



Chapter 88

The game room at Patrick's place was truly incredible, like stepping into a Las Vegas casino. It had everything: bright lights, roulette, card tables, arcade machines, slot machines - an endless variety of games. Everything was elegant and well-organized.

"Welcome to my humble abode," Patrick said with an exaggerated bow.

"Don't show off, Patrick. There's nothing humble about your house. This is excessive for someone who lives alone," Samantha cut in.

"I just like entertaining friends, Sam," Patrick explained. "Anyway, drinks are at the bar, make yourselves at home. I've ordered some snacks for us. Let's sit down and enjoy the evening."

"Shall we continue with blackjack?" Angel asked, and everyone agreed.

Patrick got the chips and decks ready and set up the table. Everyone grabbed their drinks and we sat down to play. The game was flowing smoothly and fun until we received a message from Virginia.

"It's about to begin."

"Hey guys, these bets are getting boring. What do you say we spice up the game?" Virginia suggested.

"What do you mean, Sardines?" Luke asked as everyone looked suspicious.

"I agree. It's boring, no one's really trying to win," Melissa added.

"It's a card game, Melissa. You don't have to try. It's luck," Alexander said seriously, as if sensing what was coming.



"Alexander, even you're bored," I said, placing my hand on his knee.

"And what do you clever girls want to suggest?" Henry asked, narrowing his eyes.

"Something that'll make you sweat," Tess answered.

"I hope this doesn't involve taking clothes off," Rick said, covering his eyes as everyone laughed.

"Of course not," Virginia replied, and they all sighed in relief. "But we could do this: whoever wins the round gets to kiss someone."

Everyone's eyes widened; it was hard to keep a straight face and not laugh at their expressions.

"What are you suggesting, Virginia?" Fred asked in a whisper.

"I played like this once and it's super fun," Virginia said excitedly. "Whoever wins the game can choose someone to kiss. But the type of kiss depends on the card points. If someone has twenty-one points, it's a movie-style kiss, if it's twenty points it's a twenty-second kiss on the lips, eighteen or nineteen points is a peck, and anything less is a kiss on the cheek, neck, or behind the ear - winner's choice."

"You're crazy, Virginia! No way in hell another guy is going to put his lips on my woman!" Alexander was red with anger.

"What's the matter, Alexander? Afraid of losing Catherine over a kiss? Because you know I'm going to win." Levy taunted.

"Last time, I was the winner." Alexander reminded him.

"Well, if you're so sure, accept the challenge. Let's play." Levy provoked.



"Just reminding you that I'm not yours." I told Alexander, reminding him that I hadn't forgiven him. He looked at me with displeasure.

"I like the idea," Samantha said, and all of us women agreed, looking at the men challengingly – it was either this or nothing.

"Damn it!" Michael said. "You're like little demons messing with our heads!"

"I have to agree with you," Henry added.

"But can we only kiss one person?" Tess asked, and everyone looked at her shocked. "What, guys! If I win and want to kiss two at once, I can't? As the winner, I think I should be able to choose that."

We were doubled over with laughter seeing the shocked expressions on those men's faces.

"Okay, whoever wins can choose to kiss either one or two people," Virginia added. "Do you accept?"

This would be so much fun! How far would these men be willing to go?

"You're pushing it too far," Alexander said. "But if that's what you want... Are you sure about this, Cat?" he asked, looking into my eyes.

"Just don't lose, Alexander," I said, meeting his gaze, and his eyes sparkled at the challenge.

"I'm in!" Alexander declared.

Everyone else agreed one by one, and we women were euphoric. Inside me, an enormous anxiety was growing. What would it be like if Levy won? Everyone there knew exactly who was interested in whom, so the



group game was also being played in pairs.

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