



Chapter 49

I was exhausted. The week had been chaotic, and I wasn't sleeping well, crying myself to sleep every night. Having talked to Alexander yesterday hadn't helped either; it had left me even more devastated.

"Good morning, friend! How are you?" Mel walked into the kitchen and held my face between her hands, examining me.

"I'm a wreck, Mel. The makeup is just hiding the dark circles. I'm feeling so tired!"

We heard the intercom ring, and Mel went to answer it while I finished giving Peter his breakfast. I was distracted watching my little one; he was my greatest love, and just looking at him calmed my heart. I knew I would have the strength to move forward because of him. He looked at me with a beautiful big smile and those bright violet eyes, and my heart swelled with love.

"You're mommy's love, young man!" I said to him, and he clapped his hands and blew me a kiss. My smile grew wider.

"Cat, it's for you." Mel came from the door holding an enormous arrangement of red tulips.

They were beautiful, perfectly arranged in a crystal vase with a red ribbon around it. I was amazed by those flowers; I had never received anything like this before – actually, I had never received flowers before.

I put Peter down and walked to the living room holding his little hand.

"Wow, they're gorgeous, Cat. I can already guess who sent them. You're not going to throw them away, are you?! Can we keep them here in the living room?" Mel spoke with that pleading way she had of clasping her



hands and widening her eyes when she wanted something.

"Of course we're not throwing them away, Mel. The flowers aren't to blame for anything. They really are beautiful! Is there a card?" I had a pretty good idea who they were from, but I wanted to be sure.

My friend handed me the card written in Alexander's handwriting and signature:

"My beloved Catherine,

Tulips symbolize perfect love, and you are my perfect love, the woman of my life, and there will never be another who could tear you from my heart. I'm an idiot. I made a terrible mistake, and I will spend every remaining day of my life begging for your forgiveness. Even if it takes a lifetime, I won't give up on you.

Forever yours, Alexander"

By the time I finished reading the card, I was crying again. Melissa took it from my hands, and after reading it, gave me a hug.

"He's such a jerk, Mel. He can't do this to me," I sobbed into my friend's shoulder.

"Cat, it's crystal clear that you love him deeply, and I don't doubt that that fool loves you too. So, shouldn't you forgive him instead of suffering in silence?"

"Mel, I can't simply ignore everything he said to me. I have self-respect."

"But he won't give up. And honestly, he's suffering and he's truly sorry."

"Let him suffer then," I said grumpily. "I bet it won't take two days



before he forgets I exist."

"I'm not so sure about that, friend. But what if he doesn't give up?" My friend asked, looking into my eyes.

"I know he will," I said firmly and wiped my tears. "Now let's drop Peter off at daycare and get to work."

Before we reached the office, my phone had already rung more than twenty times. Alexander was persistently calling me, and I rejected every single call.

When I got to my cubicle, my boss came humming as usual:

"Catherine, how are you feeling?" he asked, examining me with concern.

"I'm fine, Mr. Maurice, thank you!"

"Great! I'll need you to join me in a meeting this afternoon, and I need you to prepare the proposal. Here's the client's briefing. The meeting will be here at the company. We'll be presenting the security software. New and important client. Martin recommended that you accompany me," my boss said enthusiastically.


"That's great, sir. I'll prepare the proposal and send it to you. Just let me know when we need to go," I replied with a smile.

It was time to focus on my new job, which was relatively simple. Some colleagues came to talk to me, and Virginia pulled me away for a coffee break. I was very well received at Lynx World; I never imagined it would be like this, so simple and warm.

The morning flew by. I prepared the proposal, which made my boss very happy with my work, saying how competent I was. I was really pleased

with the compliment. I had lunch with my department colleagues, and they were all fun, especially Virginia, who quickly became a friend, but I missed Rick.

Soon my boss called me for the meeting. We got in the elevator and talked about the software. Lynx was a technology company specializing in corporate systems.

This software we were going to present was new to the market and simply tied the whole company together, so if one department had any inconsistency, it would reflect in others, and the administrator would quickly know and fix the problem before it snowballed. It was more complex than that, but that's how it worked in general terms - like a constant audit with no room for failures. I caught myself thinking that Alexander needed one of these in his company; it would prevent the mess he has now. Ugh! But that wasn't my concern anymore. 

My boss held the door to the meeting room for me to enter, and when I walked in, I came face to face with him, Alexander.



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