Limits 239

Chapter 239

Bella was attending a class event off-campus for the day.

After his afternoon classes, Jack made his way to the radio station. Phoebe was already there, having arrived early to prepare for the broadcast.

The program that day had an interesting lineup. A bold female student had requested a love song to confess to her crush. Another guy dedicated Happy Birthday to his best friend. After that, there were poetry readings and a few news segments, and then the broadcast would be wrapped up.

Halfway through, Jack realized there wasn't much left for him to do.

He turned to Phoebe and said, "If there's nothing else, I'd like to take the rest of the day off. I might not be able to come by for the next couple of days either, so I'll need you to cover for me."

Phoebe, who had been mid-broadcast, paused and looked at him. She asked, "You've been leaving early a lot lately," she noted. "Let me guess-are you off to meet Bella again?"

She had picked up on their relationship pretty quickly, especially since Bella had made a habit of waiting for Jack after every broadcast. Phoebe's comment carried a teasing edge, but her tone was light.

Jack didn't deny it. He simply smiled. Now that Bella had met Phoebe, there was no need to hide anything anymore.

The moment he stopped seeing Phoebe as something unattainable, the need to be discreet had disappeared.

Phoebe glanced at him before turning away, her voice calm as she said, "Go ahead. I'll handle things here. But Jack, having a girlfriend is important, sure. But don't forget about the people who care about you, too."

"What?" Jack blinked. Phoebe's words caught him off guard.

People who cared about him? What did she mean by that?

Phoebe must have realized how her words might be taken because she let out a soft chuckle and added, "Never mind. Just go. I need to finish the broadcast."

Jack didn't press the matter. As he walked out, he found himself turning her words over in his mind, trying to make sense of them.

...

With Bella out for the day, Jack ate dinner alone before heading to the campus track. Dressed in the athletic gear Bella had bought for him, he set off for his usual

run.

Ever since he and Bella had started running together, it had become a habit.

The back trail was nearly two miles long, winding through trees and open spaces. After two laps, he found an empty patch of grass and sat down, unscrewing his water bottle. The evening air was cool. Stars dotted the night sky, stretching endlessly above him.

Lying down, Jack let his thoughts drift. His mind wandered to the past—the way he and Bella had started off bickering and constantly trying to outdo each other. And now, they were together.

Fate worked in strange ways.

He thought about Bella-her beauty, her fiery personality, and the way she looked at him, so full of love.

A soft warmth settled in his chest. For the first time, he was really experiencing love. Not just some fleeting crush, not just a moment of infatuation, but something deep, something that felt real.

Maybe this was why people lost their minds over love and why so many fools got caught up in heartbreak.

Lying there under the night sky, he found himself missing her already.

After a while, the night grew late, and the sounds of insects filled the air. Just as Jack was about to leave after getting enough rest, an unexpected noise came from a nearby grove, accompanied by a man's lecherous chuckle and a woman's voice.

Jack felt like he'd stumbled upon something unexpected.

The mountains at the back of the campus were usually deserted, and given how hot the weather was, it wasn't too surprising that someone might be out there. But then again, with all the flowers, plants, and trees around, weren't they worried about the bugs?

Curiosity getting the better of him, Jack stealthily made his way toward the source of the noise.