



S2 Chapter 136

Samantha's POV

The rest of the week flew by so quickly that I forgot to tell Henry that Nicole had been at the office. That day, Henry and I went shopping for Enzo's birthday present - his birthday party was on Saturday, and he'd been ecstatic all week, calling me multiple times to talk about the party preparations, which I found quite amusing.

Saturday came quickly, and I was feeling pretty relaxed, especially since changing my phone number had stopped the calls, and I was sleeping much better after that.

"Nightingale, are you ready?" Henry walked into the closet and picked up one of his watches, putting it on his wrist.

"Almost, handsome," I replied while finishing my makeup.

"Enzo won't stop calling me. What an anxious kid!"

"He's excited about this party." I found it funny because Enzo had been talking about nothing else for days.

"He gets excited about any party," Henry laughed. "I'll wait for you in the living room."

I finished my makeup, put on my dress, and looked in the mirror. I was wearing an emerald green dress, chosen specifically to match Henry's eyes. It was long, form-fitting, with a V-neck and slightly wide straps. I styled my hair in an elegant braid with some loose strands framing my face, and I was ready.

"My goddess! You're the most beautiful creature my eyes have ever seen!"

"Henry came to me with a huge smile, his eyes traveling up and down my body.

"You always have the best compliments, you know that?"

"I have the most beautiful woman in the world!" Henry wrapped his arms around my waist. "It's almost unfair to the other guests - everyone will only be looking at you!"

"And you're not jealous?"

"No, I know you're mine! I don't care if others admire your beauty - you're absolutely gorgeous. It's natural that they admire you. I'm such a lucky man to have the privilege of you even looking at me."

"Hmm. You sure know how to sweet talk. Keep it up, Henry Martin, and who knows? You might get more than just my looks by the end of the night." I gave him a quick peck and watched his smile grow wider.

"Oh, I can't wait for the night to end!" I laughed, seeing the eagerness in his eyes.

"Looks like impatience runs in the family!" He laughed and we headed out with his arm wrapped around my waist.

Hebe had arranged her son's party in the mansion's banquet hall. Actually, calling it a house would be an understatement - it was practically a palace. Hebe's place looked like one of those enormous mansions you see in interior design magazines, everything incredibly refined and elegant, blending classic and modern styles.

The banquet hall was a pavilion adjacent to the main house, overlooking a breathtaking garden created by an exceptionally talented landscape architect. The hall itself was a structure with grand columns supporting a

colonial-style roof, and the side walls were made of glass, with large crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. It was an opulent space.

The decoration was quite minimalist, with the main attraction being the performers doing acrobatics on aerial silks and hoops hanging from the ceiling. There were various jugglers and even two fire-breathers at the entrance. It was as if the circus performers were the decorations themselves. While luxurious, it was still appropriate for a sixteen-year-old's party.

"Auntie! You look absolutely stunning today, even more than usual." Enzo walked towards me excitedly, holding an elaborately decorated fruit mocktail. "This is for you, beautiful. No alcohol, because of my little cousin."

"Thank you, sweetie! You're so thoughtful." I smiled and gave him a hug, wishing him all the best. Then he hugged Henry.

"Auntie, I loved the present you sent! Look, I'm already wearing it!" Enzo showed off the wristwatch I had gifted him.

"I'm so glad you liked it, sweetie."

"And what about my gift? Aren't you going to say anything about it?" Henry protested.

"Uncle, I love it! Look here." Enzo showed the gold bracelet that Henry had sent him. "And I also loved the present that landed in my account." Enzo laughed heartily, clearly delighted.

"That's right, kid. Use it well and wisely." Henry hugged his nephew once more.

"Look, your friends are at that table, next to our family's table." Enzo



pointed to the tables near the stage.

"I'm here, cutie!" Melissa came in, pulling Fred by the hand.

"Oh my goodness!" Enzo looked at Melissa and started clapping. "I feel obligated to applaud this work of art!"

"Don't you fear death, Enzo?" Fred joked, trying to put on a stern face.

"Man, if I'm gonna die of love for this hottie, I'm not afraid at all." Enzo winked at Melissa, making everyone burst into laughter.

"You're such a troublemaker!" Fred was laughing because he knew Enzo always joked with Mel, throwing ridiculous pickup lines her way.

"Cutie, you know the drill – call me when you turn eighteen." Melissa hugged him and then came straight to my belly. "Where's auntie's little baby, where is it? Is your mommy taking good care of you? Tell auntie everything."

"Mel, you know I'm only two months pregnant, right?!" I said, laughing at her excitement.

"So what? He's already getting to know my voice. When he's born, I'll be his favorite auntie!" Melissa laughed.

We reached the table and greeted everyone. Vince was sitting uncomfortably between Edward's sisters, who were clearly hitting on him. Erica and Emilia were two women in their forties, attractive and very fun – loving, both divorced, and both were obviously very excited about Vince. But as Ed himself would say, they were two crazy women, not very responsible, and after their divorces, they lived from party to party, changing boyfriends as often as they changed clothes.

"Samantha!" Vince excused himself and came in my direction. "Thank God you guys arrived."

"Hey Vince, weren't you having fun with Edward's sisters? They're great. Very lively," Henry laughed.

"Too lively, Henry." Vince wiped his forehead. "Can you believe they grabbed my butt? Said I looked like worked out and wanted to check if everything was firm. Then they tried to grab my friend down there, you know."

"Just tried? Watch out, they won't leave you alone." Henry laughed at Vince's misfortune. "After their divorces, they really let loose, doing whatever they feel like."

"I need to find Ivy. Quick!" Vince sighed. "Actually, she went to the bathroom, but she's taking too long."

"Oh, she probably stopped to chat with someone," I tried to calm him down.

"Maybe, but she told me she wouldn't take long. Those bouncy sisters were already trying to attack me, and Ivy promised to take care of me." Vince was genuinely worried about being at the mercy of Edward's sisters.

"Since when does a grown man like you need a sweet young lady to protect you?" Henry laughed shamelessly.

"Have they harassed you?" Vince asked.

"Fortunately not. I'm Hebe's brother, and Edward forbade them from coming near me, and since they adore Hebe, they respected that." Henry smiled.



"Lucky you. Man, I feel like a filet mignon on display at the butcher shop!"

"Vince's eyes widened, making Henry roar with laughter. "Guys, where's Ivy?"

"Geez, Vince, let the girl pee!" I scolded him, but I was enjoying his predicament.

"Sam, it's been more than twenty minutes since she went to the bathroom." He looked at me seriously, and that intrigued me.

"Come on, I'll help you find her." I went with Vince towards the restrooms.

Ivy wasn't in the ladies' room. We tried calling her, but she didn't answer. We walked around the party but couldn't find her. We ran into Enzo and Luna, but they hadn't seen Ivy either. Something felt off.

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