

Sad

Luca finished dressing himself, as he was disturbed earlier by the barking of that dog. When he was done, he pocketed his wallet and secured a gun behind him in his holster, and two small throw knives in his socks.

Lizzie and her brother Marco were discussing something.

"I thought you are the one behind the dog," Marco said with a shudder.

"Nope, it's all Emma" Lizzie replied and assured his brother.

"Boss hates pets. No wonder he asked to throw it out" Marco said.

Lizzie snorted at his assessment.

"You just wait and see. That dog will come back in just another couple of hours" Lizzie said with confidence.

Marco looked at his sister firmly. He knows his boss better than she does. His boss hates pets. So that dog will not come back, he thought with confidence.

"It will not. I know our boss better than you do. He will not allow it" Marco said firmly.

Lizzie laughed at her brother's ignorance.

Marco looked at his sister, who is laughing at him with confusion.

"Why are you laughing?" he asked her with puzzlement.

"You just wait and see brother" she patted his cheek and smiled at him cheekily.

Luca walked down the stairs and looking for Emma, who is nowhere to be found. He found the brother and sister duo talking instead.

When Marco noticed his boss coming downstairs in a different suit, he walked towards the bottom of the stairs to wait for him.

"Where is my Kitten?" Luca asked Marco.

"She is in the backyard Boss" Marco replied.

Luca looked to his left and found Emma sitting on her knees and working on her Tulip garden.

"Do you want me to call her?" Marco offered.

"No" Luca replied and went to where she is working by himself.

When Marco tried to follow behind Luca, he extended his hand in a stop sign. Marco immediately stopped.

"Wait for me near the car" Luca ordered and he walked towards Emma.

Marco went outside to wait for his boss near the car.

Lizzie stood just where she was standing, too scared to even move in the wrong direction in front of Luca.

Luca stood in front of Emma, who is working with the weeds.

"Kitten" he called her and sat on his toes in front of her.

Emma stilled when she heard Luca. She is scared that he would see her red eyes and would get angry at her. So she hid her face with her hair.

"Yes," she whispered without raising her head.

"Look at me kitten" Luca insisted.

Emma reluctantly raised her head and looked at him. But her face is still covered with her hair on either side. Her palms are muddy so she cannot adjust them.

Luca raised his palm and moved her hair out of her face. He wanted to see if she is still upset over that dog.

When she saw her red eyes, he cursed inside his head. 2

His eyes darkened making Emma scared.

"I am sorry" she whispered thinking that he is angry with her for crying.

Luca closed his eyes and pulled her up by her elbow. He led her inside the house and washed her palms under the water stream in the washbasin.

Emma is feeling bad that she might have angered him.

It's just that, she liked that puppy very much and it looked lonely and scared.

Luca wiped her palms with a hand towel without saying a

word. 1

Emma is becoming nervous when he didn't talk to her.

'He must be too angry' she thought.

"It's just that, that puppy was really small and looked lonely" she tried to explain.

But he firmly placed a finger on her lips, effectively shutting her up.

After that, he pulled her towards his car.

Marco looked at his boss bringing Miss Emma and was surprised.

'Is miss Emma going with the boss' he thought.

Luca made Emma sit in the passenger seat and buckled her seat belt before he went and sat in the driver's seat, confusing Marco.

'I am not going with the boss?' he thought with confusion. 2

Luca drove away with a scared Emma inside the car leaving a confused Marco behind.

Luca drove Emma to a fancy pet store.

"Get down kitten," he said after opening her door.

Emma obediently got down and looked at the fancy pet store.

'Why did we came here?' She thought. 1

Luca took her inside the pet store.

"Choose one," he said nodding at all the different types of fancy pets around the store.

Emma looked around her and found all kinds of pets in fancy cages. They all looked healthy. None of them need a house like the stray pug she picked up.

"I don't want any" Emma whispered while looking at her Snicker-clad feet. 2

Luca looked confused.

"You don't like any of them?" he asked her.

Emma shook her head.

"I don't want them" she confessed when he stood there looking at her with an unreadable expression.


"I am not able to understand your kitten. You were sad because I threw away that stray dog. Now when I am willing to buy you a new one, but you don't want any of them. Why?" Luca asked in confusion. 2

He is not angry with her. He wants to listen to her explanation. She will definitely have one, he is sure of that.

"None of them want a home like the one I picked. It's a stray, just like me. Lonely and desperate to find a home" Emma said softly, still looking at her Snickers. 4

Luca is shocked at her explanation.

'It's a stray, just like me' her words sent an unwanted ache in his heart. 1


 +5 BONUS

Her father treated her like a maid, who is unwanted. She just desperately needed a home and some food. So she stayed there when she was young and lonely. Then, she didn't have another option left but to stay with them, even though they treated her badly.

Her chin wobbled with sadness. Luca looked at her sad face and his heart ached a little more.

He couldn't help himself but to pull her into his embrace to console her. 9

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