

S2 Chapter 134

Samantha's POV

I saw Henry get out of bed, pick up the phone from the floor, and try to speak, but the call had already ended. He came to me and hugged me.

"Sam, what did you hear?" Henry asked softly.

"H-he, he laughed." I was trembling and crying.

"Who, Sam? Do you know who it was?"

"It was R-Romulus." I looked at him feeling panic tightening my throat.

"Sam, what did he say?" I noticed the concern in Henry's voice.

"Nothing. It was like always, the breathing, but then he laughed and I know his laugh. It's Romulus, Henry."

"Calm down. I'm going to turn off your phone. Tomorrow I'll tell Flavian about this. Sam, I think we should change your number."

"Yeah, you're right, that's better." I agreed, as I didn't want to hear from Romulus anymore.

"Good, I'll take care of it first thing tomorrow. Now, I'm going to put you to bed and make you some tea."

Henry tucked me into bed, covered me, and gave me a kiss on the forehead. When he returned to the bedroom, he brought a tray with tea and butter cookies, accompanied by Cinnamon who approached the bed, nudging me with his nose and making me laugh.

"That's what I like to see, smiling!" Henry commented and placed the

tray beside me, then handed me the cup.

After I had the tea and ate some cookies, I lay on my side, and Henry fit himself behind me, pulling me into his arms, where I slept safe and protected all night long.

The next day, Henry had a new cell phone delivered to me at the office, already configured and activated. I breathed a sigh of relief to be rid of the calls that I now knew were from Romulus. But what bothered me was not knowing how he got my number. †

In the middle of the afternoon, Manu showed up with cookies, which was becoming a habit – once a week she would bring cookies for our afternoon coffee, and we would both enjoy them while chatting a bit.

"Sam, I can't believe that idiot Romulus has become such a huge problem in your life," Manu said indignantly.

"Yeah, Manu. I don't understand the behavior of some men who think they own women and can make decisions about our lives."

"That's what cowardly men do, people who don't care about anything, they just think everyone should fulfill their wishes."

"Oh, my friend, it's more than that. Toxic and sexist men are unfortunately a cultural inheritance."

"You're right. Thank goodness Henry and Flavian are handling it. But you know what's worse? Some women teach their sons to behave this way. My mother, for example, she's exactly the type of woman who thinks men should be in charge and can do whatever they want with women."

I heard a hint of disappointment in Manu's voice, but I knew her relationship with her mother was difficult. However, her mother wasn't



the only problem she was facing.

"Manu, how are things with Flavian?"

"Still weird, friend. But now he's becoming distracted, you know."

"Aren't you going to talk to him about it?"

"I'm gathering my courage." She looked at me with a discouraged expression and asked, "Sam, do you think Vince would rent me a room in his apartment?"

"Why are you asking that, Manu?"

"Because I think Flavian wants to break up with me, but he feels awkward since I'm living with him and he thinks I have nowhere to go. I really don't right now, but I can figure something out."

"Don't be silly, Manu! You do have somewhere to go. You can come to my house whenever you want, and of course, Vince would welcome you with open arms, but you have me. I just don't think Flavian wants to break up with you. The way he acts around you doesn't seem like someone who wants to end things."

"I don't know, Sam. He's acting strange. Going out at odd hours. I just don't know."

"Manu, he's a police officer, a detective, his job is very stressful. Maybe he's just dealing with a difficult case that's taking longer than usual to solve."

"Yeah, maybe..."

Manu's eyes were welling up with tears. She had thrown herself



completely into this relationship, was totally in love with Flavian, and would suffer greatly if he broke up with her. But I didn't believe that was the case - Flavian liked her, didn't he? At least, he made that clear all the time. But I was keeping an eye out, ready for whatever my friend might need.

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