



## 128 Fate Offered Me A Hand

"Woah, that's a really big fish you're aiming for, Lily!" 1

Lauren clasped her hands together and offered the other women an astonished look while Elizabeth's face turned slightly more serious.

"So I now have to join forces with my counterpart, huh?"

The room fell completely silent with everyone waiting for Lizzy to resume talking. A slight sense of nervousness spread across Amelie's body while she was watching her best friend's reaction.

While Elizabeth indeed was considered Angelina's "good friend", in truth, however, they were silently fighting for the title of the most desirable socialite, and with Lizzy's moving abroad after her scandal, Angelina's place under the sun was now secured.

As the silence in Amelie's living room continued to linger to the point that it was becoming too awkward, Elizabeth sighed and finally spoke



again, "If the rumors are true and Angelina wants Vanessa gone, then I am sure we will be able to find common ground. I will contact her first thing tomorrow."

All three women exhaled in unison which instantly broke the tension and the living room was now filled with light-hearted chuckles.

"Our husbands might control the business part of our world," Emily struggled to compose herself by placing a hand on her chest, "But it's still up to us to make the rest of it go 'round."

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"Lily, can we talk some more?"

Once they all finished discussing their little cunning strategies for winning over people under Angelina Castillo's authority, Elizabeth stayed behind as she still had things she wanted to discuss with her best friend.

Truthfully, there were a lot of things left unspoken between them, but neither Amelie nor Elizabeth thought that it was the right time to pour their souls out onto one another. That was the advantage of having a best

friend--sometimes, you didn't really have to talk about things to get them understood.

Amelie closed the door to her study and took a seat beside her friend, prepared to listen to what she had to tell her. Elizabeth smiled warmly.

"I don't want to beat around the bush since it's already this late... John is about to come back too and he is going to bring some good news with him."

"Good news? I don't follow."

"Liam has done a lot for both John and me, he is truly a great person, Lily. I am unbelievably happy that he was there for you when all this mess barged into your life."

Amelie smiled as well. "Yes, fate offered me a hand while the rest of the world was showing me a finger."

Lizzy couldn't help but laugh--she was the one who taught her friend this saying and she was glad that Amelie still remembered it.

"It's now time for the rest of the world to start doing the same, Lily. I know you are already



working on restoring your standing and I am pleased to know that I can help you with that too. But I hope you didn't think that this is the only thing I can help you with. My new husband Johnathan is going to join forces with us as well."

"Oh, Lizzy..." Amelie realized that her friend was determined to repay Liam's kindness by offering as much help as she could but with everything Elizabeth had gone through already, she couldn't allow her to jump into the thick of it for her sake again.

Unfortunately for her, Lizzy had other plans. Raising her hand to stop her friend from talking she spoke again,

"I might have lost a lot of support when I decided to stay with John but he is not just a nobody. And this is exactly what I wanted to talk to you about." 2

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Vanessa rested her chin on her hand and tapped her nails on top of her desk as her eyes continued to go over the news article opened on her laptop screen.

It was now in the open--Liam and Amelie's wedding date had been finally revealed to the public. And it was set to happen after Richard Clark's wedding in Paris.

It was rather upsetting, but there was nothing she could do anymore. 1

"Rachel," Vanessa looked at her personal assistant who was busy typing something on her tablet.

Rachel unglued her eyes from the screen and quickly approached the woman's desk. "Yes, Mrs. Bennett?"

"Now that the wedding date has been made public, please get Amelie a present to congratulate her. There was no formal engagement so we had to skip that part, thus, please make it big to compensate for it. Also, I want it to be delivered to her while she's in the Diamond Group's headquarters; I want as many eyes as possible on that. You can use my platinum card."

Rachel raised her eyebrows, seemingly surprised by her employer's decision.



"I am sorry if I am overstepping, Mrs. Bennett, but are you sure you want to do that?"

Vanessa pressed her lips into a thin line and narrowed her eyes.

No, she didn't want to do that at all, but once she learned that her friends were starting to promote her reputation in high society again along with the official news of her wedding date, playing a foe was not a very well-thought move anymore. She had to be more careful around her now.

"Yes," she faked a smile at her assistant and continued, "A wedding is a happy occasion, I don't see why I shouldn't congratulate her on that. No matter what she does, it won't hurt to show others that I have no problem with her."

Rachel hesitated for a moment, then leaned a little closer to Vanessa and said in a somewhat apologetic tone, "Mrs. Bennett... I heard that Angelina Castillo had invited Amelie Bennett to brunch next week... I wasn't sure whether it was a good idea to tell you, but--"

"I see," Vanessa interrupted her, "Thank you for telling me. Now, please, take the card and get a



good gift for her."

Rachel accepted the credit card and left the room while Vanessa leaned back in her chair and closed her eyes, her entire body tensioning at once. 2

*'Angelina, huh? She is definitely trying to push me out of the picture... If only Liam hadn't accepted her invitation to the benefit in Noah's place, none of this would have happened. Oscar would fail to force him to marry and I would control Diamond Group from behind the scenes. Getting closer to him was a matter of time until she had to show up... It would have been so much easier but now... I have to fight for my place in this family with her.'* 4