## A pet

Luca went out with some work after breakfast.

Emma joined Lizzie in the backyard. They were discussing their college and their schedule.

Their college would be starting from the next day. Emma is excited and terrified at the same time.

"They have an introduction ceremony for the freshman tomorrow. The Principle will introduce about the college and then we have to go and get our schedules from the admin department" Lizzie told Emma.

Emma never got a chance to experience student life in her 19 years of life. She is excited about the new experience.

But when she remembers her stepsister's friends, who are awful to her, she started feeling anxious.

If she has to endure that kind of behavior daily, then she'd rather stay home and homeschooled again.

"Hey, where did you go?" Lizzie asked Emma, who is zoned out.

Emma shook her head to gather herself.

"Nothing, I just have mixed feelings about tomorrow" she confessed truthfully.

Lizzie knows everything about Emma. She knows how Emma's father and his family used to treat her. So she can understand how she must be feeling now.

"Everything will be fine. You have Mr. Vitiello to protect you now. No one will dare to touch you or treat you badly" Lizzie assured her.

Upon hearing Luca's name, Emma felt somewhat safe. She remembered the feeling she got when she was surrounded by those intoxicated men. She instantly felt safe when he called her a 'kitten'. Even though she is terrified of him, she believes that he will protect her.

"Ya," Emma agreed with Lizzie.

Suddenly Lizzie remembers their appointment within the salon.

"We have an appointment in the beauty salon" Lizzie reminded Emma excitedly.

Emma looked truly horrified.

"Lizzie, we had an appointment just a month ago" Emma reminded Lizzie.

"A month ago Emma, a month ago. We have to look beautiful for our first day Emma"

Lizzie said dramatically, making Emma laugh.

After that, Emma had to go to the beauty salon with Lizzie. Lizzie insisted on full-body treatments. Emma's reluctance was ignored.

She was waxed all over her body, making her skin feel soft and sensitive.

Later, her hands and legs were cleaned, nails shaped, and painted to a baby pink shade.

Her hair was neatly washed and some hair pack was applied to soften them up. Her face was cleansed, toned, scrubbed then a face pack was applied.

After everything was washed off, she has to admit, she looks better. Her hair is softer.

When they were done, Emma was feeling sleepy, hungry, and a little cranky.

Emanuel and Smith took them back home. But just when they were about to cross the gates to enter the Vitiello mansion, Emma saw a cute little puppy, which would be just days old. It looked dirty and week.

Emma immediately felt bad for that puppy.

"Hey, stop the car," Emma said hurriedly.

Smith immediately pressed on the brakes.

"What happened?" Lizzie asked with confusion.

Emma got down the car and rushed to retrieve the puppy, without answering Lizzie.

"Boss wouldn't be happy" Emanuel commented from the front seat, looking at Emma picking up the little Pug.

"That is Emma, Boss will not reject anything she likes" Lizzie reminded them, completely unfazed.

"Ya," Smith agreed as well.

"Get used to our new family member," Lizzie said just before Emma opened the door with the pug.

Luca came to the Vitiello mansion to change his suit. He has a party to attend to. He didn't find Emma in the house. Usually, she would be chatting with Peter or her guards with Marco's sister.

"Where is Emma?" he asked Peter.

"She went to a beauty salon with my sister" Marco supplied from behind him.

Luca looked at Marco sharply.

"You know this how?" Luca asked Marco with a blank face. But the slight change in his tone is unmistakable.

Luca is angry.

"Emanuel texted me in the afternoon" Marco replied fearfully.

"You should inform me everything about Emma directly to me. No matter how mundane that thing is. Am I clear?" Luca looked sharply at Marco, before going to his room to change.

Emma and the others came to a couple of minutes after that.

When Emma came inside with the dirty puppy, Marco looked shocked.

'This is bad' he thought, eying his sister meaningfully.

'Not me' Lizzie mouthed to his brother.

Marco sighed with relief.

Suddenly the dog barked startling Emma.

"He must be hungry," She said out loud and went to give him some milk.

Luca heard the sound of a dog barking and came down the buttoning his shirt.

He was instantly furious when he found a dirty dog drinking milk in his house.

"What's happening here?" he asked in a cold tone.

Emma jumped to her feet along with the puppy, who was scared as well.

No one answered. Everyone was scared of Luca. They looked at Emma expectantly.

Luca noticed everyone looking at Emma.

"Kitten" he prompted Emma.

Emma is scared as well. She didn't think he would get angry. But here he is, looking furious, making her shiver with fear.

The puppy snuggled into Emma's embrace more firmly.

"I saw this puppy on the road. He was small, scared, and alone. So I picked him up" she explained softly.

Luca hates pets and the unnecessary noise they make.

He looked at Emanuel coldly.



"Throw it out" he commanded.

Emma's eyes welled up with unshed tears. But she hid her face with her hair.

She handed over the puppy to Emanuel, who was waiting beside her.

She always wanted to have a pet, while growing up. But she is living on scraps from her father. How can she feed her pet? But she saw that dog today, she felt like, she is looking at her younger self.

Luca looked at Emma, who is standing there with her face hidden away from him.

'How can she feel so strongly about a dog which she just picked up?' he thought.

Emma went and sat in the backyard sadly.

