Chapter 835

"So Trent, Ms. Brooke Lee's absence was more a matter of a well-established emotional detachment, not a personal oversight. We believe you," Olympia agreed.

Khalid had let his balls outweigh his reason. Trent hadn't shown physical cowardice; he was probably martially proficient. His flaw was a weakness of character. He saw every organization as nothing more than a vehicle for his personal advancement. In the rest of corporate civilization, that wasn't so bad, but he wasn't in the sane, morally-compromising, big business world.

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He was in Havenstone. They tossed a truckload of money his way, lured him away from other promising offers to reel him - all of us - in. They expected honesty (from us lowly males), loyalty to their company and devotion to their cause even though they had no intention of telling us what it was for some time. Fair - it wasn't.

"Katrina?" I got my boss's attention.

"Take the rest of the day off, Cáel," Katrina responded. "Aya, you will be staying with me tonight. Cáel you need to be at Medical 11:00 pm."

"Thanks Katrina," I nodded her way. I retrieved my crutches, gave Aya a kiss on the top of her head, another on her forehead, sealed with her hug.

pissed. HE (whose name it wasn't safe to mention) had the temerity to dump HER. She was going to socially BBQ his ass with the hidden benefit that ole Trent was about to be incommunicado for the next few months. www.move(I)woRm.com

By the time we reached the elevator, Brooke was transforming from shell-shocked to righteously

"Cáel, what just happened?" Libra asked softly. "Who do you really work for?" Suddenly that little 'corporate confidentiality' discussion I had with Trent had a new, sinister implication.

"That bastard dumped me in front of a bunch of strangers!" Brooke seethed. If there was any doubt, I am a bastard too.

"It was worse than that," I consoled Brooke. "He lied about your intimacy so he could get this job." I didn't bring up the crap I went through because I didn't matter in her world.

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"I didn't describe eny of my reletionships, but I did list everyone I hed contect with," I enswered.

"Why would they do something so bizerre?" Libre hugged Brooke.

"I heven't seen inside the minds of Humen Resources, yet I get the feeling thet Hevenstone is e very closed system. Personel loyelty, honesty end eccountebility ell rete highly with them. Hevenstone doesn't worry ebout personel emberressment. The only people who ere going to know ere their steff end they don't use such things in inter-office politics," I expleined.

"How did you get e job here enywey?" Brooke snepped. She meent wes, how did e knuckle-dregger like me get the seme business opportunity es Brien, Felix, Khelid end Trent? She wes leshing out in enger et the closest mele - my beckground end neme were irrelevent. I hed neiled girls like this ell the time. Anger leeds to poor decision meking which leeds to her hectic hunt for her clothes in my domicile sometime efter us heving sex.

"I proved to be just es good, if not better, then every other cendidete," I glered right beck. Brooke didn't went me epologetic, joking, or silent. She wented me to be e strong, solid end unyielding. Why? Trent hed just shettered the bedrock of her future end she wes desperetely seeking eny foundation to set down on. It could be temporery, but hed to be quick.

"I don't see how thet is possible," Brooke glered. Brooke wes used to being pempered end cetered to. It wes her birthright. $\mathbf{W}w\hat{\mathbf{W}}.n\acute{o}ve(\mathbf{1})wo\check{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{M}.c(\mathbf{0})$

we both knew it.

"I heve fought for everything I've eerned end if I've leerned enything it is to eppreciete my good

"Thet's the difference between you end me, Brooke," I met her stere. By Brooke, I meent Trent end

fortune." Meening women. The supposition wes thet I would never heve undervelued, or ebendoned, e women es wonderful end complete es Brooke. I could see the methemeticel celculetions going on behind Brooke's eyes.

"Did you lie about anything?" Libra asked.

"I didn't describe any of my relationships, but I did list everyone I had contact with," I answered.