

Chapter 30

Laura

I had practically run off the terrace after Jason's speeches. I knew that Jason wasn't going to give up on me, so I had to take some action.

"Hi, kitten. How are you?" I heard Richard's voice on the other end of the line as soon as he answered.

"Hi, Rick. It's so good to hear your voice," I breathed, watching the janitors remove all those stupid flower bouquets from my room.

"Hm, I'm glad I gave you that feeling," he said, and I imagined he would be smiling goofily.

Since we started dating, we only spoke vaguely on the cell phone, and the biggest topic we discussed was Anne since my daughter was with Richard during the days I was in Manhattan for work.

"But I believe you called about some other matter," he guessed.

"It's just that today is Friday. Could you come and pick me up here at Nemesis at the end of the day so we can go home together?" I asked and heard silence coming from the other end of the line, he was thinking about it. I could very well drive my car to Staten Island or even take a taxi if I didn't want to drive, but asking him for that meant I missed him and that I was sending it through his company, which was a huge step forward for our dating, as he was dating in name rather than dating the truth.

Richard was surprised by this turn of events, I was practically asking him out on a date. "Um... That would be good," he said, having to clear his throat first. "But you know, I'm going to pick Anne up from daycare in

the afternoon."

"You can bring her with you."

"Really? What if that asshole Jason Davies sees her?" He asked worriedly.

"He already knows I have a child, but he thinks the child is yours biologically," I told him, returning to sit in my chair facing the computer. The janitors had already removed all the rose bouquets that Jason had ordered to be placed in my office, but even so, I could still smell the sweet smell of roses. 1

"I want you back, Laura. I'll do anything to make you accept me again." I remembered his words on the terrace when he had knelt in front of me and begged me to come back with him... Furthermore, I had to do something to keep him away, otherwise, I'm sure that at any moment I would give in. I was sure that at any moment I would say yes to him and throw myself into his arms, doing what I wanted so much. So I had to stop myself from doing that at all costs. I had to be able to get rid of him. 1

"That's good news, at least this way that asshole won't mess with Anne," Richard said with a relieved laugh.

"Yeah. So are you coming?" I put on a cute voice to try to convince him to accept. This could be very unfair to Richard, but I needed to do something. 2

When it was time to leave, Jason walked by my office. He had taken off his jacket and was holding it on his forearm. He was left with a simple, light blue dress shirt that somehow matched his black hair and blue eyes. Jason was so handsome that I sometimes found myself admiring him, like now.



He smiled at me, noticing my gaze on him. "Hello, my sweetie. You must be hungry. Come have dinner with me?" He invited me, and I had to bite my lip not to accept because my whole being wanted to accept, damn it!

"My boyfriend is picking me up today. We're going to dinner as a family," I replied, finishing packing my bag.

"What?" Jason was no longer smiling. I ignored him, grabbing my bag and leaving the room, but he grabbed me by the elbow before I left the room. His gaze was on me, and his face was inches away from mine. "Why are you doing this to me?"

"Let me go." I broke away from him and left my office once and for all.

Richard had already told me that he was already at the Nemesis facility waiting for me, and as I walked, I could see that Jason was coming behind me.

"Laura, wait!" He called me, but I kept moving further away until I arrived at the reception, where Richard was waiting for me, talking to Orlando and some other people. That moment was perfect to get Jason to stay away from me once and for all.

"Hi Lau," Richard said, greeting me, but I didn't respond. I just walked up to him and kissed him in front of everyone, aware with all my senses that Jason Davies was behind me watching the scene. The people who were there, watching the scene live, gasped in surprise. But wasn't it that same morning that they had all participated in Jason Davies' declaration of love to me, and now I was kissing someone else? They might have been thinking, but I didn't care, I just kissed Richard with my target in sight.

"What the hell is that?" I heard Jason's voice behind me, he sounded upset. "This is a respectable company, not a fucking motel!" He shouted, making Richard break the kiss and look at him.



"Is there a problem, Jason Davies? I can't kiss my girlfriend anymore after being away from her for practically a week?" He had one possessive arm over me. 1

"Yes, there is a problem, you miserable bastard. This company here is fucking mine, I'm the one who sets the rules here!" Jason was practically screaming, his face turning red with anger.

"Your office hours are over, aren't they, my love?" Richard asked me, and I nodded.

"Yes, it's over." Richard held my hand.

"So we can go now, right?"

"Right!" Richard was already leading me away when he was roughly pushed by Jason's shoulders. "Argh! Richard!" I screamed, scared. And before Richard could recover, Jason landed a solid punch to his face, which sent him sprawling onto one of the nearby tables.

A chorus of astonishment was heard from the spectators. Richard had a trickle of blood at the end of his mouth. "You want to dare me, motherfucker?" Jason screamed and attacked Richard again, throwing more violent punches at him.

"No! Stop it, please!" I screamed, trying to make him stop. I pulled Jason by his shirt and his pants belt, trying to get him off Richard. Likewise, I wanted Jason to be angry, but I wasn't going to want Jason to almost kill Richard with punches. Security had to come and help me because Jason was wild, he was still swearing at Richard horribly. "Just stop it, Jason! Look what you're doing. Don't you know the limits?" I was holding him by his chest. 2

"You kissed him in front of me, damn it!" He screamed at me, and I could



feel his pain beneath the anger.

"Yes, so you realize that you're wasting your time with your stupid plan of trying to get back together with me. I will never come back to you, Jason. Never!" I said it firmly, looking at him and seeing his hopes shatter. "Just get away from me! Leave me alone!"

So I walked away from him and went to Richard, who had a bruised face. I supported him, and we left that place.

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