

Chapter 57

Peter and I were playing with the building blocks he got from Alexander. He had grown very attached to this toy. We were already dressed and waiting for Mel and Fred to arrive so we could meet Mariana at the restaurant.

"Mommy, is Alexander coming to play with me today?" my son asked while stacking two little blocks.

"No, sweetie, not today. Today we're having lunch with Aunt Mari because she's going on a trip."

I heard the door open and my friends came in laughing. Peter rushed into Fred's arms. We chatted for a while there before heading out to meet Mari. On the way, Fred and Peter made plans to go to the mall in the afternoon.

We arrived at the restaurant and were shown to our table. Mari arrived shortly after.

"Finally, I get to meet the perfect boyfriend!" Mari teased, looking at Mel who was smiling like a lovesick puppy.

"Oh, Mari, my prince is perfect, just look at him." Mel gushed over her boyfriend.

We laughed as Fred turned red and stood up politely to introduce himself. We ordered drinks and started having a casual conversation about my hometown. Suddenly Peter nudged Mari:

"Aunt Mari, do you know Alexander?"

"Yes, I do. He's my friend," Mari replied, surprised by the question.

"Are you gonna see him today?" Peter persisted.

"I will. Why? Want me to give him a message?" Mari asked, running her hand through my son's hair.

"Yes. Tell him to come play with me again at my house, please." Peter asked with sparkling eyes. My heart clenched. This attachment my boy had to Alexander – I just didn't understand it.

"I'll tell him, I promise." Mari promised and kissed the top of my son's head. "Looks like they really hit it off, Cat." She looked at me.

"Yeah, Mari, they really did. Now I don't know what to do, it seems like Peter misses him," I replied, truly not knowing how to make my son forget about Alexander.

"Maybe you should listen to your son," Mari winked at me.

Our lunch was light and enjoyable. We said goodbye to Mari and made plans to meet next month when she would be back in the country. She would come for a week every month. Before leaving, Mari insisted:

"Sweetie, forgive him. Alexander made a mistake, but he won't make a second one. And Patrick was just defending his friend."

"Mari, he hurt me deeply. I don't know if I can forgive him," I replied sadly.

"Cat, pride never made anyone happy. Think about that," Mari concluded, gave me another kiss, and got into her car.

We went to the mall as planned by Fred and Peter. We spent the afternoon playing in the indoor playground. Peter was all sweaty but still full of energy. Melissa and I needed to rest, so Fred told us to take a walk

while he and Peter still had plenty of fun ahead.

We were walking through the mall when we passed by the store where we bought the dresses, and I nudged Mel. We couldn't resist going in.

"So, boss, decided to update your wardrobe?" Mel asked sarcastically.


Henry was leaning over the counter, deep in idle chat with Samantha.

"Are you girls following me?" he asked teasingly.

"You wish!" I replied, laughing at him. "We brought my son out for fun," I said while greeting Samantha.

"Ah, the famous Peter. I don't know who talks about him more, you two or Alexander. Where is he? I want to meet him," he said, looking around.


"He's at the playground with Mel's boyfriend, who's his godfather," I replied, finding it amusing that he mentioned Alexander talking about my son.

"Oh, another one I need to meet, the lucky bastard dating you, Melissa," He looked at Samantha and continued, "She says he's the perfect boyfriend." 

"Oh my God, then don't let him get away because you've found a rare specimen," Samantha said with a smile.

"Well, girls, since Mr. Perfect has arrived, let's plan an outing for next Saturday, so you can wear those amazing dresses," Henry suggested, clearly interested in Samantha.

"I like that idea, boss. Samantha, you're coming with us, it'll be super fun," Melissa said, giving Samantha no choice.

"Oh, I'd love to. And next Saturday I'm off work. Let's plan it," Samantha got excited. 

We exchanged phone numbers with her and agreed to have lunch during the week to properly plan our outing. Melissa got a message from Fred saying they were already at the food court. We said goodbye and went to meet our boys. 

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