

Chapter 72

"I asked you for a favor and you chose to take advantage. There is no need to be offended. You had every right to help me or not and you chose not to. I can't stay mad at you for your choice."

"I am not going to believe that. I know you are pissed at me."

"I can't kill you just because you didn't see the need to help me."

"By the way, I am glad you didn't help me."

"I don't like the sound of that. I am not happy with myself and I think that is enough hurt for me."

"And how is it my fault that you feel guilty with yourself?" Vicky stared at him intently.

Ashton sighed. "I already spoke to Philip. I told him something came up for you and that I don't mind volunteering myself."

"He declined that he wanted you to be there. And since you are not feeling too well, he has agreed to shift the date to a time when you will be fully recovered."

"I told him I don't mind going along with you and he said I should discuss it with you. I think we are going to be a really good team."

Vicky chuckled in disbelief. "You want to come with me to California? Why?"

"Wouldn't you need an extra hand?"

"And when did you start caring so much to know if I would need an extra hand or not?"

"Haven't you been an advocate for teamwork?"

"I am not denying that but if I would go with anyone, then I would prefer Doris over you."

"I am not trying to be a bully, but you know deep down that I am better than Doris."

"I would still pick Doris over you."

"You are not being fair."

"Is this about you being really concerned about me or you are just being threatened that I am going to be in the same city with Oscar?"

"I didn't play my cards right and now I am going to lose you to him."

"I see. I knew this couldn't just be about me alone."

"Let me come with you, please."

"I don't think I would be going with anyone and even if I would, it can't be you."

"Why? You are afraid I am going to make you fall in love with me?"

"If it were that easy, you and I would probably be engaged by now."

"So our love story is over?"

"There was never one, Ash. And please do not try to guilt trip me."

"Even though I lost trust in you from yesterday, I still don't feel evil towards you."

"Then if you are certain about that, give me a chance. I am great with Sophie so we don't have issues."

"I have work to do, Ash," Vicky said, turning her attention back to her laptop.

"I have never met a woman as difficult as you."

"I see! No doubt you would have preferred me to lead you on even if I genuinely feel nothing for you."

"You do?"

"Oh really?"

"Yes, you have little feelings for me and that is why you are pushing me away."

"It is amazing how you know my heart better than me."

"Look, I know I acted shitty to you yesterday and I am sorry. I don't feel guilty about it but I am sorry. If getting selfish is what I need to do to get you to like me, then I would do it. I like you so much that the thought of You being with another man drives me crazy."

"You have rejected me so many times, and I promise you that I would have moved on if it were that busy."

"Bugging people is no fun for me but I have to do everything I can to make sure you know how I feel."

"Just think about it. I would be more than happy to come along with you."

"I am not going to put your hopes up for nothing. There is no way I am going to recommend you to come with me. Please take your leave. I have so much work to catch up with," Vicky said, after which she turned her attention back to the laptop on her desk.

Ashton mumbled some incoherent words before he stormed out of Victoria's office.

The moment he was away, Victoria continued to work till evening. Then a knock came through on her door, revealing her Boss, Philip, who strolled in with his hands in his pants pocket.

"I was on my way home so I thought I would stop by and discuss a few things with you."

"Hi, Philip." Vicky greeted him with a polite smile.

"How is your body now?" He asked, taking his seat.

"Very well, thank you."

"Ashton met me earlier, volunteering to go for the trip but I made him know that we need your presence over there and since you suggested him yesterday, maybe he could be your plus one."

"No." She answered immediately.

"Sorry, what I mean is that, "There would be no need for that. And even if I want to take someone along with me, then it would be Doris so Ashton can stay back here and put things under control."

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"Anything you feel is right dear. You know I trust your decision. So I knew I needed to hear from you first."

"And before I forget, I had a conversation with your brother earlier and he said very disturbing things."

Vicky mentally facepalmed. "What did he say?"

"About you not going to California or else he would be resigning as part of the board."

"Please don't pay him any attention, I am sure he didn't mean it. He was probably just concerned about my health. But I am fine now. My Doctor said I am fit to travel so the weekend as previously planned works well for me."

"If you insist. Because I was surprised at everything he said too."

"And as for the timeframe, I already placed a call to some of the people that you would meet over there and rescheduled for two to three weeks."

Victoria's heart fell. "Can you put a call to them and let them know that this weekend is perfectly fine? I mean if it is not too late and we are sorry for any inconvenience." She said in a pleading tone, not sure if she could wait that long time to see Oscar.

"That is not a problem. I will reach out to them and let you know by Tomorrow."

"Thank you!"

"I will take my leave now. Have a good night's rest, and my regards to your daughter." Philip said, standing to his feet.

"Sure and you too."



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