



## CHAPTER NINETEEN

"SO HAVE YOU talked to Schmidt yet?"

Shaking her head at Cece, Elise drew a sip from her hot chocolate and sighed at the reminder of a discussion she still needed to have with Schmidt. Ever since Schmidt had called Elise his girlfriend, there had been some kind of tension between them, but neither had managed to make a move and therefore it was either awkward silence between the two, or avoiding each other — and frankly, it was mostly leaning towards the latter.

Elise had been spending a huge amount of time with Cece and Jess lately, despite her fear of social situations but they had grown closer with each day and right now, they were out and walking back to the apartment after buying some coffee. Or in Elise's case, cocoa. Elise did miss Schmidt and the chats they had a tendency to have in the middle of the night, and the warm hugs naturally, but she wasn't very good at confrontation and that had led into avoiding the man in order to avoid the conversation, as well. She did want to be Schmidt's girlfriend, but getting there was the hard part.

"Well, you should, because—", Jess began as they were about to cross the road but out of nowhere, a large black car approached them with ferocious speed and just as it was about to swerve by the side of the road and hit the three women, Elise managed to pull Jess out of the way. Cece jumped backwards as well, all of them equally startled and shocked by the rude driver, who just kept on speeding away from them.

"Hey, watch where you're going!", Jess yelled and Cece helped her, both of the women yelling at the reckless driver until the car halted and started to back towards them, causing them to fall into undeniable fear. "Oh boy, oh— Sorry, sorry, my bad!", Jess tried to fix the situation and clutched onto Elise, who started to freak out and grew the desire to make a run for it but instead, she just held onto Jess and prayed that they'd survive. She had seen enough movies to know that these kind of situations never ended well.

However, this time turned out to be quite the opposite and as soon as the car had approached them again, the three women received the best news of the week and kept on smiling and giggling as they returned to the car. Once the situation with the woman driving the car was settled, they went back home and Jess eagerly opened the front door before they could rush in with the exciting news they had, only to find a surprising sight in the hallway between their bedrooms. There they were — all four guys, holding up underwear and struggling to move it from the dryer and as soon as Elise, Jess and Cece arrived they all froze and stared at them like deer in headlights.

"You know, I don't even care. Something amazing just happened!", Jess gushed and nudged Elise, who nodded her head rapidly to confirm the statement.

"We almost got hit by a car", Elise began, and she could see the color in Schmidt's face draining so she quickly continued. "And after getting the driver's attention, we thought we were going to die, but she was actually really sorry", she explained, before letting Jess pick up where she left off, profoundly uncomfortable with talking so much. As she shut her mouth and settled for smiling happily, she glanced at Schmidt and found him staring with adoration visible in his green eyes, causing her heart to beat a bit faster while she directed her gaze back to Jess.

"So she invited us to her boss' party, and they're sending a limo, and guess who her boss is?", Jess spoke excitedly, and with that, the three women started to jump around, up and down and screaming together.

"It's Prince! We're going to Prince's party!"

And indeed, tonight, the women were going to a party thrown by Prince himself and Elise was certain it was going to be one of the best nights of her life. Especially if she could finally, eventually, talk to Schmidt and make things official with him.

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By the dark of the night, Elise, Cece and Jess had been driven to the party with a limo and they were all feeling better than ever. Truthfully, Elise was definitely bothered by the amount of people and unable to enjoy herself at first, but she had received a pep talk from Coach, who had tried his best to make the woman feel confident, even if they didn't know each other very well. However, Elise had learned from her friends that Coach was an awesome, great person and therefore, she attempted to trust his voice that kept on ringing in her head, repeating the words, "You got this. You look hot, and you're going to Prince's party."

Even if it was cool to be in the party, Elise did feel rather uncomfortable surrounded by so many strangers, but she tried her best to have fun. Admittedly, it was a struggle, especially when Elise ended up losing Cece and Jess in the unbelievable crowd and she was forced to be alone, and she couldn't have Schmidt by her side. However, she tried to find positive sides of the experience, and after grabbing herself a drink, she ended up moving on the dance floor, not very wildly or bravely but it was some kind of dancing anyway. She was a good dancer but too shy to show off her moves in public, even if there were so many people and none of them were probably paying attention to Elise.

After a couple drinks — despite the lack of alcohol, as she wasn't a fan of getting drunk — Elise felt somewhat free, and she ended up dancing by herself. In the sea of people, it was easy to get lost with someone but Elise just moved alone, ignoring the crowd around her and pretending like it was just her, no one else. The music wasn't her preferred genre either, as she mostly disliked EDM, but the beat kept her moving and she tried to break free from the chains her insecurity tended to hold her down with. Once in a while she remembered why she didn't like partying — at some point, some guy almost spilled his drink on her lilac dress, but at times, she actually enjoyed herself.

Once her glass was empty again, and her mouth was dry and in the need of something more to drink, Elise stopped dancing and inhaled deeply before locating the bar and starting her way towards it. Before she could reach the counter, her body bumped into someone else's and all she had to do was look up to make her heart sink and shatter in her chest at the familiar pair of eyes staring down at her. She had lived in the hope that she wouldn't have to face Thomas ever again, but there he was, grinning at her in his usual, tempting way and Elise was all alone, vulnerable and without protection.

"Elise. What are you doing here?", Thomas asked, placing her hand on Elise's arm to steady her when it seemed she was losing her balance, and whilst it helped, she hated how he touched her, and how it didn't feel like the worst thing in the world. Elise licked her dry lips swiftly and gulped, thinking if she should ask Thomas the same question but after remembering how he had always been the spoiled child of a fairly wealthy family, with contacts and friends everywhere, she settled for doing the opposite and replying.

"I—I'm, uh...", Elise began, but as she stared into Thomas' eyes and saw the familiar, flirtatious spark in them, she felt something click inside her and she promised herself to not fall in his traps. "I'm getting myself a drink", she continued bluntly, venom dripping on her tone whilst she yanked her arm away from Thomas and felt her inner badass come out. Thomas had played enough games with her, and obviously he was trying to do the same again, but Elise wasn't having none of that. She was rarely brave, but the thought of Schmidt and how much she loved him gave her the confidence she needed in order to reject Thomas.

Thomas didn't understand to give up, though, and followed Elise as she waltzed to the bar and ordered another alcohol-free drink from the bartender. "Where's your boyfriend, huh? Stanley, Sheldon?", Thomas asked with an amused tone while approaching Elise and leaning against the counter, the infamous smirk still tugging up his lips and annoying the woman until she was trembling with irritation. She had been blind to his tricks before, but now that her heart belonged to Schmidt, she could see what a jerk Thomas was, and how much better she deserved. And Schmidt was a lot better.

"His name is Schmidt", Elise spat bitterly, "and he's not my boyfriend. Not yet at least", she sighed, turning her back on Thomas, who still didn't stand down and let Elise move on with her life.

"You know, you don't have to be such a bitch, El. C'mon, babe, don't you miss me at all?", Thomas teased and looked down at Elise, who did the mistake of facing him again. Elise's eyes widened, thoroughly surprised by the word he had used, because she had never before thought she'd have any traits that would make her a bitch, nor had she been called one before, causing the genuine shock on her features.

Licking her lips again, Elise weighed her options and then grabbed the drink that had been delivered to her merely seconds ago. "There's only one person who gets to call me babe, and that's not you. Douchebag", Elise fought, tears almost in her eyes already as she threw the drink towards Thomas and let it rain on his face and shirt. After placing the glass down, Elise wiped her eyes and started to walk away from the counter, wanting only one thing — Schmidt. She needed to get out, find him and tell him she wanted to be his girlfriend. Seeing Thomas had helped Elise realize that she was deeply, totally in love with Schmidt and she didn't want to spend another minute without him.

With a snifle, Elise tried not to cry while pushing through the crowd of people in an attempt to get to the door and leave the whole party. Her head was hanging low to avoid eye contact and being seen so weak and pathetic, but obviously she had caught someone's attention because unexpectedly, her arm was grabbed and she was pulled back. Silently swearing that she was about to punch Thomas if it happened to be him, Elise looked up but instead of her crappy ex, she found Schmidt, who smiled so lovingly and pulled her into his arms. A sigh of relief filled Elise's mouth, and she closed her eyes whilst wrapping her arms around Schmidt and hugging the man tightly, feeling safe now that he was there.

"What are you doing here?", Elise yelled over the music after ending the hug, but nonetheless she remained close to him and stared into his fondly sparkling eyes. Schmidt opened his mouth to explain, but he had no time when suddenly, the lights went down and a purple hue took over the room as music started to play. Looking around in slight panic, Elise's eyes landed on the stage and she grabbed Schmidt a bit tighter while nodding towards the spotlight which was directed right at the man standing on the stage — none other but Prince himself.

Elise was starting to freak out, but before she could scream, Schmidt grabbed her hand and pulled her along. "Come on, let's dance", he insisted, and after making it to the dance floor, they saw how Jess, their Jess had been pulled onto the stage and there she was, singing with Prince. The room echoed with Jess' beautiful voice, and Elise almost started to cry again whilst clapping her hands together and moving along the beat next to Nick, Winston, Coach and Cece, who had found their way to the floor as well. When Elise glanced behind her, she found Schmidt smiling happily, and her heart leapt out a beat but instead of saying anything, she continued to dance and clap her hands.

But Schmidt didn't agree with this plan, no, he had something to say and this felt like the perfect moment to get it over with.

"Elise", Schmidt began and twirled her around until they were face to face, body to body and swaying to the music together. "Look, I want to kiss you every day and I want to hold your hand and I want to make everyone jealous. I want to be with you, Ellie, and I... I'm in love with you. So, will you be my girlfriend? Officially?", he proposed with a nervous smile on his soot lips, which Elise desired to kiss, so she did. Placing a hand on the back of his head, Elise pulled Schmidt closer and as their lips met, she broke into a smile. Schmidt wrapped his arms around Elise, with no intentions to let go and he deepened the kiss until they were both breathless and they had to separate their lips, only for wide smiles to take them over.

Nodding her head, Elise agreed gladly. "I'm in love with you too, Schmidt. And I want that too. Officially", she giggled and rested her forehead against his, falling into utmost happiness as he held her tight and placed a quick, gentle kiss on her lips.

"C'mon, guys!", Winston's shout broke their happy little bubble, but things were only about to get better, as they followed their group and ended up on the stage where Jess was, with Prince.

And so, despite the awkward start to the night, it had the most beautiful ending because now, Elise had not only danced and sang with Prince, but she was finally in a relationship with Schmidt.

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**writing this made me so sad ): but on the other hand, SCHEMELISE IS HAPPENING. took them long enough!! tbh this might be (one of) my favorite chapter (:**

**badass.elise though**

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