

Chapter 178: What else?

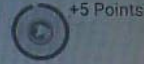
Hannah's POV:

A lot of things happened recently. With Mr. Stone gone and taking along Katrina, life just got easier in many senses. Just the fact that we didn't feel the pressure of her at work was a relief, and with that, I managed to thrive a lot. Myers was back and assumed all the other projects that Stone had due to Stone's absence. We were working together most of the time. He was practically like a father to me, incentivizing each progress that I made. I don't know if it was the fact that I grew up without a father, but it meant a lot to me what he was doing to help me.

I also learned a lot from the architects and other employees of the company. Every day I had something different to do, and I was involved in several projects at the same time. In a few of them, I even had small leadership roles. Professionally, it was the first time ever that I felt so at peace.

At home, it wasn't different. After that romantic dinner with Ethan, we were getting along pretty well. Taking care of Michael with his help and Patricia's was like being a part of a well-oiled machine. Ethan and I were spending more time together each day, and even though we hadn't

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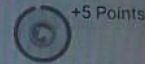


decided anything, it felt good to be like this. I think that if you want to have a relationship with someone, you should spend a lot of time with them and learn whatever you can about this person, and that was exactly what we were doing. So, for the first time, I was seeing Ethan in a new light.

The only thing that I was missing right now was the promotion that Stone had talked to me about. I knew that the promotion was connected to going to work with him, and that was connected to leaving the shores and Ethan behind to live close to Stone and probably being romantically involved with him, and missing it was part of my personal decisions. I managed to make peace with this part since I couldn't say that I was genuinely interested in him, but at the same time, I was ambitious. I wanted to go further in my career. So, I decided that since I didn't have this opportunity anymore, I would make a hard effort to get there by proving that I was capable of receiving a promotion.

But going back to my personal life, with all this support, I wasn't walking anymore. I was soaring, and I finally felt that my depression was subduing, thank heaven. I was still attending therapy and was still talking about that in the sessions, but one day I realized that this wasn't important in my life anymore. So, I felt that everything was finally easier, and I was focusing on my well-being and my new goals again.

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One day, I was completely happy with my routine, and I was working on a project with Myers, when the new chandeliers arrived and were being installed. Myers arrived when the crew was finishing the installation. "Hey, Hannah, how is it going?" He asked me excitedly when he saw me.

"Hey, Mr. Myers, everything is fine. We were just installing the chandeliers. What do you think about them?" I asked him and pointed to where some of the contractors were working.

"Oh, they are magnificent!" he exclaimed when he saw them. "Where did you find them?" he asked.

"In an antique store close to my place," I told him.

"Well, this is wonderful, Hannah, and you are a lucky person! Congratulations!" he exclaimed.

"Thank you, sir," I said to him.

"Well, but I'm not here just to congratulate you. I have something to discuss with you," he told me. He looked even more cheerful if that was possible.

"And what is it?" I asked him curiously.

"I have a project for you. A big one. A house revamp. It would take you a few months of full-time work. The client saw a few of your works in the firm and specifically asked for you to be the head of the project. What do you think?" he asked

me.

"I... Do you think that I'm capable of doing that, sir?" I asked him doubtfully.

Mr. Myers nodded and said: "I do, and I'm definitely not the only one. I think the client believes in you too, Hannah! He saw your good work and demanded you!" he exclaimed.

"But wait, sir. You said that this project will take a few months. Where is it?" I told him. I didn't need another discussion about leaving the shores for work again from Ethan.

"Oh, don't worry. I knew that you would ask this question. It's going to be here at the shores, Hannah. So, you will have the support of the whole team," he said to me.

This was finally the recognition that I was seeking for! I gulped thinking about the challenge, but I told him: "I would be honored to accept it, sir."

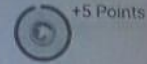
"I'm glad to hear that," he said to me.

At night, Ethan was there to have dinner with us, and I told him everything about Myers' invitation.

"Whoa, Hannah, that is fantastic! How are you feeling?" he asked me.

"I'm so happy that this opportunity is in the shores, so I don't even have to think about moving somewhere else and all that drama!" I exclaimed.

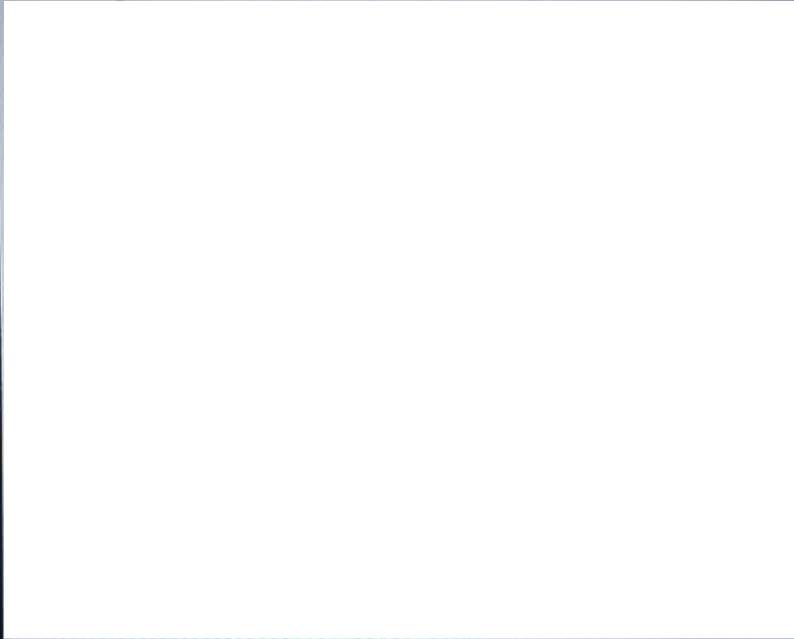
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"Yeah, me too, so I don't have to beg you to stay again," he said. "Not that I wouldn't do that again if I needed," he told me.

I chuckled and said: "Don't worry, you don't have to do so, at least not for now," I told him. Ethan has

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been nothing but supportive. Recently, he was there for me in each happy or challenging moment of my life. I didn't want to admit that yet, but I think that he was becoming a source of strength for me, and I didn't say it out loud, but I thought that our connection was deeper than ever.

"That's a good thing. And it's also a good thing that you are able to pursue all this without having

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to sacrifice your life here," Ethan told me.

"And why do you say that?" I asked him.

"Because I support you, Hannah. You may think that I underestimate you but that's far from true. I see the effort that you are making, and I value that. I believe that you can reach whatever you want to conquer, and I promise that I will be by your side to support you if you ever need me," he told me.

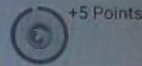
These words really warmed my heart. Recently, he decided to tell me everything that I wanted to hear, and it really seemed sincere. I felt valued, not just in a romantic way, but also as a professional. He was seeing me through who I was, and that was special.

"Did I already thank you for what you're doing to me?" I told him.

Ethan shook his head at me and said: "Nonsense. You don't need to. I just wanted you to know that I'm here for you." He said that and my heart swelled again. I think that this was the first time in our lives that he gave me so much attention, and I loved it.

"But I will say thank you anyways. You know... I never thought that I would see this side of you one day, Ethan," I told him.

"What to you mean?" He asked me.



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"I mean that you're growing soft, sir," I told him and chuckled.

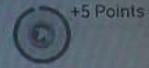
Ethan shook his head and said: "I still know how to be ruthless too. This persona it's not too far, but I decided to reserve him for business."

"I'm glad to hear that," I told him.

We remained in peaceful silence for a few minutes. I looked at Ethan, and he seemed perfectly happy in my small kitchen. He took the plates from the table and started doing the dishes – manually – he seemed so... mundane. This wasn't the man that I met a few years ago. At first, I was enchanted by his beauty, and then I was in love but feared him. It's funny to think that we had to go through all this to be where we are today. He was contributing to my professional growth and success. He was rooting for me! Now, he was the most selfless person that I know. And knowing that he believes in me makes me happy, because I can feel that we share a strong connection now.

And it was at that moment that I realized that I wasn't missing anything anymore. Even though Stone was far gone and took with him my chances at work, now I got another chance. Life was made of cycles, and different opportunities come and go often. Another chance found its way to me, and now I was prepared for it. Now, I was feeling better, I had support from people that I loved. I

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have goals. I got everything that I needed.

What else could I want?



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