

## Chapter 48

### Alexander's POV

I was completely in shock when Henry handed me a glass of cognac.

"Drink this, it'll calm you down. And after you're calm, tell me what happened," Henry said very seriously and picked up the phone. "Maurice, I'm giving Ms. Catherine the rest of the day off. Thank you."

Henry hung up the phone, sat down across from me, and drank with me. After three shots, I finally managed to say:

"I screwed everything up, Henry. I ruined my only chance at happiness. I love this woman, and I messed it all up, made her hate me."

Henry took another sip of cognac and spoke softly:

"Since when are you a defeatist who gives up at the first closed door?"

I looked at him as if five more heads had grown on his neck - he didn't seem to understand that Catherine hated me.

"I'm going to call Patrick later and the three of us are going to get drunk at my place," he said, standing up. "Give me your car keys."

While I was handing him my car keys, Henry called Patrick, and we left the office and went to his house in my car. We arrived at the same time as Patrick.

"Man, what happened? You look terrible, Alex!" Patrick said worriedly.

"From what I understand, Catherine kicked his ass to the curb," Henry said mockingly. I shot them both a death glare. "Let's go inside because I



still don't know the details, and I really want to know."

After getting drinks and snacks ready, we sat in Henry's game room, and they immediately started pressing me to know what had happened. 1

I told them everything I'd said and how Catherine had dismissed me. I realized I had hurt her deeply and that she would never forgive me. I was in hell, crying like a child and eaten up by guilt and remorse.

"What do you really want with Catherine, Alexander?" Henry asked me calmly, taking another sip of his beer.

"She's the love of my life, Henry! After that woman who disappeared like she'd vanished into thin air, I'd never felt my body come alive with any other woman. But then Catherine came along, all beautiful, sassy, professional, with those dresses that look like they're sewn onto her body... she turned my head around, and before I knew it, I was head over heels for her. And without her, I'm just a shadow." I answered with complete honesty. I was totally in love with Catherine.

"Yeah, looks like you've got a huge problem, my friend!" Patrick said very seriously. "The worst part is that I didn't even try to hold you back, make you think straight. I got caught up in it too, and you went crazy after her. Catherine is an amazing woman and won't let you off easy. She raised a child alone, without even wanting help from the kid's father. She might suffer, but she won't let you hurt her again."

"Damn, Patrick, you think I don't know that? Man, I was a piece of shit to her, now I'm going to pay the price. She'll never forgive me, and I'll live like a miserable wretch without this woman." I said, lamenting.

"For God's sake, what a drama queen!" Henry said, smiling. "Alexander, we've known each other our whole lives. You've always been hot-



headed, all stressed out, but you've never been a coward and never gave up on what you wanted just because you didn't get it on the first try."

"Henry's right about that, bro," Patrick added. "Even when that woman disappeared, you didn't give up. You drove everyone crazy, did everything you could imagine to find her, and only gave up last year when the third detective you hired told you it would be impossible to find her."

"Yeah, I was in the shadows, then Catherine came along and everything was so good. But I had to mess everything up, didn't I?" I said dejectedly.

"Yeah, you messed up, and Melissa wants to skin you alive for it," Henry laughed. "What a feisty woman my assistant is! But the thing is, Catherine is hurting, and if she's hurting, it's because she feels something for you. Are you going to give up like this, without fighting for her?"

I looked at Henry and realized he was right - I hadn't fought for her and was giving up. But I was going to change that. I would do anything, even if it took a lifetime, to earn Catherine's forgiveness.

"You guys are right, I'm being an idiot again! I'll work hard to earn her forgiveness. But she doesn't even want to see me, what can I do? I need a plan," I said, already starting to brainstorm some ideas. "And you guys are going to help me!"

"That's the spirit," Henry raised his bottle in a toast.

We spent the rest of the night there, thinking about the best strategy to win back my beautiful Catherine's forgiveness.

