

Chapter 34: Closer

Damon's POV

Layla stirred a little in her sleep before fluttering her eyes open, and I turned my head a little to look at her to her lips turning into a smile the second our eyes met. Last night was just magical, but it was more about her, I wanted her to have the best experience she possibly can so that her first time was memorable.

"Good Morning", she tucked her head underneath my chin, cuddling closer to me and I wrapped my arm around her, trailing my fingertips up and down her bare back

"Good Morning my beautiful wife", I planted a kiss on her forehead and she looked up at me. "Did you sleep okay?"

"Like a baby", she laughed so ly. "How bout you?"

"I haven't slept like that in years", I smiled before scooping her in my arms, and she let out a grasp, holding onto the covers tighter around her

"What are you doing?"

"We're going to take a shower together", I got from the bed with her. "Is that a problem?"

"Um," he dropped her eyes for a second, fiddling with her fingers nervously. "I'm just not used to showering with someone, won't it be weird?"

"No", I laughed. "There's so much we can do in there, and I don't think weird is one of them"

"Okay", she wrapped her arm around me and I walked us to the bathroom, pushing the door closed with my foot the minute we got in

"Good"

"We didn't even watch it for 30 minutes though, and I was looking forward to the end", I sulked, and she rolled her eyes a little

"Can we watch something else?"

"No, it's time we got out", I stood up to my feet, putting my hand out to her. "How does a walk on the beach sound?"

"Sounds perfect", she quickly placed in mine and jumped to her feet. "I'll go change"

"No no, no", I stopped her just she was about to turn on her feet to go upstairs. "You're just fine and the sun is setting, so it's about to get chilly outside"

"So what are we waiting for? Let's go", I quickly speed towards the door without warning, making it a competition on whose going to get on the beach first, but I was already not on her tail.

When we got from the long stroll on the beach, Layla was already tired on our way back, and I carried her home, only to see she had already fallen asleep in my arms. Covering her with a warm blanket a er laying her gently on the bed, I laid besides her so that I could look at her. She was so adorable and peaceful when she was sleeping, it was hard not to stare.

It's funny how someone could mean the world to you in just a short period of time. I wanted no harm to come to her because of me, she was far precious to me for anything to happen to her under my watch.

These past few days we've been here proved to me just how much I loved her and wanted to spend the rest of my life with her beside me. She was a now an integrated part of me, and I was not willing to let her go.

My phone vibrated in my pocket and I took it out to receive the call

"Ms Crane is in a safe place, you have nothing to worry about"

"Thank you"

"When are you coming back?"

"Tomorrow, is everything set?"

"Everything is in place"he person said, and I hung up, breathing a sigh of relief when I looked over at Layla again

"Soon, everything will be okay", I kissed her temple. "I promise"

"We're home", I announced the second we got home and Mary came running to engulf Layla in a warm hug while I just got the ordinary, I-kind-of-missed-you-too-but missed-Layla-morhug

"I'm glad you're still in one piece", she held Layla at arms length, examining her and pulled her in again. "Did you two enjoy yourselves?"

Layla and I exchanged looks

"Yes", she smiled at me. "Every minute"

"How was the island?", Mary grasped, looking forward to hearing more details

"It was so beautiful Mary", Layla breathed out as she was reliving the view of the island in her mind. "You should have seen the view, it was breathtaking"

I excused myself to take the bags upstairs so that they could catch up and Harry helped me with the bags

"It's good to have you back, Sir", he smiled when we reached the staircase

"Is this your way of letting me know you missed me?" I joked, and he laughed. "It's good to be back Harry"

"I mean that it's good seeing you happy again", I stopped mid-action a er hearing him say those words, and he walked past me

"Is there something wrong, Sir?"

"No, not at all. It's just what you said", my lips curved up into a smile. "You're right, I am happy"

"It has been a while since I saw you smile and laugh like this", he gave me a gentle pat on the shoulder

"Thank you, Harry"

He looked surprised. "What for?"

"For sticking with me all the time. I know I've been a nightmare throughout the years".

"That you had been", he gave me the side eye. "But I knew we would reach this point"

"What do you mean?"

"Let's just say, I knew your life was going to change when I heard you were getting married to Layla"

"Do you ever watch the news?", she rested her head on my shoulder. She was debating that I was obsessed with work, that I never give myself time to just relax and have fun.

I nodded. "All the time"

"I'm not talking about business news. I mean like actual prime time reality news?", she tilted her head.

"Yeah"

"What was this week's main headline?", she questioned and I thought hard to come up with something

"Erm...uh", it was blank, pitch black dark

She laughed. "My point exactly"

"I'm not obsessed with work, okay?", I deadpanned, and she rolled her eyes

"You don't even know what's going around you", she pointed out, and it wasn't totally the point

"I'm not!", I protested

"Okay then, when is my birthd-",

"12th of April", I quickly answered at her, and she looked clearly impressed and I smirked. "You see, I'm not completely clueless"

"Okay, my favorite colour?", she raised her eyebrow

"At first it was royal blue, but your newest favorite is now navy blue", I carried on reading the newspaper on my tablet

She rolled her eyes. "I asked for a colour, not colours"

"So?", I shrugged. "They are both blue"

"Fine", she hu ed a sigh. "What is my favorite snack?"

"Doritos"

She paused to stare at me, "How do you know all of this?"

"I've been paying attention to everything lately, you know? Actions speak louder than words".

"I can see and I also see what you did there, using my words against me"

"So...", I turned to face her. "What's my favorite color?"

"Grey", she answered confidently

"That was a lucky guess cause most of my clothes are grey", I narrowed my eyes at her, and she smirked. "Okay, what's my favorite snack?"

"You don't have any because they all taste the same"he rolled her eyes

"Impressive. My favorite show?"

"Prime time business news", she joked and I laughed

"No, you're wrong", I was still laughing, and she looked at me

"What?", I asked

"I like your laugh, it's cute", she tilted her head and she smiled at me

"You think so?", I asked amused, and she nodded her head

"If you must know, I don't like it very much

"Why not?"

I shrugged a little. "I don't know, I just don't"

"You're crazy"

"In love with you", I winked and she smiled. "Can I ask you something?"

"Shoot"

"Why don't you ever speak about your mother?", I asked, and she studied me for a second before lowering her eyes

"I don't like opening up old wounds, you know?", she shrugged

"You miss her, don't you?"

"Every day"

"Is that why you were holding her picture to your chest the day we came back?"

"There are just those moments when I wish I could just call her you know and hear her voice one more time. I want to share everything that's happening in my life with her, like how I'm about to be a mother myself. I really miss her", tears stings her eyes and I comforted her by hugging her softly.

"I'm really sorry"

"It's okay", she smiled warmly at me. "Can we go shopping today?"

I frowned. "Again?"

"Yeah"

"Now?"

"Yes, pleaseeeeeee", she begged, grinning widely at me, and I rolled my eyes before standing up to grab my car keys

"Only for an hour max. I have to catch up on work", I put on a warning tone, and she skipped happily towards me before pulling herself to my height

"An hour works for me"

Layla's POV

"Can we go now?", Damon groaned again when I placed another heavy shopping bag on top of the ones he was already holding and tip toed to another rail to check out some new designer dresses. Not really my style but yet again, me! I just wanted to waste his time more, his groans of annoyance were all the satisfaction I needed.

"I'm almost done", I said paging through the dresses, none sparked an interest in me, but I kept an interested face to spite Damon

"You said that 4 hours ago", he rolled his eyes

"I did?", I asked amused as I checked my wrist watch. "Time does fly when you are having fun", I shrugged. But who was I kidding?. It was just pointless torture to spend hours shopping for clothes you were going to wear occasionally. I never had to endure so much when I'm shopping for jeans and T-shirts, an hour max I was done.

"I think I'm done", I said, and he sighed exaggeratedly as he mumbled something like Thank Godr something

"Wait, I feel like I'm forgetting something", I posed to think, and he looked three seconds away from falling flat on his face

"You got to be kidding me Layla. We've been here for more than 4 hours here, and you still forgot something?"

"Um, yeah?", I shrugged not sure what to really say to him. "Heels!", I squealed in excitement and his face turned pale but in my mind I was actually screaming Sneakers, sneakers, sneakers

"You've made your point", he covered his face with his hands. "I'll get someone to get you heels, but now we really need to get going", he said sternly, and I turned around to carry on to walking to the shoe shop, but he turned me around again empty-handed. Where did he put the bundle that was just in his arms a few seconds ago?

"If you don't leave with me right now, I'm going to throw you over my shoulder and carry you out of here", he threatened and I blinked in suprise

"Just one more item, please", I pulled a puppy eye look, and he rolled his eyes

"I became resistant to that look 2 hours ago", he unfolded his arms and took me by the hand. While we were still walking to the sneaker boutique, I stopped in my tracks.

"How did you know I wanted to come here?", I asked and he chuckled

"You hardly ever wear heels Layla", he said, and I shrugged. When I turned one last time to look at our surroundings, a tiny clothing caught my eye and I started walking towards it.

"Layla", Damon followed close behind me. "You said one last thing"

"Shh", I placed my index finger on his lips. "Look at this", I pointed at it through the window and his eyes so ened. It was a grey dotted in black cute little onesie with white italiced writing that read, The Most Eligible Bachelor.

"Isn't it cute?"

"It is but don't you think we've bought him enough onesies already?"

"A baby can never have enough onesies and besides, this one is cute"

"You said that for every little clothing we bought for him"

"I'm buying it", I said putting my foot down, and he smiled, seeming impressed while leaning to kiss my forehead

"I love you"