

## Part Nineteen

Serena's POV

I slow down as I drive into Karina's driveway, seeing her and her parents loading a few things into the trunk of a black SUV.

Oh, crap. I didn't even pick a bag, hopefully Karina has something for me to wear, later.

She signals that I should park in one of their garages.

When I turn my car over, I remember why I'm here.

My eyes tear up, instantly. It's hurts me to know that Roman was overworking himself and not taking care of himself.

Maybe I should have called him more, and checked up on him more. Maybe if I did, he would've been home by now.

I realize I was sitting in my car for a little too long, when Karina opens the car door to the left of me.

I look up at her. We have the same expression on our faces. Two sets of eyes are red and swollen from crying so much, both filled with sadness.

It doesn't help that I look a hot mess, with short sleep shorts, oversized sweatshirt, dry curls in a messy bun, and flip flops. I don't want her parents to see me like this.

But, I know they will understand, given the circumstances.

Oh, shoot. They still don't know Roman and I are together. That means I have to make up a lie, I hate lying, especially to parents, especially her mom.

Her mom, Anastasia, is the sweetest person in the world, next to my mom of course. She's so cute with her strong, Russian accent. Her and Karina resemble each other very closely. The only difference is that Karina has blonde hair, just like her dad.

Her dad, Sergei, is kind, but quiet and reserved. Him and Roman look just alike, too. But, Roman has her black hair, like his mom. He and Roman are very similar when it comes to being quiet and reserved.

When I finally get out of my car, Karina and I hug each other, tight. It's not even a hug, we're holding each other, silently saying that everything is gonna be alright.

Out the corner of my eye, I see that their driver is finished putting bags into the trunk.

So I hear Miss Anastasia say, "Come on, girls."

I don't miss the brief waver in her voice, my heart breaks even more.

During the drive to the airport, all I can think about is Roman. That's what everyone in this vehicle is thinking about, too. The silence, is deafening.

Usually Miss Anastasia is bubbly and makes the whole room glow her with voice and smile. She loves to crack jokes, her husband always standing right behind her, admiring her with his eyes.

When I try to think positive, I think about how he fainted, nothing else. This gives me a very temporary breath of relief.

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We're now on the plane, and we have been for about thirty minutes. The plane ride isn't long, only about two hours, if that.

Karina's parents are sitting in the front of the plane, in the seats behind the pilot.

Karina and I are sitting in the very back row, right next to each other. We've been silent since the car ride here, in our own thoughts.

I break the silence and say, "I told him to take care of himself." She doesn't respond after two seconds, so I continue, "I made him promise."

Surprisingly, my voice doesn't break as I speak.

"Men," She says, "they never listen."

I laugh at this, she then goes on and on about how stupid and crazy men are, etc. I smile a little too hard at the fact that she cracked a joke to lighten the mood.

"He takes really good care of me, always did. Even in high school, when I would catch him staring at me, always watching over me."

I stop for a minute, waiting for Karina to say something, but she doesn't.

So I continue, "Though, it annoys me when he doesn't let me take care of him. I think a lot of the times, he thinks of other so much, that he barely thinks about himself." My eyes start to burn, with tears as I say, "Maybe if we didn't start dating, he would be thinking about himself."

"Don't blame yourself." Karina interrupts me. "It's not your fault, it's not anyone's, not even his." She lays her head on my shoulder and finishes, "Even if none of us were in his life, he would still find people to think about and care for. So, it's not your fault, not mine, not my parents, and not his."

I dwell on her words for a bit. But, I realize it's been some time when I look down on my legs when I notice Karina knocked out, with a blanket, too.

I wonder where she got that from.

I look in front of me to see Miss Anastasia and her husband. Mr. Sergei is holding her tightly, giving her forehead kisses and she sleeps, in his lap.

Miss Anastasia often gives her husband lots and lots of affection in public. However, Mr. Sergei is private and guarded, and barely shows public display of affection.

But, I know that he showers her with all the love in the world when they're alone together, I just know it.

Ever since I first met Karina's parents, when we were in elementary school, I always admired their love for each other. In fact, they gave me hope and joy that I would one day find the love of my life.

And I did, their son.

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As I walk down the steps of the plane, I notice that the sun is rising. And when, I slightly stumble down the steps, I also notice that I'm tired.

I only got a few short hours of sleep before Karina called me, and I didn't get any sleep on the plane.

I'm finally on the steps, so I grab onto Karina's arm for stabilization.

"We're going straight to the hospital." She tells me.

I nod in response.

I'm so tired, and all I want to do is lay in my boyfriend's arms.

There are no problems getting into the hospital and getting access to his room. However, I decide to let his family see him first. It would be selfish of me to go before them, maybe even with them, I think.

"Are you sure? I don't feel comfortable leaving you out here in the waiting room by yourself, especially when you can come with us." Karina says.

"Yes, I'll be fine. I won't be here alone either, there's a bodyguard right there." I signal where he was standing and continue, "Also, you guys deserve to see him first."

She gives me an unsure look, but walks with her parents to Roman's room anyway.

I let out a sigh of relief as I think about how close Roman is to me now. I can't wait to see him, even though I can feel the tears building up thinking about him in a hospital bed, I still missed him.

I quickly remember to message my mom and let her know we arrived safely and I'll call her later.

Then, I quickly get back to thinking about all the kisses I'm going to give him and all the snacks on the back of his head for not listening to me.

Before I know it, Karina and her parents are back from seeing Roman. All of their eyes look red, even Mr. Sergei, even though he barely shows emotion.

I do notice Karina's and Miss Anastasia's smiles and how they seem so much more relaxed now.

"We're going to stop by the hotel, and check in. If you need anything, call us. When you're ready to head to the hotel, call us and we'll get a car ready for you." Mr. Sergei tells me.

"Thank you guys so much, I really appreciate it." I smile, brightly at them.

As I walk towards Roman's room, I notice they leave me alone with him.

Wait.

Do they know that we're dating?

No way.

There's no way.

I look behind me, to see them already gone.

I'll think about that later.

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**Hey guys!**

**How have you all been?**

**How did you guys like this chapter? How do you guys think Roman and Karina's parents know about his and Serena's relationship, if they do? Let me know what you think.**

**Anyways, go drink some water and go eat some fruit if you can.**

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