

# The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 31

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Chapter 31

Gerard's chicken soup helped Luz a lot, as did Charlize's pampering and being able to get up late the next day, but what didn't go away was the morning sickness. two

I already had a week with that discomfort and I was bored of feeling like this.

It's Friday and today she has to go home, later she will call Rafael to pick her up, for now she has to go down to breakfast with her little princess.

He goes to her room for her, as he does every day, does the hairstyle she asks for and they go downstairs together smiling. Below is Gerard talking on the phone, with a cup of coffee, he sees the girls almost reaching the end and smiles. But the one who doesn't smile at all is Luz, who when she smells the coffee, she has to run to the guest bathroom.

-Light! Evangeline, stay with my daughter, please.

He runs after her and bangs on her door to let him in, he hears the typical sounds of a person throwing up, he puts his fingers to the bridge of his nose because he knew something was wrong with her.

As soon as he feels the lock click, he goes in to help Luz, who can no longer bear the weakness of her body and faints.

-Shit... Light – he whispers while holding her tightly -. Light!

But she doesn't react, so she goes out and revolutionizes everyone. -|Little light! – screams Charlize crying – What's wrong daddy? -I do not know! Evangeline, you will take charge of Charlize for the rest of the day, of nothing else. It doesn't matter what my mother or Darcy say, you are only responsible for her- Luz is accommodated in her arms and George appears, after he felt so much scandal-. George, to the car!

The man doesn't expect an explanation, he walks quickly opening the doors and running to the car, Gerard is right behind him. Once inside, Gerard *sits* in the back seat and Luz begins to react.

– Don..

– We're in the car, on the way to the hospital.

-No... it's not necessary – she says trying to move, but Gerard keeps her close to his body -.

-Yes it is, all these days you told me you were fine and I believed you, even though I didn't see you like that.

– Please, I don't want... I don't want to cause any trouble.

-Well, but you caused me a scare of those who do not forget, so there is nothing more to say.

Gerard's voice comes out harsher than he wants it to, Luz shrugs into silence, while George doesn't slow down for a moment, until he drives her to the hospital.

Gerard is not surprised that they are waiting for them, because George is capable of that and more. But, although the doctor offers him a wheelchair, Gerard refuses to give it up and asks the doctor to tell him where to take it.

– He'll get a hump from carrying me so much – Luz tells him with a weak smile -.

– I don't care, you're worth it.

They enter a cubicle where he finally separates from her to be checked, a nurse tells him to wait outside.

-I will not leave...

– He leaves or I send him out... from the hospital – the older woman tells him with a very "sweet" voice -,

He has no choice, he goes out to wait in a room, takes out his phone and calls Dan.

-Brother, are *you* on your way to success?

-I think that for today you will have to play alone. I'm in the hospital with Luz.

– Did something happen to him? – Dan tells him putting his foot on the accelerator –

-Ha estado enferma desde hace una semana y se quedó callada, hoy se desmayó, la vi muy débil.

-Mujeres – dice Dan, recordando a una en particular, dedicándole pensamientos no muy lindos -, *Mantenme informado, si necesitas cualquier cosa hermano, estoy para ti.*

-Gracias... no sabía que te preocuparas tanto por Luz – le dice con celos -.

-Me preocupo por ti y sé lo importante que es esa chica para ti, así que sí, me preocupa.

-Gracias.

Terminan de ponerse de acuerdo con asuntos de la oficina y cortan la llamada, al momento que la enfermera "dulce" le dice que pasaron a Luz a una sala privada.

Camina guiado por la enfermera que, si no se le molesta, es mucho más amable. Le indica la puerta de Luz y al entrar la ve acostada, mirando por la ventana y con un suero conectado al brazo.

-Lucecita – le dice en un susurro, porque si antes no se había dado cuenta de lo joven que era, ahora era más que claro –

Por el carácter de Luz siempre se le olvida que apenas ha cumplido la mayoría de edad, pero con la bata de hospital, las ojeras y sus labios deshidratados, se ve como si tuviera quince años.

-Gracias por esto – le dice ella con una sonrisa -. El doctor me encontró muy deshidratada.

-¿Quieres que llame a alguien?

– Ya le avisé a Rafael y a mis padres, pero creo que debería llamar a la casa, la pequeña princesa estará muy preocupada.

-Sí, lo haré en seguida, estaré afuera, así que solo dame unos minutos.

Ella asiente y cierra los ojos, suspira con pesar, porque el deber del doctor es preguntar, y le ha hecho varias preguntas, pero una de ellas la ha dejado muy asustada.

Trata de respirar con calma, para bloquear esos pensamientos que la invaden y quieren salir de ella en forma de lágrimas.

Mientras, afuera, Gerard le dice a su hija que su Lucecita estará bien y muy pronto en casa. Aunque no tiene idea si eso será posible.

Entra otra vez a la sala y la ve con los ojos cerrados, no dice nada para no molestarla, así que se sienta en una silla junto a la cama y le toma la mano.

– Estás congelada, ¿tienes frío? – le dice, tratando de darle calor –

-Sí, pero viene desde dentro, nadie puede hacer nada por mí – le dice ella con tanta tristeza -.

A Gerard se le encoge el corazón, porque nunca la vio dejarse abatir por nada, ni siquiera por las palabras de Darcy. La observa detalladamente y se da cuenta que en su corazón hay un sufrimiento del que él no sabe.

Cuando va a darle palabras de ánimo, aparece el doctor con unas hojas en la mano.  
-Señorita Méndez, hemos descartado un virus estomacal – Gerard sonríe y agradece al cielo porque no sea nada grave –

-¿Yya sabe lo que tiene? – le pregunta Gerard más tranquilo, que solo quiere llevársela de allí —

-Claro, la señorita está embarazada – ambos abren los ojos y se quedan mirando al doctor con sorpresa -. Aproximadamente seis semanas, según lo que ella me dijo acerca de su periodo, pero es algo que podremos corroborar con un ultrasonido más adelante.

-¿Embarazada? – pregunta Gerard sintiendo que todo su mundo se vuelve un caos – 1

Luz cierra los ojos, mientras las lágrimas caen como si fuera una lluvia de invierno, se lleva las manos a la boca para ahogar los sollozos y el doctor entiende que algo no anda bien allí, así que se retira pidiendo a Gerard que lo busque cuando ellos terminen de hablar.

-Luz...

-¡No puede ser! No puedo estar embarazada... ¡No! No, no... por favor... no... Su voz se apaga y Gerard se sube a la camilla, la rodea con sus brazos y la mece lentamente para brindarle consuelo.

-No es tan malo, Luz... serás una madre excelente, seguro Rafael estará feliz.

-¡No! Nadie estará feliz... no lo quiero, no puedo... no...

Pero nuevamente se desvanece en los brazos de Gerard, quien aprieta el botón de emergencias y la enfermera aparece.

-Se desmayó, no le gustó la noticia de que está embarazada. -¿Usted es el padre?

-Hopefully – she says sincerely to the nurse and Luz, in the cloud of her unconsciousness manages to hear Gerard's words -. Because if it were mine, that baby would already be the most loved in the world.

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Little by little Luz begins to open her eyes, her gaze is lost at a point where she doesn't meet Gerard's disappointed eyes.

Just when he was starting to give just a little bit, this hits him like a bucket of cold water. But it's certainly not the worst, because the day will come when she asks him who her father is and she won't be able to tell anything but the truth...

He doesn't have the faintest idea.

-It's better now, it's just the shock of the news – the nurse leaves and they're alone again -.

-Don't you love your son, Luz? – She doesn't answer, she just closes her eyes and lets the tears fall – *Do you* feel that it is an impediment to meet your goals? -she nods, because it's partly because of that -.No, precious, it's not like that...-he approaches her and takes her hands, without taking his eyes off her expression of deep pain-. Light, children are usually the best impulse for parents.

– And *why* did you leave Charlize alone for so long? -At any other time, that question could have been a slap in the face for Gerard, but now it's not about him, but about Little Light-her.

-What I did to my daughter is unforgivable, I thought I was justified, but neither is it. You are different, you are strong, a woman who knows what she wants...

-Woman... I'm only eighteen years old! I had my life ahead of me, but now... now I have nothing left, this is the last thing I needed.

-Luz, you're not alone – look at her fine fingers between her strong hands -. But if you think you can't have that baby, there's always adoption or... or abortion.

Those words bring Luz down to earth, they make her put everything in perspective and she realizes that it is not as simple as saying that she does not love that child.

Adoption ?Yes, why not? Leave her the burden that she didn't want because she will never be able to see her child without thinking about the way he was conceived.

But abortion...

Those are big words. She has the firm conviction that the being she has in her womb is a full-fledged human being, unless it was an alien who outraged her and, from what little she remembers, it was quite human, at least the body, because the behavior was that of a monster.

"I think... I think you're right," she says more calmly.

– *Will you* have an abortion? – Gerard asks scared –

-No, but I have several months ahead to find out if I will give it up for adoption.

- I promise you that you are not alone, your family... his father, I think he should also have an opinion, or do you think so?

She just nods, because she can't tell him how it was conceived, that would lead to one question after another and she doesn't want to relive any of it, she has had enough with the nightmares.

-If you're better, I'll call the doctor so he can finish giving us the instructions.

-That's fine thanks.

Gerard leaves to find the doctor, feeling that he needs to talk to Rafael. Something tells him that Luz is

so because he is not committed enough. He sees the doctor and tells him that Luz is calmer now.

-Nervous about being a father? – he asks curiously –

- I already have a girl and, unfortunately, that baby is not mine, otherwise she would have sent me to the hospital due to excess of emotion.

The doctor laughs, but it is so, very true. Gerard feels excited about that baby like that, it would be a thousand times worse if he knew the truth.

When they get to the room, Luz sits on the bed and the doctor smiles at her kindly.

-Bueno, te daremos el alta en cuanto se termine el suero. Te irás a casa con indicaciones de absoluto reposo por tres días. En cuanto a los mareos y vómitos, vienen con el bebé así que me temo que deberás tener paciencia por los próximos dos meses.

"Te dejaré unas vitaminas, bebe mucha agua, ejercicio moderado y sobre todo, mucha tranquilidad – . firma un papel y se lo entrega a Gerard -. Esa es la receta del ácido fólico, todos los días, una píldora diaria, sin falta.

-¿Para qué es eso, doctor? – pregunta preocupada, porque no quiere tomar nada que le haga daño al bebé –

-Es para ayudarlo en su formación, en dos semanas debes sacar una cita para un ultrasonido – se acerca a ella y le toma la mano -. Aprovecha este tiempo, deja que te mimen, que te ayuden y luego ya verás. Cuídate, niña.

El hombre sale de allí, Gerard se queda viendo la bolsita del suero y luego se sienta a su lado, ella no quiere mirarlo, pero es inevitable, quiere saber si Gerard está molesto, decepcionado...

-Señor Finnick – dice al fin -. Creo que lo mejor será que busque a alguien más para que se haga cargo de Charlize... yo no soy un buen ejemplo y entiendo si no quiere seguir contando conmigo.

– Luz, el que vayas a ser madre soltera no te hace un mal ejemplo. Mi hija te ama y estoy seguro que tú también a ella, no me las imagino separadas – “no me imagino separado de ti”, los pensamientos de Gerard apuntan a adoptar a ese bebé si es necesario –

“Veamos qué pasa, si por tu salud no puedes llevar el ritmo de Charlize, pediré mis vacaciones y me haré cargo de ella, ya elegí una escuela y comenzará el lunes. Así que tendrás mucho tiempo para descansar. No nos dejes, por favor, mi hija te necesita... yo te necesito.

Esas palabras le rompen el corazón a Luz, porque en la remota posibilidad de tener algo con Gerard, aunque fuese un beso, ahora se ha instalado un muro entre los dos.

-Ya no llores, mi Lucecita, piensa que ese bebé estará feliz de llegar al mundo, pero será mejor si comienza a sentir esa felicidad desde ahora.

-¡Luz! – la voz de Rafael los saca de su burbuja –

e acerca a

1.

El chico se acerca a ella y le besa la frente, la toma por las mejillas para verla y niega con la cabeza. -Te dije, esta semana debiste quedarte en casa – se vuelve a Gerard, que no ha soltado su mano y le frunce el ceño -. Gracias por cuidar de ella.

-¿Podemos hablar fuera?

-Claro – le dice el chico y Luz siente pánico –

-¿De qué hablará con él?

-Solo lo que puedo decirle, lo demás es tu asunto y en eso no me puedo meter – ella asiente, pero no se queda tranquila –

Los hombres salen, Gerard cierra la puerta y camina un poco para alejarse de allí, Rafael lo sigue y luego se aclara la garganta. -Usted dirá.

-Mira, sé que eres joven, debes tener que, ¿veintiséis?

-Veintidos años, señor... pero no entiendo a que se debe su preocupación por mi edad.

-Mira, no soy nadie para meterme en las relaciones de los demás, pero te pido... no, te exijo, cuídala. Ella ahora necesita mucho apoyo y quiero que se lo des como corresponde.

-Bueno, tiene razón, no tiene derecho a meterse en las relaciones de los demás, lo que hay entre Luz y yo no le interesa a nadie, ella es mi mundo y nunca la dejaré sola, ni aunque ella misma me lo pidiera. -Está bien saberlo. -¿Por qué me dice todo esto? ¿Tiene algún interés en Luz? -Sí, el que tengo por las personas que quiero. Ella es importante para mí y para mi hija, ahora iré por un café, entra y habla con ella, solo espero que cumplas tu palabra y no la dejes sola. Gerard se mete las manos a los bolsillos y baja a la cafetería, por la misma calle hay una farmacia, así que decide que irá por la receta para Luz.

The air of the street suits him well next to the espresso. Back at the hospital, he sees a toy store and decides to stop by to buy something for that baby, who for some reason feels the need to protect him and give him everything a child needs. He chooses a hypoallergenic stuffed animal and goes on his way. He only hopes that Luz likes the detail

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As soon as Rafael enters the room, Luz begins to cry and extends her arms to him, he does not think twice.

- My girl, what's up? -she says, pressing her cheek against the girl's head-

- Rafael... the only thing I needed... - she tells him sobbing -, I'm pregnant.

Rafael's whole body tenses, but not because she is pregnant, but because of the memory of how that happened.

-Now, now... don't cry, that's not good for your baby, because I guess you'll have it, I can't imagine Luz Méndez...

-Yes, but I'm thinking of giving him up for adoption. I don't know, I have to think about it very well.

-Well, you have several months to think about it - he moves away from her and wipes her tears with his thumbs.

-I think so.

-Can you go home?

-Yes, as soon as the serum is finished.

- Well, I'll take you - Rafael takes a seat and stares at her -. Will you tell your parents?



– Of course, a pregnancy is not something to hide. Today – in this there is full determination, because if Gerard and Rafael are already willing to help her, then she can feel brave –

I'll wait for their reaction.

-Thanks.

That was much better for Luz, because she knew that it would not be something that they would like to hear. Her father is very traditional in some things and pregnancy out of wedlock is not something he tolerates.

He also has to call his brother, because if he is going to lose his entire family to that baby, that defenseless creature, it had better be at once.

"A defenseless creature, that is."

He could well have prevented her arrival, if he had listened to Rafael. If she had gone to a hospital, they would have given her something to prevent the rape from having consequences. But the fear and stubbornness of the moment blinded her.

No. It wasn't that baby's fault.

The nurse comes in to check the bag and tells him that he can go now, he takes Rafael out of the room to help Luz change.

When the boy leaves the room, he finds Gerard with a bouquet of flowers, a stuffed animal and a pharmacy bag. He sits next to him, so the two of them end up looking at that closed door.

– For her? – Rafael tells him pointing to the bag –

Yes, they are vitamins that you must take daily, so that your baby forms well in the tummy.

The belly... it's going to look beautiful in a few months.

– Still I feel that his youth is being stolen – Gerard tells him unceremoniously –

Sure, but sometimes other people's decisions have consequences, that's how babies come into the world, *is n't* it?

– Exactly... – Gerard stands up as soon as he sees the door handle turn -,

Camina hacia ella y ve a Luz salir acompañada por la enfermera, pero cuando Luz lo ve con todas esas cosas por primera vez en unas horas sonrío. Solo él podía ser tan tierno en el peor de sus momentos.

- Flores para la mami, las vitaminas y un regalo para tu hijo – le dice señalando cada cosa —

- Podría ser niña – le dice ella sin dejar de mirarlo -..

-Si es así, le cambiamos el listón del cuello y ya está.

Luz se ríe y Rafael se sorprende, porque esa risa es auténtica. Ni forzada, ni de burla, ni por educación. Es una genuina risa de Luz Méndez.

-¿Ya podemos irnos? – le dice Rafael ayudándola a caminar -.

- Primero la señorita debe firmar el alta médica y cancelar los honorarios...

-Solo el alta, del resto me encargo yo – le entrega las flores y el peluche a Luz, las vitaminas a Rafael y se despide, queriendo darle uno de esos abrazos que se han dado tantas veces -. Por favor, cuídate, si hay alguna novedad, la que sea, dímelo.

-Si señor...

-Solo dime Gerard, creo que todo esto nos lleva a la categoría de amigos, más que de jefe y empleada – le sonríe y mira a Rafael -. Lo que sea, que me lo diga, estaré pendiente.

Gerard se pierde por el pasillo por donde debe ir a pagar la cuenta, mientras Luz se va con sus regalos y la enfermera a firmar. Todo lo que puede hacer es ver las cosas de la mejor manera posible, porque si se ahoga en esto, serán los ocho meses más largos de su vida.

Una vez terminado todo el papeleo, los dos amigos salen al estacionamiento, Rafael la ayuda a subir al auto y salen de allí con rumbo a la casa de sus padres. Ve la hora y se da cuenta que al menos su madre ya debe estar allí, ya que algunos viernes trabaja mediodía.

-No vayas a dejar que te golpeen o te insulten, porque nada de esto fue tu culpa.

- Rafael, pude tomar la píldora del día después al menos...

-No es tu culpa, ni la de ese angelito.

Un ángel.

Ella no lo había pensado ni por un minuto y sonrió al pensar que tendría una princesa y un ángel. Nada mal para una chica tan triste y perdida como ella.

Llegan a la casa de Luz, ella deja los regalos en el auto, Rafael le desea suerte y ella se baja para darle la noticia a sus padres.

Upon entering, she sees her parents sitting in the dining room, when they see her they are happy, but their smile fades as soon as they see the state of Luz.

– Little daughter! her mother tells her. What happened?

-I've felt bad these days and today they took me to the doctor – her mother hugs her and her father gets a little closer – -Nothing serious? -Depends on how you see it, I already made up my mind – she tells them shrugging her shoulders and then sighs-. Mom, dad... I'm pregnant.

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If everyone expected Luz's parents to support her, not judge her, give her a hug and cry with happiness... it's because they don't know Miguel Méndez.

The slap to his daughter came from her mother, while the arm grab came from the father, before he started screaming like crazy.

– How are you pregnant?! Is that the example we have given you?! I didn't educate just anyone!

– Tell me who the father is, Luz Méndez – says her mother through clenched teeth -. Because he's going to have to take over, I'm not going to break my back working to support that bastard.

Faced with Luz's silence, who feels her heart break again, her father takes her by both arms and swings her roughly.

“Speak, whose child is that?!”

– I do not know.

That was it, “I don't know”. In a neutral, simple and sincere tone. He doesn't know.

Luz did not like lying and was convinced that not telling her parents what had happened was better than letting them know the truth, because they would order her to have an abortion. The Méndezes cannot have a single mother daughter, what a shame!

– She doesn't know... the lady doesn't know who made her that kid, right now I'm wondering if you were going to work as a pvt waitress!

Her father's words didn't make her move, cry or want to yell in their faces what happened to her. She only knew that she would protect that child with her life if necessary. Even from her own grandparents.

Her mother wanted to raise her hand to hit her again, but Luz let go of her father, stopped her, and told her firm.

– He doesn't hit me again, because if you do, I won't be the one with his dirty conscience afterwards.

-And you have the gall to speak of conscience – his father opens the door and indicates with his hand -. I had a dutiful, decent, dignified daughter, not some random one who has no idea who the father of her bastard is.

“And if you go, you don't take anything with you,” his mother tells him. Everything you have here we gave you, look for the father of your spawn and let him support you.

– Perfect – is the simple response of Luz, who has ended up breaking down with the word “monster”. She takes the phone out of her, has some things backed up, and sets it on the table in silence. I wish you all the best and hope you can sleep like babies for the nights you have left.

She goes out without bowing her head straight to Rafael's car, her father follows her and yells at her.

-Is it him?!

-I wish it were him, at least he's been better to me than the family! Family is the most important!! – Luz tells him mockingly -. Until you screw up!

She continues on her way and quickly gets into the car. Rafael, who realized the situation as soon as he saw her get angry, had already started the car, so as soon as Luz gets in, he gets out of there.

-What did they tell you? -she asks taking one of her hands-

– Basically... that I'm a bitch and that my son is a bastard spawn...

And the crying comes out like a hurricane coming to the city. Rafael pulls over to the side of the road and gets out to go get Luz. He gets her out of there and into her back, where he sits her on her lap and cradles her like she's a baby.

– Although they don't support you, I'm with you, I swear... I won't leave you alone.

-But they are my parents! They are supposed to be programmed to love and support me...

– No, darling, because a very important part of them calls them to tell us what we should do, even when they see us as self-sufficient – he kisses Luz’s hair and she looks at him with a smile -. You better call your brother now.

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-I don’t have a phone, they didn’t want me to leave the house with something they had bought for me.

– Bueno, al llegar a casa lo solucionaremos. Ahora, necesito que te calmes un poco, iremos a mi casa y allí veremos qué hacer.

El resto del trayecto se hizo en silencio, Rafael aparca en el subterráneo y en cuanto llegan al departamento, comienza a cocinar para Luz.

Ella le pidió ir a ducharse para sentirse limpia, ahora mismo Rafael está pensando en algo, que sería lo más lógico en su situación, pero no sabe cómo abordarla sin hacerla sentir presionada.

Mientras Luz siente que su mundo está por completo destruido. Su hijo va a llegar a una incertidumbre.

– Pero te juro que estoy dispuesta a reconstruir todo este maldito mundo por ti... porque si ya perdí todo por ti, lo único que me queda es quedarme contigo.

Cierra los ojos bajo la ducha y deja que todo se vaya con el agua, se quita el parche que tapa el lugar donde le conectaron la vía y se limpia el cuerpo igual desde aquella noche, con fuerza, pero esta vez tiene especial cuidado con su vientre.

Sonríe antes de cerrar el grifo y sale de la ducha.

Se coloca una toalla en el cabello y otra para cubrir su cuerpo. Rafael le dio libertad de sacar lo que quisiera, pero como todo le queda grande, no sabe qué ponerse, así que opta por sacarle ropa interior limpia, un suéter enorme y se coloca sus jeans.

Se seca un poco el cabello con la toalla y sale de la habitación, siente un olor delicioso que le recuerda que tiene nada en el estómago. Rafael se queda viéndola con su suéter favorito y siente unas ganas de arrodillarse allí mismo y pedirle que sea su esposa, pero eso sin dudas la espantaría.

Le coloca un plato de fideos con crema en frente y ella cierra los ojos para olerlo.

-Es la primera vez en días que algo no me provoca náuseas.

-Entonces aprovecha y come, pero con calma, para que no te pongas enferma otra vez – ella asiente y se lleva el primer bocado, gimiendo por lo rico de la pasta -. Estaba pensando, tus contactos en el teléfono ¿estaban respaldados en el correo o en el chip?

-Correo – le dice ella con la boca llena y Rafael se siente tranquilo de verla comer bien –

-Entonces los sacaremos desde mi computadora. Llamarás a tu hermano y a tu jefe,

¿A Gerard? – a Rafael le dan unos celos tremendos que lo llame por su nombre, porque a él nunca lo

quiso llamar por el suyo mientras trabajaron juntos – -Sí, está dispuesto a ayudarte y mientras más seamos, mejor para ti y ese bebé precioso. – No sabes cómo será – le dice riendo -. -Es tu hijo, no puede ser menos que bello.

Ella asiente, Rafael se sirve un poco de pasta y se sienta frente a Luz. Cuando la chica termina, él se pone de pie y va por su laptop, para que pueda comunicarse con su hermano y contarle la noticia. – Ten – le dice entregándole su teléfono -. Si quieres que me vaya, está bien. Si quieres apoyo, me quedo. -Quédate. Mi hermano es diferente, pero si me rechaza, sería... – le tiembla el labio, cierra los ojos y suspira -. Aquí voy.

He dials the number and his brother's deep, cheerful voice elicits a smile when he says.

-Hello?

– Matías, it's me... Luz. -Sister! Nice to hear from you, what can you tell me? – I have something to tell you, but you should sit down, because I don't think you're going to like it.

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Matías smiles, his sister has always been somewhat dramatic about some things, for him, Luz was born old. So he tries to relax her a bit.

-It can't be so terrible, soon you're going to tell me that you're pregnant or what – Luz only emits a slight sob – Luz ? Was that it?

-Yes – she says in a whisper and Rafael squeezes her hand –

-Shit! I messed up... oh, little sister... don't cry, it's not bad, you're not alone... wait-he gets serious and his attitude changes completely-

Matías, who was in the dining room with some colleagues, storms out to the patio. He already imagines what may be happening.

– Luz, tell me something... did you tell our parents?

-Yes... – she tells him crying a lot –

-Did they do something to you?

– *Mom* slapped me... they treated me like a bitch... *Matias*, I swear I didn't do anything wrong, I... oh, brother, I was so afraid that you would judge me like them.

– Luz, family is the most important thing and all those conventions of our parents are worth it to me. I've seen things a thousand times worse than a pregnant eighteen-year-old girl. You're my sister and... damn – Luz hears a door open and shouts in the distance – I'm going to be an uncle!

The whistles and applause make Luz smile with relief. She already has three men behind her willing to stop bullets for her and her son.

– Well, now you have my reaction. Now, what matters, the father.

– There is no father – she answers quickly –

-Don't you want to take over? 'Cause you know I can do it...

-I don't know who he is – those words make Matías unseat himself in a seat and run his fingers over his forehead –

-Luz, it's your life, I'm not going to interfere, but... seriously, you don't know?

-Don't ask me, I beg you, one day I'll be ready to tell you how things happened.

– Well, I'll wait... did they kick you out?

-Yes, but don't worry. I'm at a friend's house now and then I'll see an apartment or something, it would be just for the weekends, you know, for my job.

-Do you have a way to support yourself?

– Pffff, you're talking to the crazy savings and my job now would allow me to pay for a house if I wanted.

But college...

-And do you think I can study now? Look, believe me, I'm fine, my friend and my boss support me But with you on my side, I feel like justice is on my side

- Hahahaha well, somehow, it's true. From now on I tell you that I do not want to talk to them, they have behaved very badly with you. You have never been a bad daughter, on the contrary, you gave up *your* dreams because they couldn't pay for college

-Don't do that to them, you're their pride.

-Do you think it would continue to be their pride if they knew that I wounded a man with a bullet and almost died ?

It's your job, Matías... they knew.

-Sí, era un ladrón peligroso, a su última víctima la violó... cuando lo encontré, no dudé en disparar cuando quiso escapar, me imaginé que pudiste ser tú, la chica solo tiene veinte años. Así que una bala en la pierna... solo que le cayó en la arteria.

-¿Qué habrías hecho si esa chica hubiese sido yo?

-Lo mato – los colegas de Matías lo ven encogerse de hombros y agachan la cabeza – ,

Lo cierto es que para ellos, que tienen un vínculo especial, saben a lo que Matías se refiere. Pero es tarea para otra historia.

- Ten cuidado, hermanito... te quiero muchísimo.

-Yo también, mi ampollita – Luz se ríe por ese apodo que su hermano le puso desde pequeña y que es su manera de decirle que ama con todo su corazón —

Lo cierto es que ahora Luz no es la única que ocupa el corazón de Matías... pero ya dije que eso es para otra historia.

Se despiden y en cuanto Luz corta la llamada, se desparrama en el sofá, sin saber cuando o cómo llegó allí. Rafael le extiende un postre de manjar y chocolate, que ella recibe con una sonrisa.

-Ahora, tu jefe.

-Eh... esa la haré en la habitación de invitados, si no te molesta.

-Claro...

- Pero luego del postre.

Rafael la ve comerse el postre con tanto gusto, que se hace la nota mental de comprar unos cuantos más, para que no le falten.



Cuando Luz termina, él le quita el pocillo y lo tira a la basura, le entrega el móvil y, mientras ella se va a llamar a Gerard, Rafael se sienta a investigar sobre el embarazo.

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Al cerrar la puerta de la habitación, Luz marca el número de Gerard, quien responde casi de inmediato -Gerard Finnick – dice con tono frío -.

-Gerard, hola... Soy Luz.

-Lucecita – dice cambiando el tono de voz a uno más amable — ¿Cómo estás?

– Ahora mejor.

– Dime, ¿le dijiste a tu familia?

– Por eso te llamo, creo que no podré ir con ustedes el domingo, quería saber si es posible que me des libre dos días, mis padres me echaron de la casa y...

-¡¿Cómo?! ¿Te echaron? Por dios, Luz... no es justo.

– Ya no quiero pensar en eso, solo quiero seguir adelante y recuperarme, por mi hijo. -¿Has pensado qué harás? -Me lo quedaré, no estoy pasando por todo esto solo para después entregárselo a una familia que ni siquiera sé si lo querrá. -Te felicito... ¿y el padre? ¿hablaste con él? ¿te está apoyando?

– Prefiero no hablar de eso por ahora, si no te importa.

-Te entiendo, disculpa... mira, yo me di vacaciones, estaré tres semanas en casa, quiero llevar a Charly a Disneyland.

-¡Excelente!

-¿Vendrías con nosotros?

-Eso depende, de cómo vayan mis síntomas, no querrás subirte a un vuelo comercial con una mujer que vomita hasta por el olor del agua – le dice riendo –

– Iríamos en mi jet, pero lo cierto es que no me molestaría – Luz suspira y Gerard sonríe -. Además, estas semanas me las tomé para cuidar de mi hija, así tú descansas. -Gerard, no puedo dejar de trabajar justo ahora, necesito el dinero más que nunca. -Yo no he dicho que vayas a dejar de trabajar o que te vaya a despedir, te estoy dando una... licencia médica.

Ambos se ríen, porque saben que eso es solo para ayudar a Luz.

-¿Sabes? Ahora eres tú el que se está portando como un ángel guardián.

-I'm not by a pen, Luz... I've done terrible things in my life.

-Of course, like every lawyer in New York – Luz laughs -. But seriously, this thing you're doing for us is taking you to heaven.

-I doubt it, but I think that for now I will only focus on taking care of you.

-Thank you, give kisses to my little princess.

-I'll give them to you... and, Luz – Gerard hesitates a little, but in his life he has regretted many things, this will not be one of them -. You have no idea how I would like to be the father of that baby. 9

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 36

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Chapter 36

Although on Sunday it was difficult to wait for Luz and not see her arrive, Gerard knew that it was for his good and that of his baby.

For the same reason, yesterday, Monday, he went to visit her with Charlize, but now he went earlier so as not to meet Rafael and to have privacy.

He's been standing in front of the door for ten minutes and he doesn't know how to get in... well, he knows he has to knock on the door for Luz to open, but he doesn't know what to say, especially since he came early and alone,

When he finally gets up the courage, the door opens and he finds Luz in a tall, messy jumpsuit, a tank top, and sweatpants.

– Gerard! -She says scared, more because of his appearance than because of having him there – What are you doing here at this hour?

I wanted to see you alone... Hello! I brought you sweet bread – he shows her the box and she smiles – .

-Thank you, if you wait for me a moment, I must go to throw out the garbage,

I do! she-removes the bag and hands him the box-

But what makes Luz laugh is that he keeps looking everywhere, she tells him where to go and he leaves quickly. The girl is stunned to see him in a suit and throwing the garbage for her, quite a sight for her eyes.

He arrives with her, lets him in, and he heads into the kitchen to wash his hands. Luz leaves the box on the bar and does the same, she dries herself without taking her eyes off the man. He looks really handsome and she feels his body stir, but her mind has put up a barrier.

- I hope you like this filling, it's blackberry jam, very delicious.

-Yes I love it. The problem is that I have to wait for him to like it too-she tells him pointing to her belly-

-Sure... -they both sit on the stools and take a sweet from the box —

Luz takes the first bite and moans with pleasure, several days ago she wanted to eat something similar and these cakes arrived at the best time. She eats slowly, so she doesn't nauseate him, while Gerard watches her in fascination, because he's never seen someone enjoy a simple sweet from her so much.

-Apparently he liked it too.

-That's because she had been asking for a cupcake for several days – she tells him smiling, because the man has left a little jam on the corner of his lips –

What? – he asks her and she stands up –

– You have jam on the side of your mouth – the man sticks out his tongue but can't clean it –

Luz grabs a piece of paper towel, walks around the bar to clean it, walks over to Gerard and wipes away the stain she couldn't get out. He doesn't take his eyes off her, showing interest in her eyes.

genuine in the girl, who decides to sit next to him to eat another sweet.

-When I find something that I can eat without returning it, I seize the moment.

Gerard is hypnotized watching how the girl eats the second sweet, until he finishes and sees that the same thing has happened to him, only that instead of telling her or cleaning her with the paper, he takes it away.

directly with his thumb and then brings it to his mouth.

For some reason, he clenches his legs, because he feels that something has turned upside down in that part of his body.

-Tell me, does Rafael take good care of you? -Yes, although he has to go out to work. He can't stay home just for me. -But, I think that as your boyfriend and father of your child, I should pay more attention to you, right?

- Rafael is not my boyfriend – says the girl looking down –

-¿No lo es? – le pregunta Gerard para confirmar sus palabras y ella ríe mientras niega -. Entonces... – se pone de pie, se acerca a ella metiéndose entre sus piernas y la pega a su cuerpo -, entonces ya no tendré remordimientos de hacer esto.

Baja sus labios y los une con los de Luz, ese beso que llevan esperando ciertas personas desde que empezamos a contar esta historia. 6

Es suave, sin exigencias. Solo exploración, saboreo, para descubrir que lo que cada uno siente es demasiado fuerte para ser una simple atracción.

Luz pasa sus manos por la cintura de Gerard, subiendo sus manos por su espalda fuerte y dura, mientras el hombre se pega más a ella para sentir su frágil cuerpo vibrar ante ese simple contacto.

Something in the girl wakes up and wants more, wants to be closer, freer, naked, feeling skin to skin. Gerard's warm hands run down her back, leaving a burning sensation that takes her to a different state.

The two already know that they need each other, they know it... But we all know that there is something that will not allow them to be as they would like, because there are pains and regrets that can be stronger than love, especially when not they are drawn from the heart.

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 37

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Chapter 37

Gerard believes in the clouds, until he begins to feel a salty taste in that kiss that, until now, was sweet. He separates a little from Luz and sees that thick tears fall from his eyes, he is distressed knowing that he has provoked that reaction, thinking that he should not have followed that impulse.

- Luz... sorry – but she silences him with a finger to her lips, shakes her head, keeping her eyes closed and smiles –

-That has been the best kiss of my whole life, but you don't know how much they've hurt me – she looks him straight in the eyes and pouts -, and that's why I'm afraid that you'll hurt me too.

-No... no, my Little Light. You may not believe me, but I don't know when, where or how, but I have you here-she places her hand on her heart, which is beating wildly-. I swear you are the second woman in my life that makes me feel like this...

"When you tell me that you are afraid, I feel the same way. I'm afraid of losing you, of not being the good man you deserve... but I swear to you, I really swear to you, Luz Méndez, that I'm going to make an effort every day to be.

-Gerard... just give me time, I think we both have many internal problems, but right now it's best to go easy. No hurry.

The girl's hand rests on his cheek, he closes his eyes and sticks to that piece of her skin as if it were his lifeline in the middle of a violent ocean that threatens to take him away from the women he loves the most.

He knows that there is no time, but whatever is left he will dedicate to proving that his words are true.

-While we go easy on this new discovery... can I kiss you again?

Gerard's request disarms her because of the tenderness in him. She nods at her with a smile, but before kissing her he wipes away her tears, then looks for her lips without being so invasive and this time she feels more sure of the madness she is committing.

Oh my God! She is making out with a man she barely knows, who is her boss and who doesn't know her worst secret. And now, although she gets carried away in this adventure, she knows that he can react in two very different ways: as his parents or as his and Rafael's brother.

They separate and see each other for a few seconds, until Gerard's phone rings, he sees that it's Darcy and pouts. He answers her, not hiding his annoyance from him.

-Gerard, where was the Barton file?

-And why are you looking for that file? I left that case to Dan.

- I thought you'd give it to me, since I'm the real estate expert.

- Everyone knows that the Barton thing is not just about real estate, it's a full-fledged divorce. Now, I ask you to stop calling me every now and then, I'm on vacation and Dan is left in charge.

- But I'm your cousin, I should have...

*Are you Darcy Finnick? Well no, you are Darcy Pine and I do not allow you to continue taking attributions that do not belong to you.*

- Gerard...

- Dan is the other member of the buffet, his name is on the doors of the building next to mine, so anything you need these three weeks, talk to him.

He cuts him off, very annoyed by the woman's attitude, unfortunately she is his mother's niece and he can't do anything, because since he lost his parents when he was fifteen, he has lived with them.

The only thing she is grateful to Darcy for is that thanks to her she met *Margaret*, since she was her best friend. But nothing else.

Luz sees him overwhelmed and approaches him to give him small massages on the shoulders, the man allows himself to be done, he just closes his eyes to feel those small hands that seek to relieve him.

"He won't leave you alone." Gerard shakes his head and she sighs. I don't like her that woman, she's too sinister for my liking, but she's just my opinion...

-Know? Charlize told me the same thing before you got here, but I just laughed. I can't believe what you guys have seen, that I haven't.

-Don't get overwhelmed with that now... - but Luz's phone rings and she sees that it's from the clinic -. Hello?

-Good morning, with Miss Luz Méndez?

-Yes with she.

-La llamamos para cambiarle la hora que tenía con el doctor Brown, será pasado mañana, en el mismo horario.

-Muy bien, gracias. -¿Algo grave? - le pregunta Gerard — -No, solo me cambiaron la fecha del ultrasonido, será pasado mañana -ella se mira las manos y le encantaría ir acompañada por alguien, por ejemplo su madre - "Ella debería ir conmigo" -¿Puedo ir contigo? - ella se lo queda viendo y él solo sonríe -.

Entiende que Luz está en una situación compleja, porque su embarazo es muy difícil y porque aún no sabe quién es el padre de la criatura.

-¿En verdad quieres ir conmigo? - él asiente como si fuera un niño al que están invitando al parque de diversiones - Entonces sí, pero te advierto, será muy incómodo para los dos, porque el ultrasonido es transvaginal... -Oh, ya pasé por eso con mi... esposa. Lo soportaré.

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-¡Tú no tienes que soportar nada! – le dice ella riendo -. Pero gracias, veremos si puedes entrar, no sé si un amigo pueda entrar.

-Bien puedo decir que soy el padre de ese bebé – le dice orgulloso –

-Gerard, no lo sé...

-Sin presiones, pero yo quiero verlo y si tengo que hacerme pasar por el padre, pues lo haré. A menos que el padre esté presente – la mira esperando esa respuesta y ella niega -. No se diga más, yo seré su papi sustituto por ahora.

Luz throws herself into his arms, because despite everything he has lived through, he has ended up being an air. cool that comes to make her smile.

Thus things will take their course, to reach the climax of a love story that can have many endings, but only one is the one that Luz and Gerard are interested in waiting for.

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 38

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Chapter 38

Although Rafael didn't want to miss such an important episode, he agreed to let Gerard take her, especially since the agency had a wedding that day and the preparations would start very early.

– Please, as soon as you have the photo of that cutie, send it to me – he asks before saying goodbye –

-Don't worry, you'll be the first to see it.

– We both know I won't be the first – he gives her a hug and opens the door -, but I'll settle for being the second.

He gives her a kiss on the forehead and leaves uneasily, because he feels that Luz's closeness with Gerard is not convenient for him, although he doesn't want to act like that jealous and possessive man either, he doesn't want to be the same as his father.

A while after he left, nine thirty, Gerard rings the doorbell of the apartment and Luz receives him with a hug, takes her bag and they go downstairs to go to the appointment, which is quite close.

They make the journey talking about Charlize and how much she misses her, how well she has done at school, with new friends, teachers who love her and whom

she has surprised by reading a few words. -Have you continued practicing with her?

- Of course they did, what they didn't know was that a civil code book was placed in front of them to motivate them.

- He says it's his incentive. She looks up to you and wants to be as good a lawyer as you are.

Gerard smiles proudly at his daughter's goals, despite being small, she knows what she wants from life. They keep talking about little Charlize and they reach a point that complicates Luz.

Did you tell him why I didn't go? -she tells him with a low voice and looking at her feet-

-She knows that you're sick and that you're getting better at home, resting - she takes his hand, without taking her eyes off the road -. She didn't want to say anything else to her, because she assumed that you would want to.

-Yes, thanks - after that Gerard changes the topic to legal things, so that Luz doesn't lose the desire to study. He knows that she can continue with her plans, even if she has to hire someone to take care of the baby and Charlize.

They arrive at the clinic ten minutes early, Gerard as always helps her out of the car and they enter the building. Walking through the halls Gerard begins to remember the times that he accompanied Margaret in her pregnancy to each of the prenatal checkups and ultrasounds.

But it doesn't hurt anymore.

They sit in a comfortable waiting room, along with several mothers, some as flat as Luz and others with more pronounced bellies, but all with that same light that characterizes women who create life in their wombs.

Luz takes one of the magazines that are there and starts reading an article about natural childbirth and how beneficial it is for the mother and the baby.

- I swear I was scared to read all this - Luz tells her, returning the magazine to its place - *How* can it be that splitting *you* in two is the most magical moment of pregnancy?

-I don't know... - Gerard tries to tell him, but a woman next to her answers -

-My dear, when you are at that precise moment, only the desire to see your son eats you up, neither the pain nor anything is stronger than those desires.

-Safe? - She asks him incredulously.

- As sure as I am carrying my fourth child - the woman replies with a huge smile -



-Luz Méndez – the doctor’s voice prevents Luz from dropping her jaw in surprise –

Gerard goes after her as a faithful guardian, when he reaches the door the doctor looks at Luz and warns her.

-We will have the first ultrasound and due to the pregnancy, it will be transvaginal, as I explained it to you the previous time – he says looking at both of them -.

-He already knows.

– Well, we’ll do what we always do in these cases – he tells Luz to put on a robe behind a screen -. *And* you’ll be sitting over here with your back to me, just looking at your girlfriend and the monitor.

If Luz thought she was going to correct the doctor about being his girlfriend, she was wrong, because she only heard Gerard nod enthusiastically. When she gets out of it, she finds him sitting like a good boy next to the stretcher, helps her up and does what the doctor told her minutes ago

-Yeah, girl, one leg here, the other over here – she follows the doctor’s instructions, who knows he is being considerate of Gerard – I’ll use this, it’s a special transducer for these cases, I’ll put a condom and some gel, depending The patients have told me, it is somewhat uncomfortable, but if you relax, nothing happens.

-Ok – Luz feels very nervous, because she has never been examined in that way, however her knight-errant realizes it and shakes her hand -.

-Just look at me, breathe easy and set your sights here – she points to her face and she smiles –

-Ready? – The doctor asks permission and they start at once -.

It’s not pleasant at all and if it wasn’t for Gerard’s gentle gaze keeping her sane, she’d probably be crying.

The room fills with a loud and fast sound, they both look at the screen and Gerard immediately recognizes the image of the baby growing inside Luz.

-Well, there it is. Your heart is already beating very well... I confirm 8 weeks and five days.

-It’s... this is it – but Luz’s words get stuck in her throat -.

If before she still had doubts about having that baby or not, now there were none. It might not have been conceived with love, but there was plenty of it right now.

Neither of them knew who was holding the other's hand tighter, but they were both absorbed in this tiny image, a helpless being who was clinging to life and would have a special place in his mother's world.

When they're done, the doctor gives them some privacy, after printing some pictures of the baby. Gerard's eyes are moist and he's afraid to ask the question, but he asks it anyway, because if the answer is no, he's got it covered.

- Luz... will you stay with him?

## The Dark Secret of the CEO by Sofia de Orellana Chapter 39

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Chapter 39

Nothing could stop Gerard's impulse to throw himself on Luz's lips, who ended up crying and laughing in equal measure.

-You're crazy, not even... - "I know who the father is", is what he was about to say, but he just kept silent, he stood up with Gerard's help and went to change -

While he stayed with that image that warmed his heart as much as when he saw the first images of Charlize. That feeling was strange, but he felt good, so he wasn't going to analyze too much because the good thing he had to enjoy, period.

When Luz appears, they hold hands, someone knocks on the door and seconds later the doctor appears. After several recommendations and ensuring that everything is going well, both leave with hearts swollen with happiness.

- Please, let me come to the other checkpoints with you... - she asks almost jumping -, that was... I don't know how to describe it.

-At least not with words, because your face tells me how you feel - she smiles and walks towards the car, but Gerard pulls her, hugs her and looks into her eyes -.

-Since you feel better, do you think you can come back with us?

-I don't know, Gerard... your mother and your cousin. I do not know.

- Do n't worry about my mother, she went on a cruise for three months and about Darcy ... I'll take care of her. I will not let anything happen to you, besides, at home you will be accompanied at all times and I will be calmer.

-Let me think about it later, now we're hungry.

-I'll take you to a place you'll love.

From Brooklyn, they move to the island of Manhattan, a moment that Gerard takes the opportunity to learn a little more about Luz.

Do you have more family?

-A brother, as well as cousins, uncles and grandparents, but they don't count.

-And your brother, does he know about your pregnancy?

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-Yes, I stood up and yelled at all his colleagues that he would be an uncle. -Where is the?

-He's a policeman, in New Jersey, but we see very little of him.

-You speak of him as if he were the best of all – Gerard tells him smiling -.

-It is, he didn't judge me for anything, not even when he asked me about the father of my son and I told him I didn't know who he was – Luz felt so comfortable talking, that she doesn't realize what she said, until she or said –

Silence settles in the car and Luz looks out the window, silent tears come out of her eyes, she can't stand it anymore that Gerard doesn't talk to her, she sighs and decides to break the silence.

– Gerard

-Do you like macaroons? – he tells her in a cheerful tone -. Where we go they make some very delicious.

Gerard, don't pretend you didn't hear what I said.

He sighs, looks for a place to stop and pulls over to the side of the road, undoes his seatbelt and turns to meet her eyes, realizing that his shock was misunderstood by the young woman. He wipes away her tears and smiles at her.

– Light, I am nobody to judge you. I... I really feel things for you, how this precious baby was conceived – she says putting her hand on her belly, causing Luz's hormones and butterflies to riot -, it's not my problem, but if her growth, his birth, his whole life... if you let me, I can be all you need, not just friend.

"Everyone knows me for being a ruthless lawyer, but deep down I'm just a sensitive man who fell in love with the most wonderful young woman in this world. – Are you in love... with me? – Luz feels that her whole body is of gelatin – You can not, you know me very recently.

-Yes I can, I already did it, I fell in love. And if I'm even more honest with you, I'm dying of jealousy, because you're living with a man who obviously feels the same as me .

-Gerard, I... I don't know what to say.

-Don't say anything, we're just going to eat macaroni carbonara at Ernesto's and then we'll go Charlize.

Nothing was simple at that point in Luz's life, but now everything has become even more complex, because Gerard's statement is clear.

He has fallen in love with her.

He doesn't give a damn who his son is or if he doesn't know.

He loves her with the full package and is jealous of Rafael. That makes her smile and she looks at the man with more confidence.

-Yes I like macaroni, it sounds delicious.

She wants to tell him that she fell in love too, but she can't expose herself like that. She has to be sure of what she feels.

Especially since he is a man who has been alone for a long time, the time he stayed in the mansion never gave any indication that he had any relationship with anyone.

For this reason, one day he is going to want intimacy and she does not know if she will be able to do it, reach that step. But she does know that love can conquer everything and that, for the first time in all this time, she knows that only a therapist can help her.

Before Gerard turns to go back to the path, she grabs his tie, pulls the fabric, and kisses him.

She dared for all those things that she is willing to save in her life. That kiss is soft, innocent, one that doesn't quite know how to be, but Gerard loves it. When they separate, they touch her forehead and she tells him.

I'll try, I swear I will.

-I want you to do it... I love you, Luz, and I want you to stay.

-I... I'm scared, but... I...

And before Luz tells him that she loves him, her phone rings, on whose screen the name "Rafael" appears.

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Chapter 40

Gerard just smiles, gives her a short kiss and goes back on the road, while Luz answers the phone,

thanking for not having said more than necessary.

-Light, how beautiful!

-Do not exaggerate, it is barely noticeable as a bean.

- *Even* more beautiful... I swear they laughed at me here because I let out my little tears.

-You're crazy – Luz doesn't think she had that reaction –

-What are you doing now?

- I'm going to have lunch, with Gerard, then we'll go get Charlize and then I'll go through the apartment, to look for some things. Today I return to the mansion, the doctor told me that my work is not risky.

- But Luz, you know you can stay with me without problems...

I know, but I don't want to. Now all the more reason I have to work, childbirth is not exactly a gift and then there are all the things we may need. Later I won't be able to work and when I'm born I'll have to wait too.

-I understand... well, if I can't get there before you leave, I'll come for you...

-No – he says as he sees Gerard -, I think I'll stay there on weekends too, so I don't get so stressed.

-Luz, are you sure about that decision? Because you know what that means.

-I know, Rafael, I'm sure. Thanks for everything.

-I love you, Luz... never forget it. Rafael ends the call with a broken heart, but he knows that he cannot force her to do anything. The only thing he can do is be there for her when he needs it.

When they arrive at the restaurant, Gerard helps her down and offers her his arm, as soon as they enter they recognize him and find him a table far from the entrance.

Do the smells bother you? – She asks Luz, hoping that she doesn't feel uncomfortable.

-No, it smells delicious, it's making me very hungry.

-Let's order once then. A waitress approaches who, as soon as she sees Gerard, blushes. Luz doesn't like it at all, she crosses her arms and looks away, not really understanding why she is bothered by the girl looking at him. Gerard ignores Luz's reaction, he asks what they had agreed before her and when he turns his eyes to the girl, he smiles seeing her in that attitude.

Little light, is something wrong?

I know

-Nothing – responds dryly -, -Nothing really or that nothing of you to say that everything happens? "I'm not in the mood for jokes, Gerard." When he looks at him, he sparks with anger. So nothing happens to me.

-Ok, I understand – he says with a sigh – May I know why you're jealous? *Did I* say or do something to give you cause for that?

Luz looks at him with wide eyes, not believing that he immediately realized what the problem was with that bad temper.

– The waitress... a lot of smiles.

-Yes, I realized – he extends his hands and takes the girl's, reluctantly she agrees to take them -, But I didn't smile at her even once, the truth is that my smiles are only reserved for my princess... and for my queen.

Luz makes an "o" with her mouth and Gerard finds her beautiful, innocent and strong, he kisses her hands tenderly, making the girl feel embarrassed by her behavior.

-Sorry, I...

-Don't ask me for forgiveness, if it had been the other way around, I would have reacted the same way, it's more – he tells her, pausing -. Every time I see you with Rafael or that I thought you were living with him, I felt terrible jealousy, and that's normal because I love you, Luz.

"I know you don't want to admit it, I don't know who hurt you so much for you to distrust, but your jealousy is only the response to a feeling of possession... and I confirm that I belong body and soul.

Luz doesn't have the slightest idea what to say to all this, because it's not easy to process so many beautiful things at once. What she does know is that Gerard is beginning to get to know her and that scares her a little, because he would make her more vulnerable, and she never wants to be vulnerable again.

-How can you belong to me in body if we...? -she blushes and looks down-

-I don't need to make love with you to be yours, a single kiss was enough to give myself completely to you.

Luz swallows dry like everyone who is reading this story, because no one expected that answer. Gerard is a man in love and is risking everything to conquer Luz, although he already realized that the girl will not be easy and he loves that even more. one

Finally the food arrives, Luz tastes the macaroni and closes her eyes, it is a delicacy that her baby has accepted without problems. She eats slowly, in silence, weighing Gerard's words and feeling that her heart was broken last time by her parents, now she is beginning to mend faster and better.

Gerard is willing to look for even the smallest piece to put it in its place, he loves her, he wants her happy and calm.

When finished, they leave the place in the direction of Charlize's school. When they arrive, Luz is surprised that it is a public school, she looks at him and gives him a thumbs up to tell him that she did well.

-Little light! – The girl shouts when she sees her favorite person waiting for her. you came for me

– Of course! – He tells her, taking her in his arms, which almost caused Gerard to have a heart attack . *And I'll come for you every day, I'm better now and I can go home.*

-Really?! – says the incredulous girl –

-Yes, it's true – Gerard tells her, taking her in his arms - . But we must continue to take care of Luz.

-Always, daddy.

They walk to the car, talking about Charlize's day, until Luz motions for Gerard to leave.

stop, who does it at once worried about the girl's face. She gets out of the car and Gerard follows her.

-Something wrong?

-Just nausea, I needed fresh air. -What's wrong with Lucecita, daddy? – Charlize has gotten out of the car and looks at them questioningly – -She doesn't feel well, daughter.

-Then you must take her to the hospital, so that they cure her – Luz smiles and kneels to be at her height -.

-I'm fine, it's just a passing symptom – the girl looks at her without understanding and she just smiles, this is the time to tell her -. It just so happens that I'm carrying a baby here – she tells him, putting her hands on her belly-. That's why I was home these days.

-A baby? – The girl stands there, which seems like an eternity to Luz, but in the end the little girl approaches her and asks permission to put her hand on her belly. Luz herself puts her little hand there -. A baby... will be a boy and will be my little brother. two

The two are left open-mouthed by the girl's reaction, because only she could be so innocent and affectionate with a baby with whom she has no bond... according to them.