

## Forbidden Heat 18

### Chapter 71: My Punishment

Lucien was already seated at the dinner table when Reiner and I walked in. For some reason, the atmosphere was stifling, and I found it hard to breathe. Lucien seemed stressed and very on edge today.

“Natalia. Sit down,” Lucien instructed firmly, and I followed his command immediately. Lucien clearly did not have a good day. Reiner stood at a respectable distance next to the wall and pretended that he ceased to exist.

“Umm...welcome back, Lucien,” I whispered in the sweetest voice that I could manage given the circumstances.

“I’ve decided that you should end your internship early,” Lucien informed me casually as he picked at his dinner. Well, I don’t have an appetite either.

“Is that necessary? I’ve been picking up various new skills and experiences...” I tried to explain.

“With Edward?” Lucien jumped in to complete my sentence for me. Well, that was not what I was going to say. Lucien is angry, really angry. I didn’t dare say anything more.

“From now on, you will stay home. You won’t go anywhere without my permission and when you do, Reiner will accompany you everywhere,” Lucien stated his new policy, stressing on every single word to drive the message home.

“Lucien, I have to study and find a job...” I protested weakly. I can’t just stay home. My adult life has just started...

“That’s the thing. You don’t. You don’t have to learn anything. You don’t have to be able to do anything. You don’t need to work. No matter what work you do, you will never earn anything to make a difference to our wealth. Just stay out of trouble. Stay home!” Lucien almost shouted as he finished his mini-speech.

Frankly, I was shocked at his outburst. I have never seen Lucien acting or talking like this to me in all our years together. My mind and heart were unable to process what he was saying. Why is he saying these things?

“Lucien, please calm down. If you think I did something wrong, I am so sorry!” I pleaded with him. My voice cracked and I knew that I had started crying.

“From the sound of that, you still don’t know what you did wrong. Do you?” he yelled at me.

What did I do wrong? Actually, I know that there were many things that I did wrong but which wrong is he referring to now?

I got out of my chair and went to Lucien’s side in an effort to get him to calm down. I touched his arm gently as I begged him to stop yelling.

“Please stop, Lucien. Let’s talk this over, ok?” I whispered gently as I tried to calm him down.

“Everyone, get out!” he yelled while pointing to the door as he commanded for all the maids and Reiner to leave the room. I saw Reiner glanced briefly at me before silently leaving the dining room. Lucien and I were the only ones in the large dining room now.

“Come here!” Lucien shouted as he pulled me roughly onto his lap. His strong arms encircled me into a violent hug and his hands were immediately on my breasts. His hands squeezed my tits so hard that I yelped out in pain. This is too rough! Why is he doing this to me?

“Ah...Lucien, please stop,” I begged him to stop his attack on my body.

He held my face in his hand as he forced his lips on mine. His kiss was demanding, hot and aggressive. His tongue invaded my mouth immediately and continued to ravish my tongue. He was panting hard into my mouth as he continued to kiss me non-stop. I can’t breathe. I was also panting now and moaning a little into his hot mouth. His other hand continued to grope my breasts, squeezing them so hard that they lost their shape in his hand.

I tried to struggle but I couldn’t match his strength. He wouldn’t let me go or loosen his hold on me. This is clearly not how I imagined making out with Lucien would be like. He savage tongue still fucked my wet mouth non-stop as our mixed saliva started streaming out of the corners of my mouth, running down my chin and neck.

“Stick out your tongue,” Lucien ordered as his hand squeezed my cheek until I had no choice but to comply to his wishes. I stuck out my tongue and he entwined his tongue around mine immediately. This is so embarrassing, I thought, as our tongue danced against each other without the guise of our mouth.

I felt his hot and throbbing cock digging into my ass where I was sitting on him. Lucien is very turned on now. I wanted to give my love to him but not like this. Lucien was now biting on my earlobe as his tongue licked my ears making hot and wet noises. Oh my god, the sounds are making me extra sensitive. I put my hand over my mouth as I started moaning.

“Does it feel that good? You’re moaning like a slut already and I haven’t even fucked you yet,” Lucien whispered with malice into my ear. I have never heard him talking dirty or use that tone with me before. His lips started sucking the nape of my neck so hard that I knew that there would be a deep red hickey there after we were done. Right after, his lips continued downwards to suck hard on the soft skin of my chest. I couldn’t stop myself from moaning; Lucien must think that I’m such a whore.

Suddenly, my head was yanked backward by my hair. It hurts, the pressure of my hair being pulled is burning my scalp as Lucien yanked my head back to expose my neck to him. He planted soft kisses there before biting into my skin. If you get turned on by vampire biting scenes; this would be the moment made just for you.

“Where did he touch you? Here? What about here?” Lucien asked as he glared into my eyes. I felt tears stinging my eyes as I was about to start crying again. His hand jerks on the front of my dress sending the tiny pearl buttons flying as he almost ripped the fabric off me. He peeled back my bra and started massaging my naked tits, making me moan in heat. I shook my head slowly, pleading him silently to stop. His hand jerked my dress up to my hips, exposing my legs to him. His hands quickly found the wet patch in between my legs as he teased me through my panties.

“You’re flooded here. You like it rough, don’t you?” he asked as he rammed two fingers inside of my hot pussy hole hard and fast.

“Ahh! Lucien!” I screamed at the slight pain and discomfort of suddenly being entered by his thick fingers. I panted hard as I screamed his name once more. I wanted to hide my face away from him but his hand still gripped my hair. He stared right into my erotic face as I moaned with lust. My hips jerked upwards to meet his fingers as my pussy clenched and sucked his fingers in deeper.

“Did he touch you here? Did he stick his fingers inside you or did he stick in his cock?” Lucien continued his interrogation while his fingers thrust in and out of my hot cunt. This is not good, Lucien must have heard something from someone.

“Who...Who are you talking about?” I whimpered weakly as tears poured down my face. Although my body was feeling pleasure, my heart was completely broken.

“My dear brother. Edward! Did you let him fuck you?” Lucien screamed. I shook my head in denial. I couldn’t answer him. Lucien must not find out about this, not from me. I will never admit it to his face.

–To be continued...

## Chapter 72: Possessiveness

His hand suddenly let go of my hair and I felt the pain in my scalp subsiding. His hand grabbed my thigh pulling it upwards to spread my legs further apart as his other hand

shoved his fingers in and out of my hole. I was completely soaked and my pussy was making loud and wet sounds as his fingers continued to penetrate them. It felt amazing and my body was responding fully to him. I wanted to have sex with Lucien. No matter the situation, my body desired his attention.

My hips were moving as if it had a will of its own now as I bounced my hips up and down to match with the thrusting motion of this hand. I panted, moaned and cried out his name in repeated cycles as I surrendered to my lust. I no longer thought about Lucien's anger or my relationship with Edward, I just let my body have its fill of Lucien.

"You should have told me that this is what you wanted. I can give it to you everyday and all night long. You shouldn't have went looking elsewhere, Natalia," Lucien whispered to me, his voice thick with lust. His thick member rubbing against my backside as I bounced my hips up and down.

"I'm cumming, Lucien! Ah...Ahhhh!" I screamed his name when my climax hit me. My body trembled with pleasure and my pussy walls spasms multiple times around his fingers as I came. I felt my own hot juices flooding my secret passage. It felt this amazing to cum from just his fingers. I couldn't imagine what it would feel like if I came from his cock.

The next thing I knew Lucien was already up on his feet as he shoved me aside into the chair, we were both sitting on just now. With great speed, Lucien pushed all the dishes and glasses off the table. There was a loud crash as silverware, glass, and porcelain as it all dropped to the floor causing a huge mess. Seeming satisfied now that the table was clear, he turned back to me and grabbed my arms roughly.

He pulled me up from the chair so that I was standing before pushing me face first onto the dining table. He positioned me so that I was bent over the dining table with my butt facing him. This is crazy! We were just eating on this very table.

"Bad girls need to be punished. I won't go easy on you," he said and I heard the sound as he unbuckled his belt. I braced myself as I waited for him to thrust his dick inside of me from behind.

"The belt or my hand? Choose now," he asked showing me the belt he had just removed. Is he going to hit me?

"No! Lucien, please don't hit me! Please!" I begged him in shock. The calm and collected Lucien is going to hit me?

His hand lifted my skirt up to pool them around my waist and I felt the cold air on my ass. Then he quickly removed my underwear, exposing my naked ass to him in full view. His large and warm hand cupped my ass and kneaded them in circular motions.

“Your ass is beautiful,” he complimented, and he chuckle softly. Both his hands are now squeezing, teasing and playing with my behind, making me moan both in embarrassment and pleasure.

“I’ll use my hand this time since your ass feels so soft and inviting,” Lucien stated as he raised his hand up high before landing his first blow on the sensitive flesh of my ass.

“Ahhhh!...” I screamed loudly as I felt the pain from Lucien slapping my ass. It didn’t hurt as much as I had imagined but the loud slapping sound surely made the moment more dramatic.

“Did you like that? Let me punish you more,” Lucien asked as if able to read my mind.

He slapped my ass repeatedly until I couldn’t scream anymore. I was panting and moaning instead. Each time he slapped my ass, my pussy clenched with joy. This punishment is clearly turning me on and I feel so ashamed. If he continues, I can imagine reaching my climax from this.

“Squeeze your legs together and keep bending over” he instructed, and I quickly complied to his wishes. Lucien was panting hard now and I knew he was at his limit.

I felt his hot and throbbing cock slide between the top part of my closed thigh. He did not enter me but the sensation feels strangely fulfilling as the length of his cock rubbed against my wet and slippery slit. His strong hands held my hips and he started thrusting his hips against mine, pushing his hard cock in and out between my closed thighs. It was starting to feel so good as his cock rubbed my opening and then the head of his cock butted against my swollen clit. Ah...it feels different from direct penetration but it feels so good. I clenched my legs together tighter as I grinded my hips back and forth to rub my opening and my clit along his hard dick.

I was getting wetter and wetter and my juices were pouring out of my cunt and onto my legs with some dripping onto Lucien’s cock and onto the floor. Lucien was thrusting harder and faster now as he called out my name between his horny groans of pleasure. He must be getting closer and closer to his orgasm and so was I. One of his hand reached in front of me to squeeze my nipples and grope my breasts, bringing me even closer to my climax.

I shook my hips in ecstasy as I felt my orgasm fast approaching. I wanted to cum with Lucien. His cock was hitting my clit hard with every thrust and that was driving me over the edge. I cried out his name as I came before laying down flat on my chest on the dining table.

“I’m cumming too, Natalia!” Lucien cried as he came in between my thighs. I felt the release of his hot semen gushing out in between my still closed thighs before dripping down my legs. There was so much of it as his dick continued to twitch and shoot out

extra rounds of his seed. His wet stickiness ran down my legs and onto a pool on the floor in between my legs. Lucien slowly withdrew his member from between my legs.

“Was I better than my brother?”

That was the last thing I heard before I blacked out.

–To be continued...

### Chapter 73: Care For Me

Lucien exited the dining room and came face to face with Reiner. Was he waiting out here this whole time?

“Clean up the mess,” Lucien ordered as he walked passed Reiner without glancing back.

“Yes, Sir,” Reiner replied while bowing.

Lucien marched directly to his bedroom. He needed to sort out his emotion and figure out his next move. He instructed all his maids to leave him alone before he entered his bedroom. Alone and in peace, at last, he could think.

Reflecting back on what just happened, it is clear that I caused a lot of harm to my relationship with Natalia. What the hell did I do! I lost control completely. Damn Edward! Although her body reacted to the pleasure that I gave her, she was crying most of the time. Her spirit must have been badly hurt by my actions and words. What I did was foolish. I acted out of jealousy between her and my brother. I still didn't have proof if they were lovers or not but seeing the look on Edward's face as he challenged me made me anxious.

I need to find a way to mend our relationship as soon as possible. Natalia must choose to marry me when the time comes...

...

**\*\*Earlier that day\*\***

Lucien came to see Edward at his office in the lab with the intention to terminate Natalia's internship early.

“Hi Lucien. It's rare for you to make an appearance here. How can I help you?” Edward greeted his brother warmly.

"I'll get straight to it. Natalia wants to end her internship early. She will no longer work here with you," Lucien stated as he glared into another pair of green eyes that were very similar to his own.

"I see. Well, that's a shame. She could have called to let me know that herself. There was no need for you to come all the way here in person, although, I do appreciate the effort," Edward replied with a smile.

"Natalia hasn't been feeling well. She's always been frail so I don't want her to overwork. I hope you understand," Lucien started his vague explanation.

"Natalia will be graduating soon. I wonder what kind of jobs would interest her. She doesn't need to work for our company, right? I'm sure life would be more fun for her if she worked outside of the family's circle," Edward suggested.

"She doesn't have to work at all," Lucien retorted.

"I know Natalia is still young and that you want what is best for her. However, you should also consider what she wants for her own life," Edward said as he flipped through some research papers casually.

"And you're saying that you know what she wants?" Lucien countered.

Someone's getting pretty mad, Edward thought to himself. No matter how this conversation ends, Natalia will bear the brunt of it.

Edward refused to answer or comment.

"Look at me. Did you sleep with her?" Lucien asked as he leaned closer to look straight into Edward's eyes.

"What sort of question is that?" Edward replied without showing any emotions.

"I told you this before. Don't answer my questions with another question. Did you have sex with Natalia?" Lucien repeated his question.

"I'm a gentleman here. I don't make claims and I don't refute claims on a woman's body without her consent. If you want to know if I ever laid hands on your daughter, you just need to ask her. Speaking hypothetically, let's say that I did, what would you have me do? Should I take responsibility by marrying her?" Edward challenged Lucien back with a gentle smile.

"A gentleman? You're nothing more than a playboy fooling around outside the family's business! As if you could ever be successful without the family's backing," Lucien yelled at his brother and grabbed him by the collar.

“Just because I’m less discreet about my affairs than you are, doesn’t make me more of a playboy. Whether I’m successful due to the family’s backing or not is up for debate. What is not up for debate, is the fact that Natalia has a life of her own that neither you nor the elders should be trying to control. Oh, and enough with the violence,” Edward said calmly as he shrugged Lucien’s grip off.

“Stay away from Natalia,” Lucien ordered threateningly as he turned to leave.

“That’s up to Natalia,” Edward replied.

Lucien did not look back as he strode impatiently out of Edward’s office.

...

“Stay out of this room. You all can come back to clean it later tonight,” Reiner instructed the maids to stay away from the dining room.

Judging from the sounds earlier, Natalia is probably not in a state that the maids could see without starting some twisted gossip. She should not be physically hurt to the extent that I needed to intervene but the same couldn’t be said about her emotions. I have to take her back to her room and keep her away from Lucien for a while until she recovers.

I was prepared for the mess that I would see inside the room but I have to say it looks worst than I had pictured. There were food, water, broken glass, and broken dishes everywhere on the floor. I found Natalia lying on her stomach unconscious on the carpeted floor. Her dress was messy and torn in some places. Her face and eyes were puffy and red from crying. Her legs and ass were bared. Not allowing the maids in here right now was definitely the right call. Lucien definitely lost it this time.

I bent down and adjusted her dress to cover her legs before slowly scooping her into my arms.

...

I don’t know how long I was unconscious. Probably not for too long. The first sensation I felt was the carpet against my face. I must be lying on the carpeted floor after I lost my strength. I can no longer sense Lucien in the room; he must have left already. Thank god. This is probably the first time I felt relieved that Lucien was gone.

I felt so tired and my whole body feels heavy. I can’t move or get up. The floor is a mess and I feel sticky all over. I closed my eyes again trying to stay still in order to regain my strength. I need to get out of this room before the maids see me like this.

I felt my dress being adjusted and then my body was tenderly lifted up in the air. Then I felt warm arms circling me and warmth against my cheek making me realized that



someone was carrying me in his arms. This smell, warmth and gentleness as he handles me; this must be Reiner.

...

“Hmmm...” I stirred a bit before opening my eyes slightly. My body felt a little heavy with sleep and I felt like stretching. Sitting up a bit in the dark room, I could tell that it was pretty late into the night now. I must have been asleep for a while after Reiner carried me here. I should check my mobile. I reached over to find the switch to the lamp on my bedside table. Fumbling around a little before I found the switch and turned the lamp on.

The moment that the orange-tinted warm light illuminated the room, I realized that I was not alone. Reiner was asleep in a chair by my bedside with his head resting next to my leg on the bed and one arm draped over my legs as if to make sure that I wouldn't leave the bed. He looks like such an innocent boy when he's fast asleep which is a big contrast to his usual personality and his big body size.

I guess he was here with me all the time after he carried me here. I noticed too that I was no longer dirty and in my old dress. I was clean and comfortably dressed in my nightgown which was probably his doing as well. I blushed a little while I thought of him undressing and then redressing me. As always, he's probably just doing his job as my bodyguard and butler.

–To be continued...□□□□□□

## Chapter 74: Eye of the Storm

Reiner is still fast asleep and I was working hard to resist my urge to reach out my hand to touch his wonderfully unique red hair. Seeing his face still and up close made me realize all the more how good looking he is. His eyelashes were auburn, slightly lighter and not as red compared to his hair, and long. His nose and lips were also beautifully shaped. They usually made him look so manly but right now they made him look quite adorably cute. He seems to be in a deep sleep so I guess he won't wake up if...

I reached out my right hand slowly towards his head until finally I could feel his hair lightly rubbing against my fingertips. Wow! His hair is much softer than I imagined. This feels a little like stroking an orange little baby fox. Enjoying the sensation, I moved my hand closer to stroke his hair lightly. Looking at his face, I was relieved that he was still fast asleep. Playing and teasing him a bit like this was making me feel quite cheerful and I could feel a smile on my lips. I stared at his face for a while as I enjoyed the peace and quiet of the night.

He wouldn't wake up if I touched his lips, right? I thought optimistically as I reached out my fingertips towards his beautiful lips. Please just let me touch them softly a little. I brushed my thumb ever so softly on his lower lip feeling its warm and soft touch on my

fingertip along with the warmth from his breathing. He looks so precious in that moment, and I wanted to thank him for taking care of me so well.

“Ah!” I yelped in surprise when I felt something warm and wet on my thumb as Reiner took my thumb into his mouth and began sucking it lightly. Instinctively, I started to pull back my hand but he caught my wrist with his hand making it impossible for me to move. He continued sucking and licking my thumb as his now-opened blue eyes gazed back at me. His warm tongue on my skin is making my body shiver a little.

“Are you done playing with me?” he asked seductively after he released my thumb from his warm and wet lips.

“Sorry, I woke you...I mean, when did you wake up?” I asked in a shy voice. He hasn’t been awake all this time, right?

“Actually, I woke up when you woke up. When you first stirred in your sleep, it woke me. I’m a very light sleeper. I’m an ex-mercenary, so yeah...” Reiner explained as his eyes lit up teasingly.

“So, you were awake when I touched your hair?” I asked for confirmation.

“Yup. When you touched my hair, stared at my face, and stroke my lips, I was awake throughout all those things,” Reiner confirmed my worst ever suspicion. I felt blood rush to my face and knew that I must be blushing hard.

“Would you like to confess to me why you were playing with me in my sleep?” Reiner asked in a seemingly innocent voice. He must be playing with me again.

“I...thought you looked cute,” I replied, deciding to be honest.

“Me...cute? That’s the first time someone’s called me cute,” Reiner replied seeming quite confused at my words.

“I mean...you looked cute while you were sleeping. When you’re awake you’re very manly and not...cute, I guess?” I tried to explain. I wasn’t sure if this was helping.

“Are you feeling better?” Reiner asked as moved closer to me to place his hand softly on my forehead to check if I had a fever.

“I’m feeling better. I don’t think I have a fever either. Umm...thank you for taking such good care of me. Did you...umm...clean me and change my clothes?” I asked with shaky voice. I sort of already knew the answer though.

“...Yeah, I did,” Reiner replied with a tight smile.

“...So, you saw...” I mumbled softly.

“Sorry! I didn’t mean to see you naked,” Reiner apologized as he stood up from his seat and bowed to me.

“It’s ok. I didn’t mean that...Thank you. I wouldn’t have wanted the maids to see me that way...” I replied and my voice trailed off as my mind recalled how Lucien treated me so roughly.

I didn’t mind that Reiner saw my naked body at all. I just didn’t want him to see and touch my filthy and messed up body. If he cleaned me that he probably saw it all, the hickeys on my body that Lucien intentionally left and the traces of his seed on my inner thighs and legs. He’s probably disgusted with me deep inside and I couldn’t blame him. Afterall, right now, I feel pretty disgusted with myself too.

I felt tears sting my eyes and I wanted to be left alone now.

“I’m ok now. I’m going back to sleep. I think you should go back to your room,” I told Reiner as I turned my body away from him. I hope he would leave soon. I didn’t want him to see me cry.

“Alright. Goodnight, Natalia,” Reiner replied softly and left.

After I heard the door to my bedroom click close after Reiner left, I started crying my eyes out. I curled myself into a small ball and cried silently. I love Lucien so much so when he touches me roughly like that I feel so hurt. This is worst than any nightmare. Even if I told Lucien that I loved him, I doubt that he would believe me now. It also doesn’t change the fact that I’ve slept with Edward so many times that we might as well be regular lovers. On top of all that, it probably doesn’t matter how I feel, Lucien will be marrying Angela very soon.

I just want to get away from here. I hope his threats about keeping me locked up in this house is not true. I guess I can still go out if I take Reiner with me and that is probably my only source of comfort right now.

I’m still crying quite heavily. My body knows exactly what to do to fall asleep again. My body’s just going to cry until it shut down and went to sleep. I probably want to do just that as well. Welcome back, my habit of crying myself to sleep. Mum, I just want to leave this place. Maybe Lucien isn’t who you thought he was. Maybe...we’re not really family after all...

...

It’s so warm. My body was suddenly enveloped in something warm. I opened my eyes lazily to realize that Reiner was by my side and hugging me tightly. I slowly sat up and I could make out his face a bit better in the dark as his face came closer to mine.

“Why are you here?” I asked in a whisper. My voice sounds hoarse and it was clear that I had been crying quite a lot.

“Am I supposed to leave you to cry yourself to sleep?” Reiner replied as he hugged me against his chest. I could feel his warmth and the sound of his strong heart beating as I laid my face against this muscular chest. His hug was so comforting that I felt tears in my eyes once more. With everything going on in my harsh reality, the comfort of his arms feels like sanctuary.

“It’s ok to cry. I’ll be here for you,” Reiner comforted me as his hand stroked my hair tenderly.

“You don’t hate me? I don’t disgust you?” I blurted out my worries.

“Is that what’s been bothering you? You’re beautiful. I don’t hate you and you don’t disgust me...” Reiner said sweetly as he lifted my head from his chest.

Our eyes met and his face was so close to mine. I could feel his warm breath on my forehead and his face slowly came even closer. His arms were now around my waist and pulling me closer to him. I hooked my arm around his neck, slowly pulling him down lower as I offered my lips to him. His attractive blue eyes were the last thing that I saw before our lips slowly touched. His kiss is so warm and gentle. It was slow and comforting. He didn’t demand anything from me and we just enjoyed each other’s company. It was such a chaste kiss but it made me feel so wanted.

“Goodnight, Natalia,” Reiner spoke softly as got up to leave.

“Can’t you...stay?” I blurted out my genuine desire. I wanted to spend more time with him but I guess my words could be taken the wrong way and I looked down nervously.

“I’m afraid you won’t be getting much sleep if I stayed. Sleep well, Natalia,” Reiner teased me a little before heading out the door.

...

We are never going to do anything in that room. Natalia being so unsuspecting and innocent has not realized it, but to my trained eye, that peeping hole disguised in her wall is such an obvious trick. We will never know when someone is peeping in on us through that hole. Whoever installed the hole and is using it, must have a very twisted taste. If I cover the hole then the owner will know that he’s been discovered. I don’t have any other choice, I guess I’ll just have to find the right opportunity to warn Natalia about it...

—To be continued...

## Chapter 75: The Other Lover

“Master Zak,” Laura greeted Zak with a slight surprise in her voice. Although it was common for Natalia to go over to Zak’s mansion, the opposite was not true. Zak rarely showed up at Lucien’s mansion even with a prior appointment. However, today Zak was here in person and unannounced.

“I’m here to see Natalia,” Zak stated the purpose of his visit before striding past Laura into the mansion.

“Master Zak! Please wait. Umm...Miss Natalia is not feeling well and is resting...” Laura tried to explain in a panic. She wasn’t sure if everyone would get in trouble if she let Zak in or not. After all, Lucien did not instruct her to allow visitors for Natalia...well, on the other hand he didn’t explicitly disallow it...

“I know. That’s why I’m here. You can get back to work,” Zak brushed Laura and her concern off as he headed straight for Natalia’s bedroom.

Natalia hasn’t replied to any of my messages or calls for a few days now. Something is wrong. She also hasn’t left her house at all for a few days which means that she’s no longer going to her internship at the lab. The maids have been gossiping non-stop that Natalia apparently got into a huge fight with Lucien at dinner. The fight was apparently so intense that Lucien practically smashed all the dishes on the table. Well, that much seemed to be credible. There were also a lot of other details which seemed over the top and could not be counted as a valid source of information. Regardless, I need to make sure that Natalia is ok.

I’ve also heard that Natalia got a new bodyguard. It’s high time that I meet the lucky man...

...

**\*\*Knock Knock\*\***

“It’s me,” Zak called out to Natalia as he stood in front of her bedroom door.

“Zak? Come in!” I replied with joy. I would know that voice anywhere. Zak is here!

The door opened and Zak came in. He looked confident and a little cocky as usual but I could sense that he was quite upset and worried. This is my fault for not replying to his text or calls. I just didn’t know what to say to him if he asked about my fight with Lucien. News and gossip travel fast, especially when you’re living practically next door to each other. Zak knows me very well so lying to him would be useless, he would catch on immediately. If he did not call me out on it, then that means that he has decided to play along with my lie.

“Zak, this is Reiner, my bodyguard and butler. I think this is the first time you guys have met. Reiner, this is Zak. Zak is...” I started to introduce them to each other.

“...Madame Francesca’s only son. My name is Reiner and I currently serve as Miss Natalia’s bodyguard and butler. It is an honor to meet you,” Reiner finished off my sentence before bowing to Zak.

Zak’s eyes narrowed slightly at the mention of his mother’s name.

“I think this is the first time we’ve met. I’ve never seen you before. You must be from the main house and from the highest rank of butlers as well,” Zak replied as he nodded to Reiner.

“Let me bring over a chair for you,” Reiner offered politely.

“No need. I’ll sit here,” Zak replied casually before seating himself on the side of my bed. “How are you? You look a little pale. So, you’re really sick?”

“I’m feeling much better now. Thank you for worrying, Zak,” I replied, flashing Zak a weak smile. I noticed that Reiner has retreated to the corner of the room to give us some room.

“You fought with Lucien, right? Tell me, did he hurt you?” Zak asked me in a low and hushed voice. His golden sand eyes held my gaze intently. I’m not going to be able to lie here...am I?

“Yes. A few days ago, we had an argument. I think things will get better soon...” I replied while plastering a smile on my face.

“hmm...did he hurt you? Let me see...” Zak replied as he took hold of my arm and started to lift it up to inspect it.

“I’m ok. Really!” I insisted as I tried to pull my arm back.

“You know, you’re not super good at lying, right?” Zak whispered softly into my ear so that Reiner wouldn’t hear. He smiled a tight smile at me and I knew that Zak was pissed.

“I...” I started to speak although I didn’t know what to say to him.

“You don’t need to tell me anything that you don’t want to. You’re not allowed to leave the house, right?” Zak asked knowingly.

I nodded.

“Let’s go out on a date soon. One of my movies is premiering and as always I want you to be there,” Zak said with a cheerful smile as he stroked my hair. Zak can be so adorable sometimes. It is obvious that he was trying his best to cheer me up but...

“But I don’t think Lucien will allow it...” I voiced my doubt.

“Don’t worry. I’ll handle him. I’ll text you the plan, ok?” Zak answered in a worry-free voice. I had no idea how he would convince Lucien.

“Ok...thank you, Zak” I said as I smiled at him sweetly. I missed him so much.

“I miss you...so badly,” he whispered softly into my ears as he leaned closer to me, his wavy blond hair brushing against my cheek. He slid his hand under the blanket to hold my hand gently.

“Umm...about Annie...” I began to ask him about my topic of concern.

“I don’t want to talk about it right now. I’ll tell you later,” Zak replied cutting me off with a smile. Clearly, Zak doesn’t want to think about his issue with Annie. I wonder if they will be engaged soon...

“Ok. I’ll wait. Please...don’t stress over it all by yourself,” I whispered back as I looked deep into his stubborn eyes.

“Will he really be with you 24/7?” Zak asked in a soft whisper as he rolled his eyes towards where Reiner was standing.

I just nodded in reply.

“Hmmm...how troublesome. I’ll back off for now...but I’ll be back. Get well soon!” Zak said before getting up from the side of my bed.

“Goodbye, Zak. Call me, ok?”

“Promise to pick up. Bye, Natalia,” Zak replied as he walked away while waving at me over his head.

Reiner bowed as Zak walked passed him and then out the door.

“Take care of Natalia,” Zak whispered softly as he walked passed Reiner.

Zak’s surprise visit really cheered me up. Things will get better for all of us, I am just so sure of it now. Thank you, Zak...thank you for not forgetting me. Now I can look forward to meeting my favorite celebrities at Zak’s movie premiere. I can’t stop smiling now.

...

Natalia's been acting like a bubbly little girl ever since Zak walked in. This is my first-time seeing Zak up close and meeting him in person. Madame Francesca's only son looks nothing like her and definitely does not have her character. She is a dark and mysterious person while her son shone outstandingly like the sun. I've seen photos of Zak in the press many times before but those photos don't do him justice. I'm sure Natalia notices his good looks as well.

The way they looked at each other felt like they were in a world of their own and talking in a language that only they could understand. The way Natalia smiled at Zak was overly friendly or perhaps they are just very close cousins...

"Natalia has at least one lover. I want you to keep an eye on her and figure out who he is..."

Edward's words came back to me.

It couldn't be...

-To be continued...