## The Gift

### CHAPTER 11

Anabel got to the spot Nathan was standing and broke into a dry laugh the moment she caught a glimpse at the box he was holding.

"What do you have wrapped in that box?" she was about to snatch the gift from him when Nathan hid it behind him.

"Get away from me!"

Anabel couldn't hold back her laughter and Nathan felt taunted.

"Who the hell do you think you are?" she pouted her lips and displayed a childish expression in her bid to mock him the more.

"Poor Nathan. He even got a gift for Charlotte. What's in that stupid box anyway? Some thrift clothes?" she continued with her wicked laugh.

Nathan looked away. He knew that if he doesn't move away from the scene, Anabel was going to tease him more and might even attract the crowd.

"You are such a loser you know. Well, all thanks to the captain's big heart, freeloaders like you can have access to Townsend hall for once in your miserable life."

"Whatever!" Nathan spat and moved away from her.

"Get back here, dingbat!" Anabel yelled at his departing figure.

Nathan didn't respond or turn back to look at her. He was heading to the corner by his right, where Charlotte was speaking to a red-haired.

The hall was filled up and there was barely enough space for people to move around. Nathan finalized that he was going to make it to the corner, hand the gift over to Charlotte and then leave unnoticed.

He traced his way and made it to the corner just when Charlotte was bidding the red-haired a farewell.

Nathan cleared his throat loudly and faced her with an anxious smile.

"Hey, I'm glad you made it!"

Nathan smiled and lifted his head. He loved the way Charlotte freed her hair from the clutches of her ribbon that night. She had always tied it into a knot.

She darted her gaze from his uneasy face to the gift he was clasping with both hands.

Charlotte raised a brow. "Is that for me?"

Nathan gave a wide smile and confirmed with a nod. "Happy Birthday Charlotte!"

He was about to present the shiny pink wrapped box to her when her boyfriend's voice came ringing.

"What's going on here?"

Charlotte swallowed. "Nathan was just giving me a gift." She managed to say.

The physically built Greg turned to the lanky Nathan with a glare. "And since when does riffraff get to offer my girlfriend a gift?"

He was expecting Nathan to apologize and flee but Nathan remained transfixed in his spot. As far as he was concerned, he did nothing wrong by presenting a birthday gift to Charlotte.

Charlotte's lips parted and just when she was about to speak, her boyfriend grabbed Nathan by the collar causing her to gasp.

The action instantly attracted the attention of everyone and soon, a circle of onlookers was formed around the trio, Greg, Nathan, and Charlotte.

"Let go of him, babe. What the hell are you doing?" Charlotte intervened.

Without taking his hands off Nathan, Greg turned to her with fire in his eyes. "Stay away from this."

The crowd began to murmur. Anabel was enjoying the show.

"I warned him but he wouldn't listen." She whispered to the petite standing beside her and smirked afterward.

The pissed Charlotte moved closer to the boys and faced Greg, "Is that how you want to ruin my party?"

Greg sighed and slowly loosened his grip around Nathan. He had invested a lot of money and effort to make his girlfriend's birthday party stand out. He wasn't going to make her feel uncomfortable because some looser was seeking attention.

Before Nathan could blink, Greg snatched the gift box from him and turned to the crowd.

"So who can guess what dingbat brought?"

They broke into laughter.

"A box of chocolate!"

"I bet if he can afford that. Maybe some old mug he picked from his table and wrapped it." Commented a second voice.

The crowd roared in laughter.

"Or maybe some thrift scarf," Anabel screamed.

Charlotte turned to Nathan with a look that says 'I'm sorry!'

He blinked at her with the understanding that it wasn't her fault. If he knew that the mere presence of a gift would attract such hostility, he would have stayed in his lane and handed over the gift to her when he got the chance, where no one was watching.

"Well, why don't we open the gift and see what's inside." Greg mocked after a laugh. He then resolved to open the gift while his eyes were fixated on him.

Greg tore off the shiny wrap into shreds and didn't waste any time opening the box. He pulled out a handbag and turned to Nathan.

"You stole this. Didn't you?"

Charlotte's eyes almost fell out of their sockets.

"Jeez!" She exclaimed and snatched the bag from Greg.

Anabel was instantly rendered speechless and so were the other girls in the crowd who knew what brand it was.

Charlotte pressed the bag to her chest and began to leap for joy. "A Hermes Birkin! I've always wanted to own one."

Her joyous cry provoked a smile on Nathan's face while Greg watched with clenched fists.

The crowd couldn't stop murmuring.

"Do you know how much that bag is worth?"

"It's worth millions!"

The comments irked Greg the more.

Nathan's phone began to ring. He dipped his hand inside his pants pocket and pulled out his iPhone. While the students were still marveling at his device, Nathan made his way through the crowd and dashed out.

He heaved a deep sigh of relief when he finally got out of the hall. The call persisted so he decided to pick it up.

"Hello!"

"Turn around!" The caller directed.

When Nathan turned around, he saw Mike, dressed in a black tuxedo, waving at him with a smile.

Nathan hurried toward him with a smile.

"Uncle Mike, what the hell are you doing here?"

The middle-aged man gave a slight bow and said "I came for you, young master!"

Nathan arched a brow. "Young Master?" Why was Mike suddenly addressing him as Young Master?

"What the hell are you talking about Uncle Mike and why are you calling me young Master?"

As far as Nathan was concerned, Mike had no right to address him as such. The man was his father's closest ally and had always been there for them during his mother's crisis. Mike was the uncle Nathan never had.

"There is something you need to know." Mike blurted.

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