

Chapter 16

"Really, oh my God?!!!" Lara burst into a peal of laughter.

Victoria shook her head in disbelief, refilling her glass cup with some white wine.

The duo were in their night dresses, lying on the couch in the living room.

"Just when I thought you were the boring one? Damn girl, you've got lots of juicy stuff going on around you?"

"You call this juicy? Stop pulling my legs, Lara."

"Babe, I'm not. I'm just so glad I forced you to go on the date."

"So what did you say next to Ashton after he confessed that he was ready to fight for you?"

"I was speechless. I didn't know what to say or what to do. At some point, I thought he was joking, but the look on his face told me otherwise."

"You see, that's the reason I promised myself that I'm not going to go on dates anymore."

"No..don't say that. Don't try to blame yourself for anything. Ashton knows what he sees in you and that is why he is not letting you go."

"Honey, you're smart, beautiful, independent, successful, a wonderful mother and you have a really adorable daughter.

Tell me what's there not to like about you?"

Vicky took a few sips from her glass. "I'm just being me. After what that bastard and his family made me go through, I made myself a promise to be a better human and most importantly, the best mom to my daughter. That passion has driven me to where I am today. I had no idea anyone would even be interested in a single mother. Not that I'm ready to date though."

"Don't sell yourself short just because you have a daughter. Whoever is going to love you will realize your worth."

"I'm just not interested."

"You should. No one is bound to be alone."

"I'm not alone. I've got Sophie."

"I know you've got Sophie and she's going to be yours forever. No one is going to take her away from you."

"Deep down, I know you still miss a man's warmth."

"Uhhh Lara, please!" She groaned.

"I'm always so exhausted that I hardly have time to even think of that."

"Liar!" Lara shot her a playful glare.

"Fine! Maybe a little, but it doesn't matter right?!"

"So, you are going to give Ashton a chance?"

"You all are getting it all wrong. That's why I didn't want to go on a date with him."

"From what I might have heard, I think he's a good guy. So you are going to give up on him like that?"

"You're beginning to behave like Ashton. He made it clear that he understands that I'm not ready for any form of relationship and politely asked for a friendly dinner which I eventually gave in to due to so much pressure from all ends."

"And now I can't believe he left me uncomfortable in the end."

Lara smiled sweetly, definitely enjoying the whole conversation.

"I would be lying to myself if I didn't see the seriousness in his eyes as he spoke about wanting it. He's not shy about it and he's ready to do anything. I feel I just set myself up for what I can't handle."

"He said he's going to respect my wishes for now for wanting to be just friends with him but he's not going to stop trying to woo me. Apparently, Oscar's weird behavior just brought out the beast in him."

"So what do you think about that?"

"I don't know. I really don't know. I just hope I haven't brought doom upon myself."

"What do you mean? You don't trust him?"

"Not that. I really haven't paid much attention to Ashton but he's a good guy. My instincts just tells me that. I honestly have no idea how he intends to achieve his goal because I only see him as a colleague and a friend. Apart from that, I don't feel anything for him."

"Anything like?" Lara asked with creased eyebrows.

Vicky didn't say anything.

"Your heart is still healing and I feel like no matter how hard other people try to win you over, it might be fruitless because you've totally shut your mind out of love."

"You're a sweet being, Vicky, and my wish for you is to find a man that will love you so much beyond words and take great care of you."

"I'm glad you went on the date. I'm not happy with the part of Oscar ruining everything, but I'm grateful to know that Ashton stood up for you against him."

"I agree with Ashton about Oscar being jealous. Because that can only be the legit reason for him being mad at you for being with a man after all that he had put you through."

"He's an asshole and I'm glad he's got some competition. Someone as fierce as Ashton."

"There's no way they are going to take my single status away from me. Most especially that asshole, Oscar."

"Since he knows about Sophie already, do you think he's

going to try something funny?"

"I don't know and I don't really care. I'm glad I have you, my brother, and the securities. All I know is that I'm going to keep my daughter away from him and protect her with my life.

"I love your zeal. But at this point, I wouldn't be surprised if all he's doing is just a means for him to crawl back into your life."

"For him to be so confused and overreacting, he's probably a dumbass that doesn't have the right approach towards love."

"I honestly don't care!"

"But wait, you mentioned him saying at the cafe that you both needed to talk. Are you not interested in hearing his side of the story?"

"Never! He's not even worthy of being in my presence. I mean, what better reasons would he have for treating me so inhumanely while I was pregnant with his child?"



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