CHAPTER 13: A MATCH FOR DIANA

Claire walked into the restaurant hand in hand with Liam, excitement radiating off her.

"Excited, babe?" He asked with a smirk as he watched Claire hum merrily.

"Oh, you can't imagine," she replied with a grin. But not for reasons you would think of...

Claire turned back, looking around the restaurant before her gaze fell on her prey. There, sitting smack in the middle of the restaurant, was Diana, dressed in a low cut black dress, her cleavage almost spilling out. Still, she had that innocent angel expression pasted on her face, contradicting her sensual dressing style. What a devil!

Spotting Diana, Claire sashayed towards her, her golden hair flying dramatically with her confident stride. She could feel the entire restaurant go silent as all eyes followed her, mesmerized. But Claire had eyes only for Diana, who seemed to sense the intent gaze on her. She looked up with a smile, which froze as she saw Claire in all her glory. Her eyes narrowed for a moment, jealousy evident in her glare.

In her past life, Claire had always downplayed her looks, choosing to dress in casual baggy clothes with little to no makeup. Though she was still beautiful then, she never commanded attention like Diana did with her flashy style and 'innocent aura'. But now, unlike Diana, who gathered attention with her looks, Claire didn't just attract attention. She shone so brightly she was practically a goddess who needed to be worshipped. Her beauty and confidence left no other option.

"Hello Diana," Claire purred at Diana, who shook off her stupor and pasted a smile on her face, which looked more like a grimace. Maybe it was because she knew how rotten her core was, but Diana no longer looked beautiful to Claire like she once did.

"Hello girl. So what surprise do you have for me?"

'You don't beat around the bush, do you? You can't even wait until I take a seat?' Claire thought, her brows raising in amusement.

But then the smile on Diana's face wiped off entirely and a flash of hurt passed through her eyes. Claire followed her gaze to see Liam, who had walked towards their table. Ha. The show had just begun!

Diana looked back and forth between Claire and Liam, her eyes pausing on Liam's red jacket, which matched Claire's. Diana gritted her teeth, her hands balling into fists as she stood up from her seat abruptly.

Realising Claire came with Liam, Diana knew what was happening. She was going to be the third wheel on a date her mate had with Claire. Absolutely not!

No longer interested in any surprise that Claire could give her, now Diana only wanted to flee from there. Though she had asked Liam to be with Claire so he could become the Alpha and she the Luna, it didn't mean that she enjoyed seeing him with Claire, the bitch. In fact, it hurt like a bitch every time she saw Liam acting all lovey dovey with her so-called best friend even though she knew it was all an act. It didn't help that Claire and Liam were wearing matching outfits, which had never happened before. To add salt to the wound, unlike her usual next door girl look, Claire had dressed up, looking absolutely gorgeous, and Diana actually felt inferior next to her for a change. A new worry that Liam would indeed fall for Claire for real took root in her mind. She couldn't spend the night watching them together. No way!

"Uhm. I suddenly remembered that I had made an appointment to do my nails. I have to go!"

Claire raised her brows before looking down at Diana's perfectly manicured nails. 'A nail appointment at night? You need to be more creative, woman!'

Seeing her gaze, Diana flushed red.

"Well, they took me in now because I am a VIP customer!"

Uh huh...

"I will see you later," Diana squealed before trying to run away and Claire caught her hands, making her stop. "Not so fast, Diana," Claire said with an evil grin, and Diana blinked, staring at her with a puzzled frown. But then Claire was smiling at her sweetly, the evil look in her eyes gone, making Diana think it may have just been a trick of light.

"What?" Diana snapped, forgetting her sweet best friend persona.

"I asked you to come here for a reason and you are going even before knowing what it is? Can't your nails wait a bit?" Claire asked with an exaggerated pout and Diana froze, a suspicious frown on her face. Somehow, she had the feeling that she would not like the so-called surprise that Claire planned for her.

"I-" Diana started, fumbling for an excuse when suddenly Claire perked up, looking at something behind Diana.

"Ah. There he is," she said and slowly, Diana turned.

She looked around and, seeing James walking towards them with a grin, her frown deepened. With his sandy brown hair and light blue eyes, James was definitely handsome. But that was where his good quality ended. He was a womanizer who had a new girlfriend every week, and his nights were spent partying and gambling. What was that useless guy doing here?

"Hello James. You have met Diana, right?" Claire asked James with a sweet smile.

"Of course, who doesn't know her?" he asked with a smug

grin while running his eyes over Diana and licking his lips. Claire pretended not to notice his glance towards herself and grinned at him before turning to Diana.

"And you know James, right?" she asked Diana, before pulling her to stand next to James. Diana just stared at Claire with a bewildered look while Liam glared at James, who was eyeing both the women.

"Great! So now that everyone has met, we are going to have a double date!" Claire announced gleefully and Diana let out a horrified gasp while Liam practically turned red.

"A double date?" Liam shrieked before Diana could react.

"Darling, I know you would have wanted it to be just us. But Diana is my best friend and I want her to have someone who would cherish her too, like you love me. I hope it is alright with you." Claire said, deliberately misunderstanding Liam's annoyance to be because his date with her was interrupted.

Liam paused, probably trying to keep his reaction from being suspicious.

"B-but him?" Liam let out in a choked voice. As if he would have been fine if it was a nice guy in place of James to date his mate.

Claire made a sad face before turning towards James.

"I know you all think he is bad. But I am sure he was just waiting for the right woman. Diana will change him, I know it!"

James nodded vigorously in response before turning towards Diana with an adoring smile, and she shuddered.

'Won't you give me a chance, Diana? I will worship you like the goddess you are!" James proclaimed with a smile so cheesy that even Claire had to grimace. But she schooled her face to an awed look and turned to Diana.

"You two are a perfect match, Diana. I am so glad to have found him for you!"

Diana looked at Liam as if seeking his help and seeing this, Claire sneakily put her hand through his. Liam turned to look down at her with a 'sweet' grin and tightened the hold on their hands, making Diana grit her teeth. She glared at their entwined hands, jealousy and anger warring inside her. With a determined look, she turned to James. She had always suffered seeing Claire with Liam and nowadays, he even looked as if he really cared for Claire. For a change, she wanted to let Liam know how she felt when seeing him with Claire.

Impulsively, she smiled at James.

"Of course, I won't just believe whatever people say. I know better than that. I know there is a good man inside you and I would love to see that side of you," Diana declared, and James smiled at her. Claire raised her brows at Diana while suppressing her laughter, and Liam practically turned red from anger. This was fun! Soon, all of them sat in their seats, Liam and Claire facing James and Diana. Seeing James start up a conversation with Diana, Liam twisted in his seat, anger radiating off his frame. Meanwhile, Diana had an awkward smile on her face while nodding at whatever James was going on about. She looked as if she already regretted agreeing to the date. Seeing the obvious discomfort of the malicious couple, Claire smiled triumphantly. Suffer, you evil bastards!

As the food arrived, James started serving Diana with a sweet smile and seeing how gallant he was being to Diana, Claire oohed and aahed, much to the chagrin of Diana and Liam.

Seeing Diana look up, Claire turned to Liam with a smile and started feeding him, making Diana clench her fists angrily. Seeing Claire and Liam act like a loving couple, Diana almost forgot all reasoning, but once James started singing praises of her, she had to grit her teeth and endure everything.

Seeing Diana and Liam in discomfort with how she acted so in love with Liam, Claire continued acting like a lovesick fool, only to pause when she had the eerie feeling that someone was watching her. She could literally feel a heated gaze burning into her very soul and slowly, Claire turned towards the front of the restaurant. She felt all the blood in her face drain away and her eyes widened in shock while the spoon she had raised towards Liam fell from her hand. There, standing a few feet in front of her, looking as if he

