

I like you

Ariana's pov.

"Everyone, get back to your desk. Mr. Arnault is coming for a round, and he wants to address every employee!!!" We heard that announcement.

"Oh my God! I can't believe Mr. Arnault is coming himself to meet us," Olivia chirped, jumping with happiness.

"Calm down, babe. Otherwise, you will make a fool out of yourself," Lena remarked, rolling her eyes.

"No, Lena, I can't. I can't hide my excitement. I have just seen him in pictures, and he is so handsome and hot. Oh my God, please, someone stop me from passing out when he is in front of me," Olivia gushed over, and we all laughed at her overreacting.

"Okay, Liv. Let's get back to our desk if we don't want to get red," I said and dragged Olivia with me.

As everyone got back to the desk before the lunch break was over, the whole cafeteria was vacant. The whispering was going on throughout the oce. Everyone was talking in a mued voice.

The whole oce became silent suddenly, and I knew he had come by the change in the air. That intoxicating smell of his expensive cologne was proof that he was near me.

I stretched my neck to look up from my desk and searched for that handsome face. I found him standing at the far corner of this oce. He stood there, and his eyes inspected everything around him.

"Everyone, please come over here. Our chairman, Mr. Vincent Arnault, will address us," the supervisor announced.

We all got up from our place and began to gather around him. I moved slowly as I wanted to stand behind. So that he could not see me. But I knew that was impossible with his height and observing eyes.

"Come on, Ari! Hurry up! Move fast. I want to stand in the front row," Olivia squealed. Her thrill was hard to hide.

"Ummm.... No, Liv, you go. I don't want to stand in front. I am okay here," I said as I stopped behind the last row.

But as stubborn as she was, she dragged me with her, and now we are standing directly before him. His eyes trailed over me before he looked away to address the staff.

"Hi everyone! First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Vincent Arnault, your new chairman. It is an incredible honour for me to lead and serve this great company of ours. We need to believe in the impossible and remove the improbable."

Everybody clapped and cheered, but Vincent held up a hand as he added,

"We need to prioritise innovation that is centered on our core value of empowering users and organisations to do more. We have picked a set of high-value activities as part of our new strategy. And with every service and product launch going forward we need to bring more innovation to bear around these scenarios. Next, every one of us needs to do our best work, lead and help drive cultural change. We sometimes underestimate what we each can do to make things happen and overestimate what others need to do to move us forward. We must change this," he paused and looked at each and every face present there before continuing,

"Finally, I truly believe that each of us must nd meaning in our work. The best work happens when you know that it's not just work, but something that will improve other people's lives. This is the opportunity that drives each of us at this company. Many companies aspire to change the world. But very few have all the elements required: talent, resources, and perseverance. C-corp has proven that it has all three in abundance. And as the new chairman, I can't ask for a better foundation. Let's build on this foundation together."

The speech was encouraging to the employees, and his enchanting voice spellbound everyone. As he nished addressing, everyone clapped as if coming out of the trance. Vincent's eyes moved towards me and suddenly his cold and stoned expression turned soft and gentle. Surprisingly he smiled.

"Ariana, come to my oce," he instructed in front of everyone and left. All the eyes staring at Vincent now moved to glare at me. Some were shooting daggers with jealousy, and some stared with curiosity while some glared with both in their eyes. Olivia looked at me, and her eyes widened as her mouth fell open, her jaw touching the oor.

"Ariana, babe, he called you in his oce. You are so lucky," she giggled.

"I am his employee and supposed to report to him," I rolled my eyes.

"Oh, babe. Don't be so boring. You will have an opportunity to be close to him," She screamed in joy.

If she knew that I lived with him in his house, I couldn't imagine her reaction. Either she would be very happy or jealous or both of them. I didn't know because I was worried about meeting Vincent in his oce right now. I also had so many questions in my mind, and I wanted to ask him, just scared I did not sound rude.

I knocked on the door and waited.

A deep, authoritative voice came, "come in."

I slowly pushed the door and entered Vincent's oce. I was greatly surprised to see a chairman's oce as I had never been there before.

It was so big and spacious with all the luxury furnishings and expensive furniture. My eyes followed the silhouette from the broad shoulder to strong, muscular arms, wide chest to narrowing of his toned waist, moving down his thighs could not be avoided under those tailored t pants. He was too handsome to be real and so close to fantasy. I began to think a hot guy like him might be interested in me, which was next to impossible. I really had to go to a doctor to check my brain.

He was standing there, tucking his hands in his pocket. He looked at me closely. His suit jacket was draped over a chair, and his tie was also loosened.

"So... you bought this company? And... gave me this job," I asked in an accusing tone, "why did you do that? Why are you so concerned about me? You spent your fortune buying this company. What will you get from this? I am... I am not worth spending your money on."

Vincent gave me an intense look before he strolled near me.

"You don't know, Ariana, what you're worth. You are worth more than this, more than you can think," he said as his eyes remained xed on me, watching me with quiet interest.

His reply dumbfounded me.

I blinked quizzically at him before saying, "I don't understand why you think that when everyone in this world thinks of me as worthless and trash."

He leaned forward, looking deep into my eyes. His deep blue eyes summoned some spells on me.

"Because I like you," he whispered in a slow and deep voice. "I really like you, Ariana, and I am willing to spend all my money just to make sure that you are safe. I didn't want you to work anywhere else. I wanted to keep you in front of my eyes. So I didn't think of a better option than this," he gestured his hand to his oce, "you never have to worry about anything from now onwards. I will take care of everything. You just have to be by my side."

I gasped to hear him. I just couldn't believe it. I actually couldn't believe this handsome man liked me, and he admitted himself. I didn't realise I was staring at his face foolishly. My heart was pounding loud as if it wanted to come out of my chest in the very next second.

This shocking information was too much for me to get into my tiny brain that this handsome man would like me. He was so perfect, like a Greek god walking on the street. How could he like an ordinary girl like me? Was that really possible, or was I daydreaming. When I was silent for of few minutes, just staring blankly at his face, lost in my thoughts, he frowned, and his eyes narrowed at me. Then I realised he was waiting for my answer,

"I don't know what I should say. I just had a bad relationship and have gone through a heartbreak. I need some time," I told him honestly what I was feeling right now.

He took a step back. He nodded and said, "I understand, Ariana. Take your time but know one thing I am not a very patient man. I want you to decide whether you want to mourn over your bad relationship or move on and accept the new opportunities that your future has for you. I hope you choose wisely," he said.

I nodded, "thank you." And he smiled. After asking for his leave, I left his oce. My brain was still buzzing from his confession. He was right. I have to decide soon before it's too late.

Vincent pov.

After Ariana left, Oliver came out of the hidden room inside my oce. I took a deep breath. Only I knew how I managed to say those things to her.

"Oliver, your idea failed," I scowled.

"It worked, your majesty! Didn't you look at her face? She was charmed by you, maybe startled or shy to reciprocate your feelings instantly. But she will, someday and very soon. You have to keep trying, my king," Oliver suggested politely.

"Yes, Oliver, I am trying. But I think I have lost my charm. It has been hundreds of years, and I have forgotten how to please a girl." I wouldn't have to try if I didn't need her to fall for me.

"Now tell me what next?" I asked Oliver, and he smiled. That man was a big man w***e and very good at charming girls into his trap.

"Don't worry, your majesty. You are a Vampire who has mystical powers. No one can refuse you, and she is a girl who already seemed to have been attracted to you," he smirked, and I glared.

He lowered his gaze.

"Better come up with an idea so that we can get her to agree before her 18th birthday." I threatened. I didn't have patience. I wanted this stupid game to be over soon.