to mediate. "But you really did act like a creep with Catherine. Look, Alexander, this woman arrived here completely broken, devastated. Those bright eyes I saw when I first met her are gone now. She's hurt and suffering a lot. You had just started dating, from what I heard, and you didn't even stop to listen to her."

"It's way worse than that, boss. He insulted Cat, said she'd only find work in the gutter, that he wouldn't let her work in the city again, and many other ridiculous things." 

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"Alexander, I'm not punching you in the face right now because you're my friend and I know you're not usually such a jerk, but what you did was incredibly cruel." Henry said, reproaching me. "Honestly, I think you should forget about Catherine, she won't forgive you."

"But I need to try, Henry!" I said with tears in my eyes. "Please help me, I can't lose her."

Henry looked at me as if he understood my desperation. He shook his head and looked at Melissa.

"You're worried about your friend, and so am I. But he's also my friend, and he's being sincere, believe me." Henry said to Melissa. "I think we should let them talk here because he won't stop until he speaks with her. This way, if he acts like a jerk, I'll punch him in the face, and you can comfort Catherine. Let her decide if she wants to talk to him, Melissa."

"Fine, better here than at home near Peter." Melissa huffed, rolled her eyes, and agreed. "But if you hurt her again, I'll rip your balls off with my nails!"



"I'll ask Catherine to come up." Henry said, amused by Melissa's threat.



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