



S2 Chapter 54

Samantha's POV

My heart was shattered into a million pieces. It wasn't just one betrayal, but many. And worse, he didn't trust me. He chose to believe a lie rather than talk to me. He didn't even have the courage to break up with me, he just got with someone else and cast me aside. That's not right!

When I closed the door, I slid down against it, sat on the floor, and sobbed loudly into my hands. I lost track of time, I don't know how long I stayed there crying, but it seemed like my tears would never end, as if floodgates had been opened and couldn't be closed again, and the pain kept drowning me.

I was hiccuping, feeling a searing pain in my chest, starting to have trouble breathing, and couldn't stop crying. My apartment doorbell rang, and I didn't get up to look, it rang again, and I remained static, just crying and feeling pain. Until I heard a voice threatening to call the firefighters to break down the door, and I got up, knowing Melissa would do exactly that.

I stood up and opened the door. My friends were there and entered like an army on a mission.

"We are and will always be here for you, Sam," Melissa pulled me into a big hug. "We just thought it better not to call Catherine today, but tomorrow we'll tell her everything."

I clung to Melissa and kept crying. Soon I felt the girls joining the hug. And how I needed that hug. Gradually, I calmed down and managed to catch my breath and words. When my heart settled a bit, I could speak.



"What are you crazy girls doing here?" I tried to smile while wiping tears with the back of my hands.

"That man - whose Martinez called me and told me what happened and said you needed your friends. So here we are. And he was right," Melissa said.

"And we came prepared to deal with everything - pizza for anger, burgers and fries for hate, ice cream for sadness, chocolate for hurt feelings, gummy bears for anxiety, and some other stuff," Virginia listed.

"And of course, skincare products, because we may fall apart, but the world doesn't need to know, much less those idiots. Tomorrow we'll be beautiful as always," I smiled at Tess's idea.

"Oh guys, you're amazing! The best friends in the world!" I sniffled.

"So, gorgeous, we'll fall apart today, but tomorrow we'll be beautiful and ready for the next battle," Melissa said, throwing herself on the couch.

The doorbell rang again and I opened the door, Manu rushed in, pulling her small suitcase. After hugging me, she started talking:

"I'm here, guys, did I miss much?"

"Relax, Little Key, we just got here too," Melissa shouted from the couch.

"But you have a lot of explaining to do!"

Manu made a funny face at me, like someone who did something wrong and needed help. I pulled Manu to the living room, where Virginia and Tess had already turned my coffee table into a food court.

"Look here, Little Key, I want to start by knowing what's this about you hiding from us that Sam is going through all these troubles," Melissa



started pressing Manu.

"Mel, she asked me not to tell while Catherine and Alexander were going through all that situation, but now thankfully they've worked things out and we can help Sam," Manu answered, sitting on the floor.

"Hmm, I see. And how long have you known?" Mel fixed her eyes on Manu, who was taking a bite of pizza and answered carelessly.

"I'mm, since the first letter arrived." When Manu mentioned the letter, I felt the blood drain from my body. The girls weren't supposed to know about that.

"What letter, Little Key?" Tess dropped the burger she was about to bite.

"You know, the letters that Romulus has been sending her," Manu said very naturally, and I elbowed her, making her say "ouch" and rub the spot.

"Explain yourself, Samantha! Because I can't believe you think I'm such a crappy friend that I wouldn't care about you and help you just because our other friend was having problems," Melissa complained, and I got a little scared of her angry face.

"Mel, you girls are the best friends in the world, but I didn't want to be a burden," I tried to explain.

"Oh no, you just considered that only Manuela was your friend and we were nothing," Virginia said, somewhat offended.

"Oh, guys, it's not that." I started crying. "It's just that I've never had friends like you before, amazing people who are willing to do anything to help me, and I didn't want it to seem like I was competing with Catherine for attention and..."

"Oh, Saaam..." Melissa interrupted me as I sniffled. "We understand you, but you can't leave us out again, ever! Friends share good and bad moments, and sometimes everyone's in deep shit, but they're in it together."

"That's right, Sam, no matter how bad things are for one of us, if another one has a problem, we'll support and help them just the same!" Tess hugged me. "And Catherine is feeling guilty because you're going through all this alone."

"Yeah, Sam, we'll always be by your side. Don't do this again," Virginia pleaded.

"I promise I won't do it again." I explained to the girls about the letters and everything the lawyer said; they were shocked.

"You can't stay living alone, Sam!" Virginia exclaimed.

"Manu is coming to live with me, right Manu?" I said.

"That's right. That's why I went to my hometown. To talk to my dad about the lease contract. My family was happy that I found someone to live with, especially since it's you," Manu confirmed with an adorable satisfied expression.

"Vi, why don't you come live with us too? Levy doesn't know when he's coming back, you haven't decided to move in with Patrick, come stay with us, there are four bedrooms here," I said, getting excited about having another friend to share the house with.

"Oh, guys, are you serious? I'd love to! I'm feeling terrible at home," Virginia commented.

"It's more than serious!" I got excited. "Aaaah! I'll love having you both



here!"

"Ugh! You meanies! Nobody invites me. On top of that, Catherine ditched me for Miller." Melissa complained and pouted, making us burst into laughter.

"Mel, Fred just moved into your apartment. Are you going to leave him there alone to come live with us?" Virginia was laughing hysterically.

"Maybe I will..." Melissa pondered, making us laugh even harder. "No, actually my prince gives me something you guys don't have."

"And can we know what that is?" Manu asked innocently.

"Some good D, Manu!" Hearing Mel's response, Manu turned red as a ripe tomato, making us burst into laughter.

"Oh girls, only you could pull me out of the pit I was sinking into," I said when I finally stopped laughing.

"See? Friends are the best! And there you were, playing hard to get with us," Tess teased.

"I won't do it again, I promise!" I replied.

"And are you going to forgive that man-whore Henry?" Melissa asked.

"I'm really hurt, Mel. He jumped to conclusions and didn't even give me a chance to explain," I said, looking down at my hands.

"Sarn, we'll spare you from repeating the story because Henry already told us. But let me tell you something, Henry's issue with his father is really heavy. There are things that only Patrick, Alexander, and Rick know about, and I'm telling you, it's really messed up!" Tess made it



clear it was much worse than I had imagined.

"And you won't tell us?" I asked.

"I can't. Please understand. I found out some things by accident, and Rick made me swear not to tell anyone. It's not my secret to tell." Tess was very serious.

"I understand." I sighed.

"Look, Sam, from what I've seen at the office, this Reynold guy completely messes with Henry and Hebe. Maybe, and I'm saying maybe, just this once you could try not to be so hard on that idiot." Melissa was giving Henry a vote of confidence, was that really happening? I hadn't expected that, and it got me thinking.

Maybe Melissa was right. I had seen Henry around his father, I had seen how that man destabilizes Henry and even poor Enzo. But still, he had betrayed me, and I'd been betrayed before.

Being betrayed doesn't just make you lose trust, which is fundamental in a relationship, but it also messes with your ego, your self-esteem, makes you question if you're really good enough and if you're sufficient for the other person.

I was drowning in thoughts, doubts, and feelings again, but I heard a voice that pulled me back to the surface.

"There's a lot to think about, Sam, but right now I really want to know how it went with Michael!" Virginia pulled me from my thoughts.

The room quickly filled with excitement and curiosity about my afternoon outing. I told them every detail and how Michael was gentle and attentive, as well as about our plans to go to the movies the next day.



The girls got excited and animated.

We ended the night watching music videos, laughing, dancing, and singing in front of the TV.



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