

A Favor 59

Chapter 59

"I know, Tomás. I'm sorry, man. I went through a rough patch—drank too much, kept to myself. I didn't want to dump that mess on you guys," Davidson admitted quietly.

"Seriously, how's life? Looks like you're doing great. Your girlfriend's gorgeous." Tomás flicked a quick glance at me, but not in a way that made me uncomfortable.

I lowered my eyes and offered a shy smile. Before I could say anything, Davidson slid an arm around my waist and pulled me closer.

"Hands off, Tomás. She's taken," Davidson said, laughing under his breath.

"Tell me, how did you pull that off?" Tomás lifted his brows, amused.

"What can I say? I'm irresistible, and frankly, I've got it all." Davidson grinned, confidence on full display.

"Don't forget your ridiculous ego," I teased, which earned another burst of laughter from all three of us.

"Come on, admit it. You fell for my charm." He flashed me a wicked smile and gave my ass a playful squeeze.

A startled squeak escaped me before I burst into laughter, completely caught off guard. He was obviously joking, but I still shot him an incredulous look.

“If that’s how you want to play it, Mr. Arrogant,” I shot back, slipping out of his arms and heading straight for Aubriella, the guys’ laughter trailing behind me.

She was chatting with three other women, and the moment I joined them, she introduced me to each one with genuine warmth. All three hugged me, making me feel welcome instantly.

“All right, ladies. Time to go inside and let the boys show off without stopping,” Aubriella chuckled, motioning for us to follow.

The five of us went in, and before we could even sit down, Aubriella was already lining up shot glasses on the bar. She handed each of us a drink, and before I knew it, the shots were gone—quickly replaced by another round.

“Davidson looks happier tonight,” Mark said, glancing toward the others.

“Yeah, I noticed it too. Maybe he’s finally starting to move on.” Aubriella nodded, a hopeful smile on her lips.

I wished I could share her optimism, but deep down I knew Davidson still carried a lot of pain, no matter how well he tried to hide it. I offered a polite smile and kept my thoughts to myself as the guys came in and grabbed their own drinks.

Carsten took over the speaker and turned up the music, and the room filled quickly with party energy.

“This night is going to be amazing!” Aubriella lifted her cup, eyes shining with excitement.

“I hope so. It’s been forever since I’ve had a reason to celebrate.” I couldn’t help laughing.

“Then you’d better enjoy tonight,” Aubriella said, winking at me.

“Oh, trust me, I plan to.” I returned her grin, matching her energy.

Maybe being surrounded by new friends and the noise of the party would finally distract me from Davidson for a while. I’d been waiting for a night like this—one that promised a little escape and a lot of laughter.