

## Chapter 84

"I'm curious, Melissa, how did you convince Fred to agree with our outing today?" I asked my friend while we were doing our makeup in my bathroom.

"Oh, simple, I told him I was going out with the girls," Melissa said as if it were obvious.

"And did you happen to mention the boys?" I asked, looking at her through the mirror.

"That's just a detail, Cat. A tiny detail! I haven't forgotten that he's being all buddy-buddy with Alexander, and I definitely haven't forgotten about that floozy throwing herself at him that day at the Social Club," Melissa said very seriously.

"Mel, you're impossible," I laughed and finished my makeup.

"It's no big deal, Cat, we're just having fun with friends."

We finished getting ready and left. The taxi was already waiting at the door. We arrived at the restaurant at the same time as Sam and Tess.

"Wow! We're going to drive these men crazy tonight! We look absolutely stunning!" Tess said confidently. She has enviable self-esteem.

"Hot and gorgeous, right, Tess! Well, let's go in because they're already here. Vi sent a message," Melissa said.

We entered the restaurant, and it was simply luxurious, illuminated with crystal chandeliers, tables covered with gray tablecloths and white overlays, and upholstered chairs with black and white floral fabric. The aroma was divine. The hostess led us to the table, and when they saw us,



the guys smiled broadly, standing up to greet us.

"Catherine, how do you manage to look more beautiful each day?" Levy greeted me with that handsome smile and his usual gentlemanly manner, pulling out the chair for me to sit.

"Thank you, Levy. You look very handsome too," I gave him a gentle smile.

"I'm glad you like it, I dressed up for you!"

Levy was charming, gentle, and always smiling. We engaged in a lively conversation about the restaurant and what they had planned for karaoke. They had already ordered some drinks and cocktails. When we decided to order, the guys chose a wine that was really good.

The dinner was very pleasant, and it had been great to accept Levy and his friends' invitation. The night would be calm and fun, which was exactly what I needed. They were excellent company and told stories that made us laugh a lot. They had been friends since childhood, and there was great chemistry between them.

"So, Cat, is this thing with Miller really serious?" Levy asked while we were eating.

"I'd say it's really complicated, Levy."

"But is it a complicated that's worth the effort, or a complicated that maybe you're not willing to uncomplicate?" he persisted.

"I still don't know. I'm really in love with him, but it seems like something always happens..." I answered honestly.

"You know, Cat, I think you're very beautiful, and I won't deny that I'm



very interested in you. I understand that you're kind of confused right now, but couldn't you let things flow between us? I mean, just allow us to get to know each other better, you know?" Levy was direct, and I wasn't expecting that.

"Levy, you're very kind, we get along well, and you seem like an amazing guy, but my life is kind of complicated right now. I won't give you false hope. I don't know where this thing with Alexander is going."

"Alright. But can we be friends? Have lunch sometimes, go out for drinks? Those things that friends do. I promise I won't get any wrong ideas. And I confess, it's really fun to annoy Miller and his friends." - He had a beautiful, playful smile plastered on his face.

"Yes, Levy, we can be friends." - I smiled back.

"Well then, as a friend, you can always call me when you need to teach Miller a lesson. Or when you need to make him jealous." - He said, smiling as he brought the wine glass to his lips. I couldn't help but laugh; he really did enjoy the provocations.

"So, ladies, dessert?" - Leonard asked enthusiastically after dinner.

"Always, Leonard!" - Tess replied with equal enthusiasm. They had been engaged in what seemed to be a very interesting conversation during dinner. Rick would be furious if he saw this.

"How about trying a different dessert, Catherine? Chocolate cake is good, but why not try something else?" - Levy said, looking at me mischievously.

"Not a bad idea. What do you suggest?" - I played along with his game.

"Can I surprise you?"



"Of course!" - I smiled at him.

When the desserts arrived, I was enchanted by what was placed in front of me; it was beautiful and looked delicious.

"What is this? I'm not an expert in French cuisine." - I explained to Levy.

"It's called tarte aux pommes. It's a classic French pastry, a shortcrust pastry with apples, sugar, and vanilla, always served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. I think you'll like it." - Levy winked at me. He's very charming.

I put a piece of the tart with some ice cream in my mouth, and it was so good that I closed my eyes to savor it. It was sweet and refreshing, with an impressively subtle apple tartness. The apples were golden, almost melting they were so soft, perfectly complementing the crust, and the ice cream was the final touch that made this dessert perfect. When I opened my eyes again, Levy was staring at me intently, as if waiting for my verdict.

"Amazing! It's incredible and delicious, Levy!" I said, putting another piece in my mouth.

"See? Trying new things is good, it gives you new perspectives. And it can be surprising." He smiled at me seductively. "The apple is considered the forbidden fruit, Cat, but it's delicious, isn't it?" Levy spoke with clear double meaning.

After dinner, Leonard's uncle came to our table to greet us.

"Nephew, finally you guys decided to surround yourselves with beautiful women instead of hanging out with just your little group of guys."

"Uncle, we're selective about our company," Leonard replied as if it were



obvious.

"Ladies, thank you for making my humble establishment more beautiful and pleasant today. I hope you enjoyed it and will come back more often. Don't wait for these guys." Leonard's uncle said as he bid us farewell.

"So now, ladies, let's show off our talent at karaoke!" Leonard said, rubbing his hands together.

"Oh, I'm so excited!" Virginia was really enthusiastic about the idea of performing publicly in a musical number.



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