

38 CHAPTER 38 Ignoring Him

Elsie's POV 1

"Elsie."

Stopping in my tracks, I held my breath and relaxed my shoulders. Why didn't I just go back to the room? Now it was going to be hard to get away.

"Oh Hi." I forced a fake smile and turned to face the direction that called my name.

To the least of my surprise, I saw my colleagues, who were seated at a table at the far end of the bar. They all looked excited and happy to see me as they joked together.

"Come on over."

"Yeah come join us."

With a bit more cheering from the group with smiles and encouragement to join them, I had no choice but to do so. Despite my issue with Albie, the group was a cheerful bunch who were fun to hang out with, and refusing to join

might come off in the wrong way.

"Come on let's go join them, they aren't your co workers?" Bonnie asked as she held my hand.

"They are," I answered.

"Then why are you finding it so hard to accept."

"Is it that obvious?"

"No, but I know you well enough and your hand is closed at your back."

Quietly adjusting my body language, I didn't want them to get the wrong idea. Holding her hand in response, we walked off to join the others.

"Elsie, who's the pretty lady?"

"She's my friend, Bonnie. Bonnie these are my colleagues, Jake, Hunter, George, Cassie, Judith, and Albie." I introduced them by pointing them individually and when it was Albie's turn, I just glanced at him.

"Everybody meet Bonnie," I added as I tried to ignore the fact he was probably boring a hole

in the back of my head.

They all welcomed her with warm regards, and she being her friendly self was already making small conversations.

As we all sat together, I was wary of Albie, I didn't want him to think I was supporting any conversation. If he tried to talk to me, I was going to keep it short and simple.

"Okay ladies, you joined the table right on time, we were just about to order."

It just came to my notice that the table was empty, no drinks and they all seemed very alert and energized. That was soon going to change because I recalled from the welcome party how heavy they drank.

"Yeah, order whatever you want, drinks on Albie," Jake said as he nudged him. "Isn't that right?"

"Yes, drinks on me," Albie replied as he looked at both of us and adjusted his tie.

"So sly, always trying to look hot." Judith joked.

We all placed our orders and while we waited, the group dived into conversations of different things, all saying and discussing what they thought.

Soon enough the drinks arrived and a new surge of energy flowed around us, as usually I was very conscious of the amount I was going to drink. This was before what happened the last time I let myself get drunk.

"Elsie? Can we have a moment?" Bonnie asked.

"Sure, where?"

We both excused ourselves and moved to a different location that was kind of quiet so we could talk better. What could be the reason why she wanted to be away from the group? Wasn't she comfortable?

"What's wrong?" She asked the moment we were away from the rest of the bar.

"Nothing, why are you asking?"

She was getting me worried with the way she was looking at me right now. I couldn't think

of anything that would make her ask me this kind of question.

"Tell me the truth, why do you seem so stiff, like something is bothering you and I can tell."

"Well, it's nothing, seriously."

The way she read me was crazy, she always knew whenever my mood was off and had a way of showing concern that made me so proud to have her as a friend.

"You know you can tell me."

"Fine, it's Albie."

"You guys aren't on talking terms right?"

"How did you know?"

Her lips curved in a smile, a teasing self affirming look and I knew what she was going to take this as.

"He has been staring at you since we got there, like he wants to devour you but his eyes were kind of sad."

"Sad? No, you are probably just imagining it."

"No, I'm not, tell me what happened? Why aren't you guys talking?"

Taking a deep breath, I just realized I hadn't told anyone about this, it had only been me and it was eating me up inside.

"You remember Daniel studying abroad?"

"Yeah, I was the one who told you, remember?"

"Well, I think he did it."

"Did what?"

Saying it out loud made me sound kind of silly but heck it was Bonnie, I could tell her anything. She won't judge me, maybe she might even look for a way to understand me.

I went on to explain to her how I was sure he was the one who made it possible so that Daniel would be out of the picture. I told her about how we were at the office, excluding the intimate parts. She was looking at me meaningfully as she thought of what I was saying.

"So you see."



"Yes I do but don't you think you are being a little too harsh I'm him?"

"Harsh? Didn't you just hear what I said?"

"I did and I'm not supporting his actions but look at his motive, why did he do it?"

"How am I supposed to know? I'm not in his head."

"You know why but I won't press any further, we will talk when we get back to our room but for now, please forget that and have fun."

I nodded and we walked back to the group, by the time we got there, the number of bottles on the table increased and the air around the table loosened up.

"Where did you guys go off to?"

"Just needed to use the restroom," Bonnie said conveniently.

As we sat down and got back to our drinks, I saw Albie stand up from where he was and approach me. I held my breath in anticipation.

