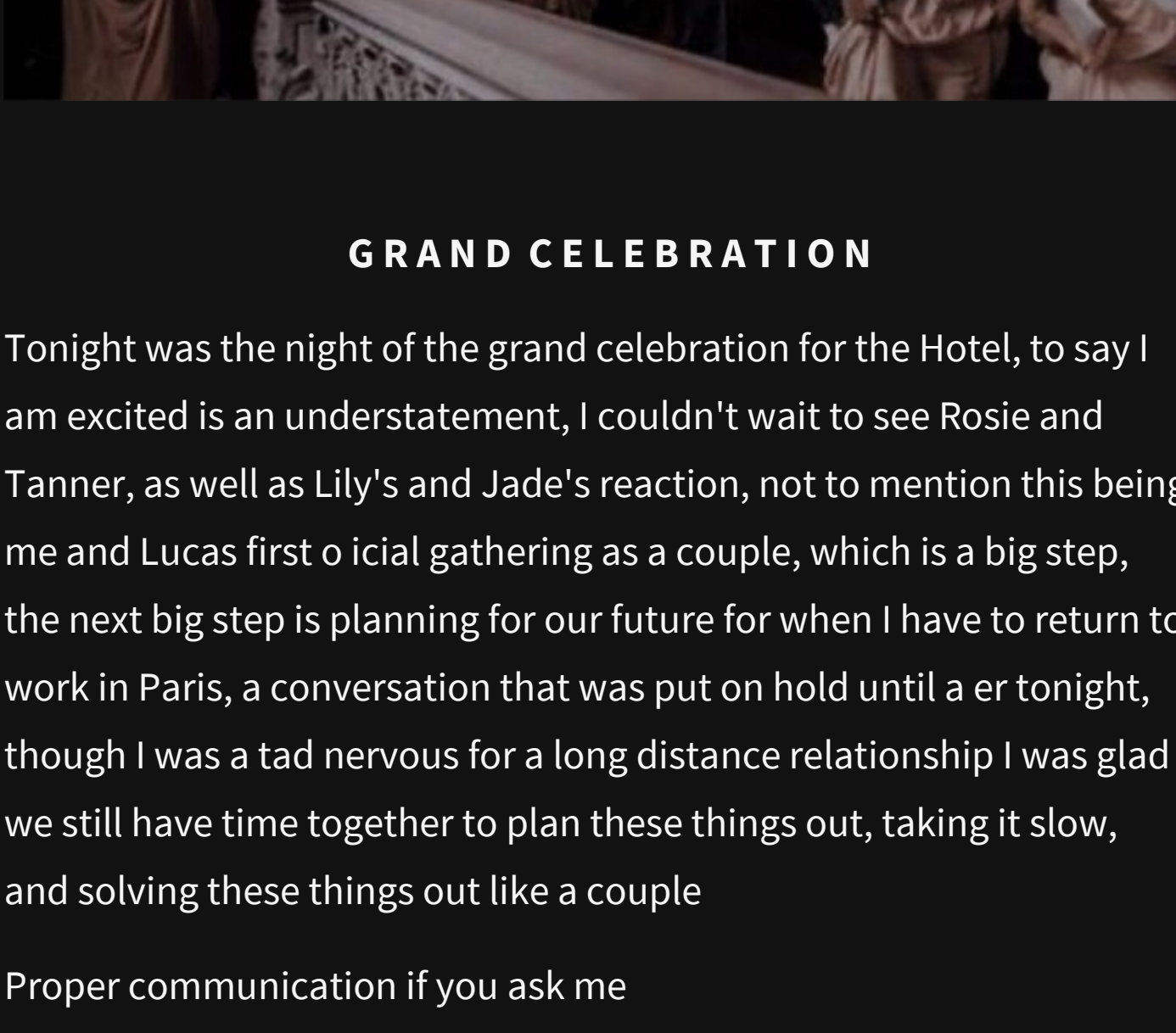




GRAND CELEBRATION

Tonight was the night of the grand celebration for the Hotel, to say I am excited is an understatement. I couldn't wait to see Rosie and Tanner, as well as Lily's and Jade's reaction, not to mention this being me and Lucas first official gathering as a couple, which is a big step, the next big step is planning for our future for when I have to return to work in Paris, a conversation that was put on hold until a few nights, though I was a tad nervous for a long distance relationship I was glad we still have time together to plan these things out, taking it slow, and solving these things out like a couple

Proper communication if you ask me

A few minutes later I was finishing up all that needed to be done, I went to the dry cleaners and picked up my dress and Lucas's suit and went back to our apartment to get ready, Lucas was already there on the phone, I didn't want to disturb him so I gave him a smile and walked to the bedroom to get ready, our bedroom was filled with photos of us, it was a bit creepy to look at during the dark, but it was still sweet, I placed Lucas's suit and my dress gently on the bed and took a quick shower

I wrapped a towel around my body before walking out the bathroom, Lucas was sitting on the bed on his phone again

"Love, how did I get so lucky?" He said with a smile on his face making my heart speed up

"Oh stop!" I said throwing a pillow at him "who was that on the phone?" I ask while making my way to the bed to get my dress

"Dmitri!" Lucas said causing me to groan frustrated

"What did he want?" I asked continuing to get ready

"A scolding for procrastinating?" he said irritation clear in his voice as he spoke, probably just stressed out "As punishment I will be giving the opening speech!" He sighed, I could tell by the look on his face he was stressed and didn't want to do it, but Dmitri being the dick he is probably doesn't care

"If it makes you feel better I also got an earful from him!" I say as I look over my shoulder, to see him struggling with his tie "and you will give an amazing speech!" I say confidently to him, as I help him with his tie

"You think so?" he asks looking down at me with a smile

"I know so your pretty amazing aren't you?" I say giving a quick peek on his lips, then turning around and making my way to my vanity to do my hair and makeup

I did a formal look, I curled my hair and pulled it up in a bun, letting a few strands loose giving it a messy yet formal look, while for my makeup I only put on foundation, concealer, a bit of mascara and a little bit of lipstick nothing too dramatic since my dress was pretty dramatic as well as my hair, no need for too much attention

Once I was done with hair and makeup I put my dress on,

"Babe you ready were already late!" Lucas calls from the other room, his voice becoming louder as he neared "are you almost?" He started but as he entered the room he stopped talking

Did I look bad? I ask myself nervously, what if he thought I was hideous

"What?" I ask trying to sound confident, but really I was nervous for his reply "do I look bad?" I ask letting my nerves get the better of me

"You my cupcake look amazing!" He says smirking at me as he made his way toward me in his dashing suit "don't you ever think otherwise!" he says giving me a kiss

My heart flutters at the compliment, man why am I so easily flattered by his words, his effect on me is just too much to resist

"You don't look bad yourself Hen!" I teased with a smirk of my own, making Lucas sigh

"Cute!" he replied sarcastically with a grin "now we should get going before it starts to rain!"

LILY'S POV (SURPRISEEEE)

"Don't fuck this up Carmichael!" His cold voice echoes through the house as he angrily shouts at Lucas through the phone

My husband was the type of man that you wouldn't want to anger, he had connections everywhere, if he wanted you gone you would be gone and no one would notice, he was known for his bad attitude, and anger, the aura he gave off was enough to send chills down someone's spine, while his body covered in scars and tattoos, media dubbed him as

"A beast a monster, the devil reincarnated, no one knew the type of things he was willing to do, the things he has done, the pain and suffering he has inflicted!" stories like those are quite humorous to me

The stories that surrounded him were made solely based for the way he looked, which was completely wrong, he was no beast, he is a victim forced to be who he is.

Many say I am a fool for loving him, maybe I am, the limits I would go through for him, have gone through for him, is limitless, he isn't friendly, generous, or giving, but he is to me, the side I have seen from the very start is the man I love. Maybe I am looking past the bad by focusing on the good, but maybe his bad reflects mine.

I take one last look in the mirror, my dark brown hair was curled elegantly, as was my makeup, my dress was my signature red color, with puffed sleeves, heart shaped neckline, a fitted dress that hugged my body nicely, to finish off the look I added a simple necklace, that he gave me when we were younger

I made my way down the steps of the house

"Caro!" I call as I reach the bottom of the steps

My eyes wander around in search for, suddenly an arm wraps around my waist making me jump in surprise, but the sparks that jolted in my body gave away whose arm it was

He chuckled lowly his head dipped in the crook of my neck, he took a deep breath, he spins me around so that I'm facing him as he stares down at me with so much love, his hand cup my face, his thumb stroking my cheek as I get lost in his eyes, the eyes that make me forget all the bad, that remind me how much I love him

"moi uetox (my flower), you look amazing!" He says as he plants a kiss on my forehead

After all this time he still gave me butterflies

"Thank you!" I said with a smile pulling away "why were you yelling at Lucas, you should stop being such an asshole and be nicer to your friend!" I scolded sounding like a mother

"Nothing you need to worry about love!" he assured

"but if you must know, him and red were wasting time so as punishment he will give the opening speech!"

"I was supposed to give the opening speech!" I said as we begin to walk out the door

"I know my love, but I don't want the eyes of lustful men staring at my women, and the hotel is a gift to you, don't you find it ironic it's your gift yet you give the speech?"

I was about to testify but was interrupted again

"Darling please, I'm not in the mood to argue with your stubborn self tonight!" he begged after opening the door for me "please baby!"

I only nodded in reply

"Thank you"

A couple minutes later me and Dmitri arrived, the party which was held in the old ballroom next to the Hotel, the ballroom was filled with people all waiting for the official opening and speech to be given, the only problem....

Lucas wasn't here, and boy was he mad

I tried getting ahold of Vallie to see what's taking them so long, but her phone is off, while my husband was also trying to get ahold of Lucas, but like Val, Lucas's phone went straight to voice mail, he was ready to blow, patience was never his strong suite, I tried ringing Val again, but like the other 60 times it went straight to voicemail

"There probably caught in the rain!" Rosie said so, I turned around and took a seat next to Jade and Rosie

Rosie was dressed quite simply yet stylish, her ginger red hair was pulled up in a ponytail, her makeup was also done simply, she was wearing a nude dress that flowed down her body, with a shawl to cover the upper part of her skin, between the four of us Rosella or as we call her Rosie dressed very conservatively like a proper lady, or as Jade says a grandma, which isn't a bad thing, it was just sad that Rosie didn't see her as the beautiful women we did

"They better get here soon!" Jade chuckled "or the devil is gonna hunt them down himself!"

"I don't think Mr. Petrova would do that!" Rosie defended

"Have you met that asshole?" Jade pointed out taking a sip of her cocktail "that man is so bossy, it's like he has a stick up his ass 24/7, no offense Lily!"

"None taken!" I said, taking a sip of my wine, as I let out a low chuckle at Jade's comment

Jade, wore a dark blue dress, much to her disagreement, but thankfully we were able to convince her to wear a dress and match with us, her dress had a v-neck line like mine, but her dress was fitted, showing off her curves that she usually hides underneath her women suits, her dress ruled out at her knees, while her raven black hair was straightened and makeup well done

"Where ever they are I hope there okay!" Jade said with a sigh "I need to go find Tanner, he disappeared on me when we arrived!"

"Is everything okay between you two?"

"Yes he has just been stressed lately which is perfectly understandable, I'm sure after this everything will be back to normal!" Valery's POV

"Petrova is gonna kill us!" I groan as I look at the time on the car

"He won't just relax we will get there soon!" Lucas reassured, taking my hand in his and rubbing soothing circles on them, but I just couldn't help but stress

"Have you met him, not to mention Tanner?"

"Tanner won't say anything, and the beast will just have to get over it!" Lucas says casually, making me panic more, I wanted to call Lily or Tanner to let them know we're on the way, and only stuck in traffic, but as luck would have it, both me and Lucas left our phones

How convenient.

"Love we're just a few blocks away, I'm just gonna park since there is no where to park near the hotel!"

I stare at him bawled "your kidding?" I say referring outside to the heavy rain

"No darling I'm dead serious, come on it's just a little rain!" he says with a smirk "so what do you say, wanna take off those heels and make a run for the hotel?"

I stared at him, his hand out for me to take, which I willingly took, as we ran down the streets of New York as the rain poured down on us, hand in hand, we laughed like crazy teens, goofing off in the rain, not caring that both of our outfits were probably soaked and ruined by the rain, or that we would step into the hotel looking like wet rats, I couldn't speak for him but the only thing that was on my mind was how happy I was in this moment

Lily's POV (again)

"Caro I don't care, nor do I mind, the people are waiting!"

I argued at backstage of the ballroom, the guest were getting hungry and impatient, since Lucas is not here yet we shall just continue without him, that is if he would allow it

"Lily we talked about it!" my husband replied, his chilling voice sending chills down my spine, but I wouldn't back down from him

"Yes, but there has been a change of plans, weather you like it or not darling I am going on that stage and giving the opening speech!" I snapped, and walked on stage without giving him a chance to respond

Claps could be heard through the audience as I made my way on stage, my eyes wandered through the crowd searching for Jade and Rosie, they smiled at me and gave a small wave, I nodded my head and returned focus on the audience

"Good evening, fellow friends, family and guests!" I begin the intro "today marks the day as the grand opening of not just the Pepermeno hotel, but also the successful carbonation of 3 very different and stubborn men!" I say jokingly "these amazing men have come together with the help of a devoted team!" I say with a wink "The making of this hotel has brought us all closer together, we thank you for attending this event that we all have worked so hard for-" before I could finish, laughing could be heard from across the hall, everyone's attention seemed to have turned to the sound

I had to bite back a smirk at the sight before me, a dripping Valery and Lucas, Valery wrapped in Lucas wet jacket suit, her hair was tangled up, sticking to her face, while red stained her cheeks, her head tilting down towards the floor, covering her smile, while Lucas still laughing, his eyes not even noticing or caring he was being stared at

"Thank you for your time, and before we escort you to the dining hall, lets have Lucas D'amore and Vallie Stone who worked on hand for this hotel!" My husband says calling on the attention of Valery and Lucas who looked stunned "lets give them a hand!" he says and soon after clapping begins to go on

I tried not to glare at the action done by him, what he was thinking, before I could protest My husband escorts me onto the stage, once were out of sight, Vallie and Lucas walk past us, I look at Valery apologetically, I didn't know what I could possibly do, sure I could argue with him but what would be the point anymore Valery and Lucas are already on stage, so instead I didn't argue I just sighed and walked away.

"was that really necessary?" I snapped to him as he led me down the steps

"yes they were tardy!"

Valery's POV

Humiliation, is all I felt at this moment as all eyes stare at me at Lucas, not at me we were soaking wet

Lucas on the other hand looked completely calm about this as he stared at the audience, his hand wrapped around my waist as he started giving the speech "Good evening everyone, my apologies for keeping you all waiting, I guess we lost track of time, then again time seems to stop when I'm with her!" he says looking down at me, a blush makes it way to my cheeks as the audience awes, I grab the mic from him and start just so I can get off this stage and into a nice fluffy towel "Creating and designing the hotel, in its own form, is like art, a visual representation of the artist, and the inspiration of this hotel is love, of the love that was put into creating this hotel, is as strong as the love of the owner and his!" I finished directing their attention to a blushing Lily and a monotonous Mr. Petrova, who only nodded in acknowledgment, before I could make my way down the stage, I felt Lucas hand on my waist ask he kept in my place, taking the mic in his hand he added "I would like to end the intro with a little extension to Red's remark, When we all sat down together planning the name of this hotel, I think I speak for all of us, when I say we had our relationships in mind, and how unbelievably lucky the three of us got, as if it was like destiny!" he says the last word looking down on me with a smile, a smile I couldn't help but mimic "Thank you all for being here to celebrate with us on our collaboration on the Pepermeno hotel!" he finishes, the audience claps as Lucas leads me to the backstage where Jade, Rosie, and Lily were waiting

"Hey Red!" Jade greeted with a smirk "your looking extra wet today!"

A chuckle escapes my lips as I roll my eyes at the joke, Lucas on the other hand didn't acknowledge the comment

"Here ya go rey, you look like your freezing!" Rosie said as she handed me and Lucas a towel, we both said thank you and hastily wrap the warm towel around ourselves

"Do we want to know how you got wet?" Lily asked playfully

"I have an idea!" Jade added her smirk still plastered on her face, I shook my head playfully

"Darling! I think you're dry enough for the both of us!" I replied with a smirk of my own eyeing her playfully up and down

"what do you-" she started with a raised brow, not getting what I was referring to until the laughs and giggles of Lily and Rosie tipped her off "Oh my- you know I'll have you know my sex life is-" she stuttered out

"none existent!" I finished for her cause Lily's and Rosies giggles to turn into full blown laughs

"your mean you know that right?" Jade replies shaking her head with a smile

"I have a dress here for you to change into if you like!" Rosie said kindly holding a dress out for me

"Thank you Rosie but it's just water it will dry, now lets get seated for dinner!" I say

"I couldn't agree more, I am famished, and I can practically smell the fillet mignon!" Jade says linking arms with me

"Rosie, you coming?"

"Go ahead I need to find Tanner he disappeared on me earlier, and he needs to get his speech ready for the toast!"

"Is everyone supposed to be giving a speech tonight or something?"

"Tanner insisted on giving one to cheers for the Hotel's opening!"

THIS CHAPTER IS 3000+ words I know its long sorry I just wanted to give credit and thanks to @louis24lover for the name of the hotel!!! thank u so much I was obsessed when I read ur comment

Continue to next part