

## Chapter 27

Laura

"What? What are you talking about? Did Jason find out about my daughter?" I was practically screaming in amazement when, on a group call with Ava and Terence, they told me about Jason's finding out.

"If it's anything to go by, Jason thinks your daughter is a boy and not a girl," said Ava, trying to defuse the situation.

"And besides, he thinks the child is Richard's. He has no idea the child could be his," said Terence, also trying to comfort me.

I sighed, running my hand over my face. "Why did you have to tell him, Terence?"

"I'm sorry, Laura, but Jason caught me off guard. You know I've been keeping your secret all these years, but his question was very direct; it didn't sound like a question at all; it was like he already knew," he explained apologetically. 📄

I looked at the apartment where I was staying and remembered when I was in that elevator with Jason earlier today, and my ex-husband ended up hearing my daughter's voice on the other end of the line.

"You know Terence is a loyal friend, Lau," said Ava, coming to her husband's aid.

"I know, I'm sorry..." I closed my eyes, trying to fix my thoughts. "I think Jason ended up finding out about my child from me; he caught me off guard while I was talking to Anne on the cell phone; he had gotten too close to me and ended up hearing a child's voice before I turned off the cell phone. I tried to lie and say I was talking to Richard, but Jason is very



smart, that idiot." I sighed in exasperation. Furthermore, I was scared of what he might do if he got to know Anne. I didn't want that unbalanced person around my daughter.

"Oh, so that makes sense now," Terence commented.

"I warned you that going to Nemesis wasn't a good idea, sooner or later, Jason would always find out something," Ava said, making me let out a grumbling sound. 1

"God in heaven, I just wanted to have peace!"

"But what do you think Jason might do when he finds out that Anne is his daughter?" Terence asked innocently, still believing that his friend didn't have such a bad heart.

"He can take Anne away from Laura, he has enough money and power to do that," Ava reminded him.

"He might as well make Anne suffer just to make me suffer," I also promptly reminded him.

"Oh, I see. Jason is the bad guy," said Terence, dismayed. 2

"He needs to stay away from my daughter. Let him think I had a child with Richard. I don't know, maybe he'll stay away from me then!" I said it exasperatedly.

"Is that why you lied to Jason and said you were dating Richard?" Terence asked. "Did you make this thing up about dating Richard Carter because you want Jason to stay away?"

"Ugh, Terry. Whose side are you on? You're acting like you're his lawyer! His wife warned him.



"He's my friend," Terence explained.

"So Jason was the one who told you to ask me this? Then tell him that I'm not fake dating Richard, we're truly dating." I answered.

"So it's true, bestie?" Ava asked excitedly.

"Yes, Richard, and I think it's better that way," I replied.

And I wasn't lying. Richard and I had been dating for a few days—since the first day I moved to Manhattan, to be exact. That night, I called him and said I had agreed to be his girlfriend. Richard was kind, friendly, and lively and took great care of Anne and me, and my daughter adored him, he was the ideal father for her, so why not accept his request and officially be his girlfriend? What did I have to lose? What was I waiting for? Richard had been by my side all this time, so dating him seemed like the right thing to do. Besides, if it helped keep Jason away, then I would gladly do it.