

## Chapter 159: Prep talk.

## Hannah's POV:

The following week I arrived at a Myers and Stone's parking lot for my first day of work. I know that I should have felt this nervousness from the moment I did that interview last week, and even when I met the firm staff, but honestly, I had only felt excitement up until that moment.

But today, being my official first day at work, I felt butterflies flying in my stomach. I stopped to take a couple of deep breaths to calm down, and then, I ridiculously tried to have a prep talk with myself: "It's going to be ok. You're going to be fine, Hannah," I murmured under my breath.

And then, I laughed to myself thinking about how ridiculous that situation was. I knew that no matter how much I said words like that I wouldn't be that calm, because first days always left me a little nervous.

But I was prepared for this first day. My phone was on silent even though I knew that I would check how my little baby was with Patricia at the same frequency as I did while I was at the café. I had my toiletries as a necessity, I had some medicine, just in case that I needed them today, I had a good bottle of water and a notebook to write down how



they did the procedures at the company.

I didn't know if they would take me to have lunch with them as this was my first day and a lot of firms did this to celebrate new employees, but if that didn't happen, I have a plan b: a deli on the other side of the road. So, I believe that I got everything covered for now.

After that, I finally opened the door and entered the building looking for someone who would welcome me. I

I looked around and Esmeralda was there. She looked at me, opened a wide smile and said: "Oh, hello darling! Welcome! I'm so glad you're here!"

I smiled back at her and said: "Hello Esmeralda, yeah, I'm glad to be here too. I hope that I can learn a lot in this experience, and maybe I can start a career as a decorator, right?" Asked her.

"Sure thing, darling," she said to me. "Oh, come inside, let's put you in your work desk," she told me and I followed her along the room until she stops in a cubicle close to the window. She pointed to the desk and said: "So, this is where you're going to stay. I hope everything works, but if you have any trouble with your gear, please just let me know so we can fix it as soon as possible, OK?"

"Sure thing," I told her and then I put my bag on the chair, instead of sit down because I was waiting



for her to give me some orientation.

"So, Mr. Myers hasn't arrived yet. It seems that he had some trouble this morning, but Mr. Stone is here and he told me to take you to his office when you arrive," she told me. Damn, I was expecting to talk first with Myers. He was more accessible than his partner.

"But first, let me point everything to you, OK? Let me give you a quick tour of the office," She told me, and I followed her again.

After that, she pointed out where the restrooms were, showed me the kitchen again and where I could find water. This wasn't a huge installation. It was pretty easy to localize myself when everybody would be too busy to teach me where everything was.

After a little while, she took me to Mr. Stone's office. She knocked on his door and didn't wait for him to say anything, but opened it.

"Hey, Mr. Stone. Hannah's here, so I brought her to your office as you instructed me, OK?" She told him.

"Sure, thank you, Esmeralda," he murmured.

And then, she opened the door and I got in.

"Welcome Hannah, it's good to see you again," Mr. Stone told me. "Please sit down," He pointed to a



chair in front of his desk. "I'm afraid Mr. Myers had something that came up this morning and that prevented him from coming to the office, now, but he's going to arrive almost by lunchtime, but don't worry. This is good because we plan to take you to a fancy place to welcome you on your first day at work," he smiled and told me.

"Oh, that's no problem at all. I can always stick with someone else and learn a little bit about how things work in the office while he is out," I told him.

"So, I believe Esmeraldas. Showed you the whole office, right?" He asked me.

"Yep," I muttered to him.

"Good. So, now you know where everything is. And today you start your job as an assistant. You're going to work closely with Esmeralda, James and Katrina," He told me that, and then he turned his attention to his computer briefly, which was a good thing, because when I heard Katrina 's name, my stomach sank. I was hoping that I was going to work along with the architects, not with her. And I was willing to learn everything that I could from them.

"Oh, and of course there is Tom, our other assistant. He is going to show you how things work around here. And some of his responsibilities are going to be passed to you, because he is also going to help the architects

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just like you," Stone told me. "So, we rearranged both job descriptions, yours and his, so you both have a little bit of office experience and at the same time hands on experience with the architects. Did you get me?" He asked me.

"Sure thing," I said to him. "I had some office

## Ads-free >

experience from my past job. So I believe I can help in this and learn with the architects," I told him and he nodded in approval.

"Well. James will be here in a few minutes. So, why don't we grab a cup of coffee while we wait for him? I believe that unfortunately Katrina is out today because she's working with one of our



clients. You know, this is going to be one of your duties, but still, this is our first day, and we want you to come back tomorrow, so we wouldn't throw you to the lions in your very first experience, don't worry," He said to me.

I smiled a little relieved because of Katrina. She left me a little uncomfortable and I still didn't know why. So, since I knew that at least for today she wouldn't be at the office, I knew that I could be a little more comfortable.

And then, I followed Mr. Stone to the kitchen and we both grabbed one of those funny capsule coffees each. He looked at me and said apologetically: "I'm sorry, we don't have that fancy stuff that you are used to having at your café, but I hope you like it."

"Oh, don't worry about that, this one works for me too," I told him, and he nodded in acknowledgement.

That was the first time that I gave Stone a decent look. He was younger than Myers. He was tall and incredibly handsome. He was a dark blonde with electric blue eyes and had this thing on him that felt like he wasn't fooling around. I felt a little intimidated by his presence but I couldn't explain why because he was being super polite with me. Maybe I just feel intimidated by men with powerful auras like him. I knew that I've been like



this with Ethan. Maybe Stone reminded me of this feeling.

And then, a few minutes later for my relief, James arrived and. Mr. Stone. Introduced us again. After that, he left me with James with whom I spent the rest of the morning.

James covered the basics of the administrative part of the business. And I was pretty comfortable with this because this was basically my day-to-day activities at Brown's. Of course, I was the one receiving assistance by that time. So maybe now I would appreciate Claire's work. Maybe I should give her a call and check on her now that things were cleared and I was a free woman again.

Anyways, near noon, Mr. Meyers arrived as happy as he always looked like.

"Hey Hannah, It's good to see you! How has your first day been so far?" He asked me.

I smiled broadly at him and said: "Hey, Mr. Myers, it's good to be back in office work."

"Well, I hope you won't be bothered by office work during a part of your day, but maybe in the afternoon we can check a little bit on the architects' work, right? Or even with the partners so you can see some of the good stuff, if you know what I mean," Myers told me chuckling and then he continued: "I know that both you and



James are willing to have some hands-on experience, and I promise, you will have so much experience that you will be fed up," he said and chuckled again.

I smiled back at him and said: "Well, I'm looking forward to it, Sir."

"Yeah, sure," he told me and then he continued: "
But now isn't the time to talk about architecture or
business administration. It is time to talk about
where we are going to have lunch."

I didn't know what to say, because I didn't get to know the closest restaurants, but then Meyers filled the silence roaring: "Hey, Stone, did you guys decide anything about lunch?" He asked.

Stone looked at him with confused eyes and said: "Well, I thought that we were going to the same place that we always go when we have someone new," and after that, Stone shrugged.

"Oh, sure, that Italian restaurant that we mentioned yesterday!" Meyers exclaimed. "OK everybody, we live in 10 minutes!" He exclaimed.

"I'm not discussing it! I'm hungry already," Esmeralda said and we all laughed at this ease.

10 minutes later, we were all heading to a close Italian bistro that I actually never heard of before. It was actually close to Lucy's Café. I couldn't remember all the stories they were telling, but all

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that I can say from that lunch is that people at Meyers and Stone were in general very fun, and I had such a great time at lunch. This meal actually just melted down all my worries about working for this firm.

As we walked back together, Tom was telling us all about this new stand-up comedy show that he found at that new streaming site. Apparently, I was the only one that didn't know what they were talking about.

"OK, we will cut you a slack but just because you have a little baby," Tom was telling me. "But you must promise to me that you're going to watch it. And I promise you that you're going to laugh out loud," he said to me.

"OK, I'm sure I can check one episode or two," I told him.

"Just give it a chance, Doll. You're gonna love it," Esmeralda told me.

We were still laughing when we arrived at the firm and everybody had a good time. We were still talking about this show when someone held the door so I could get into the building, and when we got into the foyer, I couldn't explain why, but I felt something heavy in the air, and when I looked around and everybody's smile had fainted.

I looked ahead and saw a red figure. She had her



arms crossed, waiting for all of us to end our laughs. "Well, I hope you guys had a great time at your welcome lunch Hannah," Katrina told us. "But now, if you don't mind, we have a bunch of problems to solve in this new project," she said to all of us.

And suddenly, all the good vibes post-lunch were gone. "What the heck is this doing here?" I've heard, James murmured under his breath.

The only ones who didn't feel intimidated by her presence were Myers and Stone. But then, Stone looked at us and said: "I'll deal with this," and he walked towards Katrina and asked her: "Come to my office, let's talk about what's going on." And she followed him.

"OK, Hannah, come on. Let's do some administrative stuff," James told me. And I followed him. For the rest of the day.

Well, if there was something that I learned from today was the fact that it wasn't just with me.
Katrina's presence bothered everyone in the office.

What was wrong with this lady?



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