

Forty four

"I'm gonna sign up,"

"What!?" Leah and Aeliana exclaimed in sync as they turned sharply to look at their friend Vanille.

"Me too, honestly," Bliss chimed in, as she shut the book she had been staring into. "Sounds like it'd be quite useful,"

"You can't be serious," Luke joined the conversation, shortly before turning to his girlfriend. "Don't worry, babe. I got you. We'll put in some hours together,"

"We all know you both won't be getting any studying done if that happens," Caleb smirked at Luke, which earned him a slap to the back of his head.

"No, think about it," Bliss said. "Obviously, not the entire class will be there so it's like one on one attention,"

"What is this? Pre school?" Luke scoffed.

"You've got a point, Luke, but one session is hardly going to hurt anyone," Aeliana argued, giving in to the voice in her head, whispering to her to pursue this; its intentions though, not too clear. "Why don't we just join one and then ditch if we hate it?"

"Alright then, sounds like a plan to me," Leah turned around in her chair to face the others.

Caleb shrugged in agreement. "No damage done in joining one, yes,"

"Who's organising?" Aeliana questioned, assuming it must be Abigail who used to jump at every opportunity to interact with the professor.

"Hi guys, how's everyone doing?"

The group turned to meet two familiar faces, their classmates, Tara and Tom.

"Hiya," Jace replied, followed by the others.

"So Aeliana, we wanted to actually put our names on the list for the scheduled extra sessions," Tara said, as she turned to the brown haired girl. "Very eager to join by the way,"

"Oh yeah, we do too actually," Aeliana replied, not realizing why the two had approached her in the first place.

"Um.." Tara looked confused. "That's great! You're collecting the deets right?"

At this point the girl was confused. What is she talking about? She thought. She herself was looking for who to approach for the sign up.

"Yes, she is actually!" Caleb chimed in, understanding the whole situation and not failing to take advantage of it.

"What? Who put me in charge?" Aeliana looked around in utter confusion.

"Girl, don't be silly," Caleb said as he pinched her cheek.

"Caleb, please," Aeliana rolled her eyes at her annoying friend. "How am I suddenly burdened with responsibilities that i had absolutely no idea about?" she whispered to Caleb.

"The masses are counting on you," unable to care less about her concern, he smiled teasingly.

"Alright then, let's get this done," she grabbed her phone and opened the notes app, accepting defeat. "Just you and Tom, yeah?"

"Yup," Tom chimed in. "Thank you so much and please do let us in on the specifics when they're confirmed,"

"Will do," Aeliana forced a smile before she watched them walk away.

"Please don't forget to add us too, miss maam,"

"Oh how could I ever, Caleb?" Aeliana deadpanned at him. "How could I ever?"

Having successfully collected approximately twenty names out of the twenty seven people from the class, Aeliana sighed as she stared at the screen of her phone that displayed them as a long list.

"Way to go," Caleb grinned as he looked up at her from his chair.

Aeliana, visibly annoyed, gave Caleb a cold stare. "What was that for?" she confronted him as almost everyone else had left the classroom.

"Why are you so slow?" the boy whined. "I just scored you more alone time with him,"

"What are you talking about, Caleb? Jeez!"

"Oh come on, I know you're dying for this,"

"Am not," Aeliana argued as she looked away, attempting to hide the heat rising up to her cheeks.

"It's alright to want it, you know,"

"Want what? I have no idea what you're on about," she snapped as she shoved her phone in her pocket.

"There's some magic," Caleb's eyes shone. "I can't wait to see more of it,"

"You're insane," the girl replied, picking up her bag. "I'm leaving,"

"I'm coming with you, obviously," Caleb stood up, following her eagerly.

"Great then, come with me to meet the professor about this," Aeliana made a sharp turn that made the boy stop in his tracks to avoid a collision.

His eyes widened slightly, realizing she was a little annoyed this time. "Well darling, that defies the purpose, now doesn't it?"

"There IS no purpose, Caleb," Aeliana growled playfully. "Stop this insanity, please! And come with me now,"

Relieved that Aeliana wasn't taking it too much to heart, Caleb smiled. "Alright then, let's go. Find this hunk of a man,"

"Jeez,"

The clock struck 12 as Aeliana and Caleb approached the 'devil's lair'. He would usually be in around this time; sipping a cup of awfully black coffee.

As they walked towards the familiar door that read 'Professor Antonio Decarlo' followed by his numerous qualifications, they witnessed the very same man step out, shutting the door behind him.

Busily holding his cup of coffee in one hand and his briefcase in the same, he looked up at the two.

His grey eyes merely brushed above Caleb's face and rested on Aeliana's. Having paused for a minute, a slight look of confusion spread across his features. Regaining his composure almost immediately, he turned away to lock the door behind him. The keys were safely dropped into his coat pocket before he settled to bless the two with an ounce of his attention once more.

"Can this wait?" was all he said, as his eyes shifted between the boy and the girl couple of times.

"Sir, we're here about the extra sessions," Aeliana muttered, very reluctantly and almost inaudible.

Antonio observed the girl for a while before he mumbled, "See me tomorrow in my office," his eyes were fixated on her, and hers only. "Make sure you come to me with all the preparations completed. I won't be doing any back and forth,"

"Understood," Aeliana said, as she stepped out of the way.

Taking a step to leave, Antonio noticed the boy once again and shot him a questioning look that clearly read, 'Can I help you?' but in a much heartless manner.

"I'm just-," Caleb gestured towards Aeliana, as he fidgeted with his hands.

Antonio, having shot one last look at the girl, turned around to leave.

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