

Chapter 166: Celebration Raincheck.

Hannah's POV:

In the next few days, Katrina was out due to a business trip. It was Wednesday, and she would come back only next Monday. I could feel that the whole office's vibe had changed because people were feeling more relaxed with the perspective that Katrina was in another state. I got a lot of time to mingle with my peers and we even had a sort of a celebratory lunch because she was out of office.

"Oh, I can't wait for when she takes her annual vacation!" Esmeralda exclaimed.

"And when will this miracle happen?" I caught myself asking her.

Esmeralda sighed and said: "Not in a couple months yet. But eventually, she will be out for two whole weeks. Can you imagine?" She asked me.

"Yeah, when you say something like this, I can't wait for her vacation too," I told her and we both laughed. After we calmed down, I mumbled: "I just wished she would leave me alone so I could do my own job," I confessed to her.

"And why is it, darling?" Esmeralda asked me.



"I say that because she put a target on my back and now she is trying to sabotage my work. This is a terrible feeling, and she makes me feel unsafe here. I never had this feeling of walking over eggshells at work," I explained to her.

Esmeralda sighed sadly. She remained quiet for a couple of minutes and then, she said: "don't you worry about that, darling. She is doing that until someone new enters, so she will leave you as if you were an old toy and bother someone else."

"Can't you hire someone else fast then?" I told her.
I was obviously joking, because I didn't want to
see anybody in this situation, but my pain was
actually real.

Esmeralda laughed with me and said: "Just be brave and at the right time, She won't be bothering you anymore, I promise."

"I still wanted to know why she acts like this though," I told Esmeralda. "I know that she made something against James, and it was something big, but the poor guy didn't want to tell me what it was." I continued.

Esmeralda frowned at my comment and took a pause. After that, she said: "You know, this is not my story to tell. So, I'm afraid that you are going to wait to have James' Version when he's ready to tell you what happened," she said to me.

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Fair enough, I thought to myself. If I was in his shoes, I wouldn't be that comfortable if someone tells another person something private about my life. "I was just curious about that because of the way that Katrina treated me. It is terrible. I was just wondering what kind of tricks she used to my

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poor other peers,"I told her.

"Yeah, honey, you should be careful with that one," she told me. In fact, she wasn't the first person who told me that this week. "But let's not talk about her today, right?" Esmeralda told me. "Let's just enjoy your day as we're supposed to when she's not here. Shall we?" She said,

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I was still talking to her when Stone came to our staff room and called me: "Hey, Hannah. Can I ask you a favor?" he said.

Well, at least a favor was something better than a 'can I talk to you for a minute?'

"Sure," I told him. "How can I help?"

"The client from the waiting room finally accepted the numbers in the budget that we sent them, so it's time to make a quick meeting to explan to them about materials and expected times. As Katrina is out for the rest of the week and the client is requesting this information as soon as possible, could you please present this meeting? I will be there with you in a corner if you need any help, but this would be more interesting if it was presented by someone involved in the project, not one of the firm's owners," Stone told me.

"Absolutely! I can do that. When is the meeting?" I asked him.

"Tomorrow morning, so I think that you should use the rest of the day to prepare a presentation, ok?" Stone told me.

"Of course! I'll do it," I told him.

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The next day, I I waited for the clients and Stone in the meeting room. When I was there, I got a few

messages from Ethan, Lucy and my mom telling me that I got that. The meeting actually went smoothly, and I could see in their faces that both Stone and the clients were satisfied with my presentation. After a few handshakes, they went to talk to Stone and I went back to my desk.

I received another message from Stone asking me to go to his office. I went there immediately, and when I knocked on his door and opened it discreetly he said: "Oh, Hannah, you are here. Please, sit down."

I sat in front of him, just like on the other day, but today the whole vibe couldn't be more different. I wasn't afraid of what he had to say. I just waited for him to start talking.

"So, I just came from the conversation that I had with the client after the meeting, and they said that they loved your presentation. Congratulations! "he exclaimed to me.

"Thank you sir!" I told him. It was so good to hear good news for a change.

"So, I asked you to come here so I could say that personally: Honestly, at the beginning, I thought that Myers was taking you by enthusiasm, and that you didn't have any talent at all. I looked at you and all that I could think was that if you were wrong for the job, that it would be only a matter of time until you get fired, but today I could see for

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myself what Myers was talking about."

"Thank you, sir," I told him. Well, at least I guess that I should be thanking him...

"No problem at all, Hannah," he told me. And then, he continued. "Well, since I said that, I have another thing to say. What do you think about me helping you personally? I mean, Katrina is a good employee, but what do you think about learning from someone who actually owns the business?" he suggested to me.

Are you kidding me? Learning from one of the partners and not having to deal with Katrina anymore? Where do I sign up for it? "I would love to learn from you, sir!" I exclaimed at him.

"Great! So, it's settled. And I will talk to Myers when he comes back from his vacation, so if I'm not here to support you, he will," Stone said.

"That does really sound good, Sir. Thank you very much for having me," I told him.

"Sure, no problem, Hannah. You do know that I'm doing this because I see potential in you, don't you? Stone asked me.

"You do, Sir?" I asked him uncertainty.

"Yeah, I do. I think that after today's meeting I can say tha you showed potential, not just as a businesswoman. But also. In this architecture and



decoration world. I mean, I saw your Resume. I knew that. You had much experience in business. I guess. That I just needed to see this by myself before believing in you, Stone told me.

"Sir. I really appreciate this chance that you're giving me. And I promise you, I won't disappoint you." I told him.

We stood there talking a little bit more. And then?

A few minutes later. I went back to my desk. When
I got there everybody was waiting for me to tell
what just happened. "So, spill it out girl! What was
all of this about? James asked me. In the moment
that I stepped outside Stone's door.

"Well, Stone said that he sees potential in me," I told them, still feeling incredulous on my part.

"Oh, congratulations dear! This is such a good thing!" Esmeralda exclaimed.

"Yeah, can you imagine Katrina's face when she comes back from her trip and discovers that now you have the boss' confidence? Oh, she's going to kill you for this!" James told me that while he was mimicking some people making gossip.

"Oh my God, I don't even wanna think what she would do if she found out about it!" I told him.

"Yeah, she's going to freak out," Esmeralda agreed with him, and then we all laughed.

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z"Well, at least now you know that you're on the right path, honey," Esmeralda said to me.

"Yeah, this is the first time that I can say to myself that I scored a goal," I agreed with her.

"You know what, Hannah? We saw what she did to you. And I'm sorry if I couldn't help you. But you must understand that even though you have the boss's confidence right now, Katrina is a dangerous woman, so you should be careful, OK?" James warned me.

"Yeah, I kind of realized that already," I told him.

"But again, let's not talk about it! This is the moment that we celebrate your victory, dear. It's not every day that you can say that you count on your boss' confidence, right?" Esmeralda told me.

"Yeah. I definitely should enjoy this moment," I told her in a good mood.

"So, do you guys think that we could hit a bar tonight?" James suggested.

"Oh, dear, I'm too old for this stuff," Esmeralda told him.

I disagreed with her, but I wouldn't enter into this discussion, because I would be the second one to refuse James' invitation: "Trust me, I would love to do that, but unfortunately. I am still breastfeeding so bars are not a possibility, at least right now," I

