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The girls really cheered me up. After chatting and laughing for a while, we decided to have some fun at the gaming lounge upstairs. It was almost like a casino, huge with various card game tables, roulette, gaming machines – it had everything. Melissa went to the cashier, got the chips, and divided them among us.

"Let's have some fun, ladies!" she said excitedly.

"Oh, we're definitely going to have fun!" Tess drew our attention to a poker table at the back of the room, surrounded by women. "Oh, Rick is going to pay for this!" she said, seeing a woman leaning on Rick's shoulder way too intimately.

"That idiot Fred, I knew it! You traitor, you'll pay for this!" Melissa's eyes were gleaming. "The whip is going to crack tonight!"

"And that floozy hanging on my sweetie's shoulder? Oh, he's going to pay dearly for this." Virginia narrowed her eyes.

"And look at that bleached blonde rubbing herself all over Henry! And that idiot's laughing at her. Oh, I'm going to wipe that smile right off his face." Samantha was furious.

I was nervous, but the girls were fired up. They were all sitting there at that poker table, drinking and having fun. And Alexander was smiling at some flirt who was hanging on his shoulder. While I was devastated. Oh, but he's going to suffer, and suffer badly!

"Alright girls, here's the plan – I think we should go over there and make them completely lose their concentration," Samantha suggested.

"That's good, if they lose the game they'll lose money and go crazy,"

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## Tess agreed.

"That's amateur hour, and we're not amateurs." Virginia looked like she was thinking of something really wicked. "See that third table past theirs? My brother and his friends. Let's pretend we haven't seen our men."

"No! Are you suggesting we make our men jealous using your brother and his friends?" Melissa had a huge smile on her face. "Girl, you're so evil! I love it! As possessive as they are, they'll throw us over their shoulders and drag us out of here."

"But that's not fair to your brother and his friends, Vi," I said, thinking they might mind being used.

"My brother would love to make Alexander jealous, Cat. The guys won't mind, they'll have fun at those idiots' expense and be happy to get our attention," Virginia said decisively. "Let's go, girls!" Virginia led the way as we crossed the room smiling as if we hadn't seen those idiots.

At the table with Virginia's brother, there were four other men. As we approached, Levy broke into a huge smile when he saw us.

"Beautiful Catherine! You're truly a sight for sore eyes." Levy stood up and greeted me with a kiss on the cheek.

"Hey, I'm here too, you know," Virginia nudged him playfully with a smile.

"Ah, but I've been seeing you since you were born, shorty." Levy winked at me and hugged his sister. He was very handsome. "So, ladies, did you have fun last night?" he asked while greeting each of the girls.

"Levy, your bar is amazing! We've already made plans to come back more

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often," Melissa said enthusiastically.

"Whenever you want, just let me know and I'll reserve a table for you." Levy was just as friendly as his sister. "But let me introduce my friends. This is Angel, my business partner, Leonard, Michael, and Luke."

We greeted everyone. They were all handsome, tall, and well-built. They all smiled in a friendly and funny way. They sharnelessly complimented us and invited us to sit at their table, which we accepted.

Luke was paying us another compliment, saying how perfect the table looked surrounded by the most beautiful women he had ever seen, when our men stopped and stared at us.

"So, wifey, having lots of fun?" Rick asked, leaning over Tess.

"Oh yes, Rick, it seems our women are really having a great time here," Henry confirmed in a threatening tone while leaning over Samantha.

"And you, Miss Melissa, anything I should know about?" Fred grabbed Mel's hand.

Levy and his friends watched the scene, seeming amused and quite ready to face off with provocations.

"Gentlemen, join us! It seems the ladies enjoy our company," Levy said in a mocking tone.

"Oh, these ladies are really very friendly. Too bad we have to go." Alexander smiled coldly at Levy and, wrapping his arm around my waist, lifted me up with a quick movement. "Hi, love!" he said, looking into my eyes before giving me a quick kiss.

"Look, you guys can go, but we don't have to go anywhere. We're staying

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to play with our friends," Melissa said, flipping her hair back.

"Sorry, dear, but you're not," Fred said, placing both hands on Mel's waist and making her stand up.

"Well, we thank you gentlemen for keeping our women company, but we have plans," Henry also got Sam to her feet, pulling her against his body.

Rick had already lifted Tess up. The scene was comical. Levy had a mischievous glint in his eyes, like someone who was up to something, and his friends seemed ready to back him up.

"Red, come with me, I promise you'll love the surprise I have for you," Patrick was practically crawling after Virginia, already acting like a puppy wagging its tail.

"Gentlemen, why don't we have some fun?" Levy asked casually. "Look, I propose a game, so we can all enjoy the pleasure of these beautiful ladies' company."

"I have a better idea," Tess quickly interjected. "You guys sit down and play. Whoever wins gets to take us out to dinner and enjoy our company."

"Are you drunk, Tess? No way in hell you're having dinner with another man," Rick scolded his wife.

"What's wrong, man? You that bad at the game?" Leonard taunted Rick and winked at Tess. Rick was furning with anger, just like the others.

"Are you messing with me?" Rick asked angrily. "I'm very, very good at poker."

"So the others must be the ones who suck?" Luke needled. This wasn't going to end well.

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"Listen up, nobody here sucks at poker, we're all professionals," Patrick snapped. "We could leave you guys in your underwear!"

"Now we're talking! You're betting money, women, and clothes?" Michael chimed in excitedly.

"Oh, I'd love to see all these hot guys in their underwear because of us," Melissa whispered in my ear, and I couldn't help but burst out laughing.

"Care to share Melissa's joke with us, sweetheart?" Alexander said sternly, tightening his grip on my waist, and I quickly shook my head, saying it was nothing.

"So, gentlemen, are you scared?" Levy provoked again.

"Nobody here is scared. We just don't want to waste time we could be spending with our women playing cards with a bunch of bearded men," Alexander retorted.

"Well, you've already wasted plenty of time, since they came here alone, " Angel pushed even further.

"Come on, afraid of a little competition? It's just a card game and dinner among friends, no big deal. Let's go," Levy encouraged. "Besides, if you're that good, you'll wipe the floor with us."

"Deal!" Patrick impulsively exclaimed, slapping his hand on the table.

"Damn it, Patrick," Rick muttered.

"What?" Patrick asked as if it was no big deal. The men looked at each other in frustration.

"One game. And we're going to win," Alexander hissed, then whispered

n my ear, ''There's no w	ay you're having dinner w	vith that guy!''
"Then don't lose!" I shot	back.	
The men sat down, intro	duced themselves, and se	t the stakes. Besides
	er would take the money.	
	et their clothes, concludin	
cicked out of the club for	being half-naked.	
The waiters brought mor	e chairs, and we sat amor	ig the men to watch the
game. The cards were de	alt, and the betting began	. Mel sent the same
ext message to each of u	IS:	
"Time to make them lose		
Thile to make them los	Σ	
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