

Chapter 21

It's been weeks since I've moved here. And the kids love Chase. I still get worried about them getting too attached to Chase, because when we do leave, I know it'll be too hard on them. I feel like the worst Mother.

I know for a fact that Chase doesn't ever want to leave them. In fact, he spends all of his time with them when he doesn't have to tend to pack business. He loves them so much and he sees them for more than fifteen hours most days. And I can't say that the kids like him any less. They adore Chase, and think of him as their idol.

Sometimes when I'm away for a photo-shoot- yes, unfortunately, I still have to go to those sometimes- I would leave the children with Chase without hesitation. Every day, I watched as they grew more closer to him, and I couldn't help but think how much everyone is going to get hurt when we leave.

Chase has been sweeter than ever. Every day, he brings me roses and a card, which says how sorry he is. I won't forgive him though, because he hurt me too much, and although I appreciate that he is doing everything to make it better, it doesn't take away the pain. I haven't seen Ryan or Rebecca since I came here, but I guess that my fault since I've always been at Mom's, at a photo-shoot or Chase would be over.

But from what I heard from Mom, they're still not happy together. I wish they'd just be together like they were before, because even though Ryan had also hurt me, he was still my brother, and I did love him. And

nobody deserved to not be with their mates, knowing where they were, because I had experienced it and I wouldn't even wish that on my enemy.

I was surprised Chase wasn't here yet today. He was always here before eleven o'clock in the morning, and sure enough the twins were missing him already.

"Momma, why's Daddy not here?" Charis stomped her feet on the ground and pouted, making me smile slightly. She just looked too cute.

"He'll probably be here soon, honey," I said, brushing her long, soft hair.

"Momma, Daddy's not here yet!" Kaden stated as he entered my bedroom and plopped himself on my bed.

"He'll be here soon guys. He did text last night to say that he would be coming to pick us up, so he'll be here." Hopefully, I added in my mind.

Late last night, I received a text from Chase, informing me that he would pick me up at around eleven, though he didn't tell me where we were going, and only that it would be a surprise.

After helping Charis into a pair of shorts and a cute top, I got dressed into a turquoise summer dress, which had a brown belt in the around the waist. It was quite short, only reaching up to my mid-thighs but I guess it looked cute. My hair was down in its natural waves, though I done a fringe-braid at the front.

Just as I was slipping on a pair of white platform wedge heels, the doorbell rang, startling me which nearly caused me to fall on my butt. I sighed, fastening my shoes before opening the door, only to reveal Chase, looking as hot as usual. Actually, that would be an understatement. That man was way more than just hot.

"Hey," I said, opening the door wider so that he can walk in.

"Hey, you look beautiful, way more than beautiful. Breathtakingly beautiful," he groaned as he handed me a single white rose. I loved white roses.

"Thanks," I muttered. "The twins were getting impatient waiting for you."

"I know, sorry, I got caught up in a business meeting," he said, with honesty gleaming in his eyes.

"It's not me you should be saying sorry to," I mumbled, before leaving him to go check on the twins in their bedroom, well Kaden's bedroom, which Charis sleeps in all the time. "Are you guys ready?" I asked them.

"Yes, is daddy here yet?" Charis asked with a frown on her face.

"Yes," I answered, chuckling as she dropped her favorite doll on the floor and sprinting to the living room, where Chase was.

"Daddy!" I heard her squeal, which made Chase chuckle.

"C'mon Kade, let's see what Daddy's up to, eh?" Hand-in-hand, Kaden and I headed to the living room.

"Hey buddy. How are you?" Chase said, bumping his fist with Kaden's much smaller one.

"I thought you weren't coming Daddy," Kaden frowned.

"I'll always be there for you two, and I promise, I will never let you down. No work is more important than you two, okay?" he said to both of them, looking at them right in the eyes, then mine.

"Where are we going Daddy?" Kaden asked with a small frown on his face. He hated not knowing what was going on. He always felt like he had to know everything and be in control of it- very much like his Father.

"Now, that's a surprise," he flicked Charis' nose, making her giggle and wrap her arms around his neck.

"Well, what are we waiting for? Let's get going!" he shouted enthusiastically, picking up Charis as he stood up. She was such a Daddy's girl!

"Wow! This is beautiful!" I gasped as soon as I saw the blue sea, glistening under the bright sun. The white sand looked so soft that I couldn't wait to lie down on it already.

"You've always liked beaches...even when you were younger, so I thought why not come here?" Chase shrugged.

Wow; he noticed that about me?!

"Yeah, I've always like beaches, but I've only been to the beach once in the last few years and that was only for a shooting for a video of mine. It was exhausting, but the twins loved it!" I grinned, remembering how they made a huge sand castle with Emma when she came along to watch over them, then how they managed to get all sticky by the end of the day because of the ice-cream fight they had.

"It was an amazing video by the way...I love 'His Last Kiss', and obviously so did everyone else, because it was a chart topper," he smiled at me.

I can't believe he actually knew my songs, especially His Last Kiss, which was written about him. Crap. I just hoped he didn't pay much attention to the lyrics, otherwise he would've known it was about him.

"Err, thanks," I said awkwardly, averting my eyes to window.

"Anytime... and you're more than amazing Sophia," he whispered, placing a soft gentle kiss on my cheeks. Heat rushed to my cheeks, and I knew I looked as red as a tomato right now.

"Daddy kissed Momma! Daddy kissed Momma!" the twins chanted. Damn, I forgot they were here.

"Okay, that's enough guys. Now, let's go to the beach!" grinned Chase, which showed that small dimple of his on his right cheek.

I cleared my throat, looking away from him. "Let's have some fun!"

I slipped off my heels, holding it in my hands while Chase carried a picnic basket, I didn't even know he had. Kaden gripped Charis' small hands to protect her, but she didn't mind at all. "Why isn't there nobody here?" I frowned, looking around the very empty and peaceful beach.

"This is my private beach; I bought it off the previous owner two years ago because he was moving to France."

"Wow, you're loaded!" I joked, poking his ribs.

"Haha, Miss-I-Have-So-Many-Houses-All-Over-The-World," he rolled his eyes, trying to look annoyed, but the small smile which played on his lips gave it away.

"Whatever," I stuck my tongue out at him.

He chuckled, shaking his head at my childishness. It felt good being young again, because sometimes it felt like I was double my age. I guess it was just because sometimes I hardly ever got to have fun and act like my age. I felt so carefree right now: like all the burdens had been lifted off of my shoulders, making my heart feel so light again. I didn't have to carry my sack of problems around with me today, and I would be lying if I said that I didn't need a day off my chaotic everyday life!

We found a place to sit under some palm trees, which wasn't that far away from the sea. Chase unpacked all the food and we spent the next hour or so feeding with each other and trying to throw food in each other's mouth, which was how we all ended up wearing half the food. But it made me laugh like I hadn't in years.

"You should laugh more, it's beautiful," Chase said once the twins were playing by the sea. I wanted to sunbathe for a bit before going in, so we were laying in the sun while keeping an eye on them to make sure they were safe. I'd go *muy loca* without those two troublemakers in my life!

"Thanks," I muttered, slipping on my white ray bans.

During a moment of silence, I debated in my head whether to confront him or not about the twins and I moving back to New York. I was scared of his reaction to be honest, and I didn't want this day to be ruined for all of us.

But sooner or later, I had to confront it. And I was going to do it sooner than later.

"Chase?"

"Yeah?"

"You know about the twins and I moving back to New Yor-"

"You're what?!" he shouted.

"We both knew that I would be moving back Chase," I stated.

"But you can't! These are my children too, you know?"

"I have to; I have my life settled there; I can't stay here."

"Isn't it bad enough that I missed four years of their lives already. I've missed their first words, their sonograms. I've missed the start of their lives, and I'm not going to miss anymore!"

"Well, maybe they can spend their holidays with you," I compromised.

"I'm not going to be a holiday-dad! I refuse to be one. I want to be there for them all the time!"

"I'm not staying here Chase, not after everything!" I shouted, standing up.

"Well, I'm not staying without my children!" he shouted, standing up as well.

"Well, has the thought ever occurred to you, that maybe...maybe if you we were a good mate, then we wouldn't be in this situation?!"

"Can't you let everything go?! It's been years for God's sake Sophia!" he growled. I could see how hard he was trying to fight his wolf from taking over control. His eyes were darker, nearly black, and his face red.

How dare he?! "That doesn't take away the years of pain I've had to go through though, does it? I could've refused you time with your children. But I didn't because no matter how much I may resent you for doing all of that to me, I knew my babies needed their father. Do you have the slightest idea of how much I've had to suffer?! All that suffering can't just be forgotten overnight Chase. Do you know how much it hurt feeling you f**k each and every one of those girls? How my heart felt like it was breaking little by little with each and every one of your f**k? Do you know that I nearly lost my children when you marked Nicole?! I'm sorry if you feel otherwise, but all of this pain doesn't just vanish the next day."

I could feel tears standing at the brim of my eyes however I refused to look weak and let them fall. I wouldn't allow him to walk all over me again like that day.

I noticed there were some tears in his eyes as well, and he no longer looked as angry as before, though his fist were still clenched. He looked like he was heart-broken and sorrow, regret and guilt with a hint of anger all filled his now dark blue eyes. Without another glance at him, I grabbed my bag and his car keys, calling the twins over, and leaving him standing, stunned, in the same spot.

It felt good walking away from him for once...