## 8 CHAPTER 8 Thank You For Today

Elsie's POV

The heat from his chest eluded a warmth that made me very comfortable. When was the last time someone held me like this? Like I mattered and I was the center of existence.

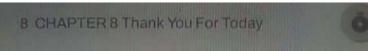
In a fit to prolong the ecstatic feeling, I leaned closer and shifted my weight into it. The relief I felt with that single act made me relax and my tears stopped flowing.

He felt so strong and capable. Wait, He? Albie? Oh no. I quickly pulled back, stepping out of his hold and looking at anywhere but his face.

Gosh Elsie! How could you let that happen? This was such a sloppy act, how could I have let myself slip up that much and make this so awkward?

"I- I'm sorry, I apologize for the outburst of emotions, that was quite dramatic of me."

"I'm glad you are okay."



For some reason, it was not as weird as I thought it would be, when I looked at his eyes, it was filled with understanding and patience. I was expecting to see a judgemental stare but all I saw was gentleness.

"Shall we?" He motioned back to our seated area.

I nodded and headed back to our seats, luckily for me, I broke down in a relatively secluded spot in the restaurant so not many people saw the whole incident.

That saved me the embarrassment of having to act as though nothing happened. Daniel was slowly ruining my life. I'm not the type to let my emotions get the best of me.

Emotional control was a very vital key to succeeding in my career so I had to master that but today was so straining and I let it slip.

Worst off, in front of the one person who shouldn't have been, what will he think of me now? Up until now, I knew he treated me as an equal but will that change now that he has seen this side of me?

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I hate you right now Daniel. I will make sure you don't get to have anything from this divorce.

"Your order?"

His question brought me back to my current state. That's right, I was going to have dinner with a very handsome and attractive man. I had to focus on him and give him my attention.

I can not be bad company after displaying such a pathetic outburst.

"Oh yes, I will do just that."

"You should try the lobster crib, it's fantastic. I mean I might be biased because it's my favorite." He joked lightly and I smiled.

"Okay, fine I will give it a try."

I was grateful he didn't press me, he just played it cool and left it. We placed our order and continued with the wine that was served, talking and I slowly loosened up.

"So how's Granville Law like so far?"

I was happy he brought up work, it was always a good topic that shifted my mind off

things.

"I mean I don't know much yet but I guess it's fine."

"Guess?" He asked, placing his hand on his chest in an exaggerated manner, playing hurt at the statement.

"No, okay not guess, it's fine."

"Wait till you meet the rest of the team, a bunch of tough cookies but actually easygoing."

"I met a few at the party."

As I mentioned the party, I remembered the little comments the other ladies made about him. Today I have had my fair share of his charm and calming aura.

"Trust me there is a whole lot to them."

As we continued dining and conversing, I noticed the way in which he carried himself. He ate with a pace that matched mine and he was attentive to what I was saying.

It was a new experience for me, especially when it was so different compared to when I

went out with Daniel. He was always in a hurry, rushing, oftentimes leaving and waiting for me in the car.

The way he treated the waiter was another thing to notice, he was polite and respectful.

Daniel always embarrassed me with the way he spoke and treated the person serving us.

It made me dislike dining out with him but with Albie, it was so soothing, he wasn't deliberately eating slowly but there was a decreased pace he had as though he wanted to prolong every single moment.

To my greatest surprise, I felt the same way, I wanted to hold onto every second as we were together.

As the evening came to an end, I felt a pang of loneliness already looming as I thought of going home to be all alone. With the suitcase in my hand, I was ready to leave.

"The meal was wonderful but your company was the greatest part of the evening." He said as he opened the door for us to leave.

"Yes, thank you for the evening."

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"If you are really thankful then let me take you home."

My heart felt lighter as the evening was not going to end so soon. Thank goodness he offered to give me a ride, he was such a gentleman.

He alerted the valet and his car was brought.

Opening the door for me, I felt a tingle of tenderness that made me glad.

The gestures and acts might be little but they meant a whole lot to me, especially after the terrible day I had. As he rounded the hood of the car, it made me wonder whether this was how he was or if he was just acting to put me at ease.

When we arrived at my house, it felt like the end of a wonderful date and though it wasn't I just held it in my mind.

"I know I've said it already but thank you for today." He flashed me a slow killing smile.

"Would you like to come in?" I asked him before I could stop myself.

"Yes."

