

"Valery eat your nuggets"

After getting food, he drove up to a park and dragged me on a mini hike until we got to a lake, for some odd reason had a picnic blanket in the back of his truck that brought with him, that he set up for us near the end of the lake, if I wasn't fuming I would've been happy enjoying the view and taking in the fresh air, maybe even going for a swim, but instead I am here sitting holding my ground, not making eye contact and protesting against this brute who probably cause another gossip story, but that was the least of concerns

"No" I protested, trying to keep my eyes from wandering towards him
"Not until you tell me why you did that little stunt of yours"

"Not until you eat"

"Why must you be so stubborn"

"I could say the same thing about you" he said just as sternly "you haven't eaten the entire day and yet you insist to cross your arms pouting like a child"

"Oh I am a child?" I practically shouted back at him "you humiliated us in front of everyone in the building and if you think I'm gonna listen to you without you giving me an explanation, you have got another thing coming"

"You le without breakfast and me, we are supposed to be partners Val"

I glared back at him, was this whole thing because I le without food? I knew I should've le something for him to eat, but I just assumed he wouldn't even notice "You humiliated us because I didn't cook you breakfast"

"No of course not, your not my maid, that's not my point-" he began to say but bite his lip as he rubbed the back of his head, I was losing my patience

"Then what is your point"

he let out a sigh his eyes soening "You didn't eat, which is why you need to eat now, please and then we will talk"

my heart fluttered at his words, he cared about me? of course he does as partner only need to stop jumping to conclusions I'm setting myself up for heartbreak

but still his words did so en me, I decided not to fight him anymore, giving in and began eating, to be honest I was quite hungry, but I didn't need to tell him that he was right

"why did you leave me" he begins as I finished my food

"what?" I reply startled by the question

"you le without me earlier"

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There was something in his eyes that glimmer of sadness that pulled at my heart strings

"I wanted to get to the site early, get some ideas, and maybe even some work done"

"we're supposed to be partners Val"

"We are Lucas, its just-" I began, but closed my mouth stopping myself from continuing

"go on"

but I couldn't bring myself to tell him, I didn't want to dump my thoughts on him, I am supposed to be professional

"we're partners remember and that includes listening to rants" he adds noticing my hesitation "I can see something is bothering you, are you not enjoying your stay? are you unhappy with this project?"

"I am enjoying and I am happy that I got this project but this is a business trip, and our little work date reached to Paris" you mean homemy subconscious chimed in "I felt like I was disappointing Tanner, Dmitri and you"

"Me?"

"Yes including you, you all put your trust in me and I don't want this, my biggest interior project yet ended as a fail all because I couldn't focus"

"Why are you having trouble focusing"

yes because every time I am with you I somehow forget I am here on business, is what I wanted to say, but that would complicate things, he clearly sees me as a partner and I couldn't ruin the friendship we are building over my confused emotions, but I couldn't just lie to him "Too many ideas, concepts, requests, and so little time" which wasn't a complete lie, I was scared I wouldn't not design anything memorable

"You underestimate yourself, you have a passion for this in your eyes, don't doubt yourself, I've seen your portfolio its quite impressive, and I've also seen then way you look at art, you become completely entranced by it which is why we all know you are perfect for this project"

I suddenly felt a little bit more confident and at ease, his words really felt comforting, he really is a good boss, the way he comforts his employees

"thank you Lucas it really means a lot"

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"no need to say thanks, I'm just giving you the credit you deserve and fail to see" he says so ly, as his hand cupped my cheek, his eyes traveling down to my dry lips, which I unconsciously licked, my eyes not leaving his, I couldn't bring myself to pull away, unsure what was happening and what was to happen next

I couldn't help but feel disappointed as he pulled back, putting some distance between us, clearing his throat "I'm glad that we are partners on this project"

partners though it was what we are, I don't know why I feel such a distaste for that word

I covered a frown that was threatening to appear on my face with a bright wide smile, so wide I felt as though it'd ripe my cheeks "I feel the same way" my eyes not meeting his, I couldn't let things be awkward we are building a good partnership, and I am just confusing myself, I decided to tease him in order to distract my thoughts "I know your my boss but the way you acted was unprofessional, you embarrassed the both of us" I laugh out, but my laughter died when I noticed only I was laughing

something in his eyes flashed, his jaw tighten before saying "Us? or you in front of that guy you were flirting with" his usually humorous tone was gone, and I couldn't help but feel as though he was assuming I was using my work time to flirt with coworkers

"You mean Matt?" I asked trying to keep my anger at bay, I shouldn't jump to conclusions, I'll just explain "He is your head of the interior sector and was helping me find my way around so I could get some work done"

"Not on this project, we decided since your taking over design I would take over, that's why we are partners or did you forget that"

"No Lucas I did not, are you telling me I am not allowed to ask for help from other people?"

"You are but just not from him, or any guys on the site"

"That is ridiculous" I practically snapped at him, I could not believe he was saying something like that "care to explain why"

"just please for once Val, listen to me"

My patience again was running thin, how can he expect me to listen to him like he is a general and I am soldier, he said it himself we are partners

"Not unless you give me an explanation so that I can understand"

"Is it that hard to understand I don't want you asking help from them, I'm your partner ask me for help"

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"You say we are partners and yet you treat me like I am below you"

"You're more than just a partner, I didn't mean it like that Val, your blowing this out of proportion"

"A partnership does not include one person giving orders, and the other expected to follow, I explained why I le , and yet you can't explain to me your reason, and yet you expect me to understand you"

His eyes didn't meet mine, I let out a sigh, standing up from my place "If you don't wanna talk fine, I'm leaving" "Clearly I am not a partner to you"

before I could walk o , he grabbed my hand, pulling me back his hand laced around my waist, my eye widen as tingles shot up through my body, the act took me by surprise, I felt frozen unable to move as we stared at one another, my heartbeat sped up as I tried to read his unreadable eyes, what does he want?

"your more than just a partner to me" he says before pressing his lips onto mine, I didn't hesitate to kiss him back, it wasn't a rough fast kiss, it was so , slow, and sensual, my arms wrapped around the back of his neck pulling him closer, as the kiss got heated I didn't want this to end

"How well do you say, can you protect yourself love?"

"See love you can't even protect yourself from me a harmless person, what about a hostile one?"

his words at the airport echoed in my mind snapping me back to a bitter reality

He is toying with me and my emotions.

My heart clenched at the realization, I pushed him o me, slapping him when he looked at me with furrowed brows, how dare he act clueless, when he knows exactly what he is doing, I could feel tears brimming my eyes "My emotions are not a toy for you to play with" I snap at him turning on my heel breaking back my tears I am a strong woman I will not let another man break and use me again

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"No love, you got it all wrong" he rushed out trying to pull me back into his arms

"then please do explain" my eyes practically begging him to end my suffering, to tell me what is going on, why did he kiss me, everything, I had so many questions and he hasn't even answered my first one

"it's complicated" is all he said before looking down, I winced at his reply, as a shock of hurt and anger took over me

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"you are a"" I say as calmly as I could, but my anger was getting the best of me, his hands reached towards me again as if trying to cup my face, I didn't give him a chance, I harshly pushed him into the lake, before turning on my heel to head back, at least by pushing him back I bought myself time to put some distance between us

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"Val, you can't walk home" I hear him shout to me

"watch me" I retort, not daring to look back at him, though I wasn't planning on it, I was just gonna walk until I could catch a bus, or a cab

"Valery please don't leave me, I'm sorry, I-"

I shook my head blocking out his voice, I kept my eyes start speeding up my steps

I wanted to be alone.

HEY GUYSSSS HERE'S THE NEW UPDATE HOPE YOU LIKE IT AND I ALSO WANNA ANNOUNCE I GOT A TWITTER SO IF ANYOF U GUYS WANNA BE FRIENDS? CAUSE I AM LONELY AHAAHAHA

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