

Forbidden Heat 18

Chapter 81:Start a Fire

“We are not going to go further than this,” I said in a firm voice as I gripped both of Natalia’s wrists using just one of my hands. She is so small compared to me. Her wrists are tiny and thin in my hand.

I did my best to fulfill Natalia’s desires today and I firmly refuse to go any further. My first time with her will not be in a car and not when she’s still confused about how she feels like this. There will be many more opportunities to fully indulge in our desires in the future once we are clearer about our feelings and their implications. There is no need for us to rush things. Most importantly, I don’t want Natalia to regret any of her decisions from now on.

Natalia is a lot more stubborn than I thought and I can see the displeasure in her eyes when she heard my refusal. She must learn patience and how to make smart decisions. I hope I will be able to teach her a bit of this while I’m still with her...

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“You’re so big and hard here though...may I suck it for you?” I asked Reiner as I put on my most seductive voice. I glanced down at his gigantic and very erect cock before meeting his eyes once more.

His manhood was probably the biggest and longest that I’ve ever seen and so beautiful. Big and standing up proudly in between his legs amid his deep red pubic hair. Just looking at it is turning me on again and I felt my body get hotter and hotter as I imagined that big shaft ramming into my tight hole. It probably won’t fit and will tear me apart. Yeah...I can’t imagine myself taking in his full length at all...but someday soon...perhaps he’ll allow me to give it a try?

I’m a little disappointed that he won’t go all the way with me today, but I can at least pleasure him a little, right? I asked silently, as I continued gazing into his eyes. The grip he had on my wrists loosened a little as he hesitated, and I used that opportunity to free my hands. I reached directly towards his erected pole, wanting to feel its heat in my hands.

“Wow...it’s so hot and hard...” I couldn’t help but exclaim my appreciation as I wrapped my palm around his thick cock. I felt his member pulsating a little in my hand as it became even hotter to the touch. I wanted to take it in my mouth and suck it already, but I decided to play with it a little first with my hands. I started moving my hand up and down his thick member, seeing visibly the veins bulging as his cock began responding to my hand. This is amazing, he is so responsive to my touch. I stroked him faster

feeling like I was stroking a beast. Faster...harder...and faster, I pumped my hand up and down and around his thick cock.

Reiner started to pant as his pleasure mounted and soon, he was thrusting his hips towards me to push his cock faster and harder against my grip. His erotic face is so handsome, and I wanted to see more of his seductive expressions. I wanted to make him cum...in my mouth. I guess I was sort of proud that I could bring such a big beast to his knees...so to speak. Looking down, I could see his pre-cum starting to pool at the tip of his cock and I could already begin to smell the wild smell of his seed.

Reiner was moaning now as he continued to thrust his hips faster. I wish he would tell me openly what he wanted me to do. His cock has gotten bigger and thicker in my hands, so I started using both of hands now to milk his cock. I applied more pressure around his shaft and he immediately started to pant harder.

“Natalia...” he panted my name urging me to pump his cock even faster and harder. This is more tiring for me than I thought. I hoped that my arms would last until he came.

“Does it feel good? You’re getting even bigger and hotter,” I asked him with a slight tease in my voice.

“It feels...amazing...” he panted before he continued to moan in pleasure. At least, he’s being honest.

I bent down to bring my face closer to the head of his cock and I could see that he was wet with his pre-cum. I slowly slipped my tongue out from between my lips and slowly flicked at the tip of his cock with the tip of my tongue. Reiner groaned deeply as he felt my wet tongue on the tip of his shaft. He placed his big palm on the back of my head to encourage me to give him more attention with my tongue. Urged on by him, I swirled my tongue round his swollen tip as I lapped up his pre-cum. His taste and smell were strong; he must be very potent. Reiner moaned and thrust his hips to bring his cock closer to my mouth and face. I knew he wanted to fuck my mouth without a doubt.

I let him do as he wanted. I opened my mouth and readied myself to take in his thrusting dick. I took the tip of his throbbing cock into my mouth and as if in perfect sync, Reiner thrust his swollen cock fast and deep into my mouth. His hands held the sides of my head to hold me in place as he rammed his cock repeatedly into my awaiting mouth. I felt the heat of his length inside of my mouth all the way to the back of my throat. He was too big; I couldn’t take in his whole length at all. I wanted to pleasure his whole length though, so I began to use my hand to pleasure the hilt of his shaft.

I licked and sucked him harder as he thrust in and out of my mouth. He was groaning madly now, and his panting became more intense. His body writhed with lust and I could tell that he was close to his climax. Seeing him wild for me like this was also turning me on and my pussy was getting wetter again. I wanted Reiner to feel good in return for all that he’s done for me.

“Natalia...we should stop. I’m going to cum...soon,” Reiner said in between his intense pants. He probably does not want to cum in my mouth.

I shook my head a little in response and gripped my hands on both sides of his hips refusing to let him withdraw his enormous cock from my mouth. His cock was burning hot and twitching madly in my mouth now and I waited for him to climax and shoot his load inside of my wet mouth. Reiner fucked my mouth faster as he approached his climax.

“I’m cumming...Natalia!” he cried out as his body spasmed in his climax. I felt his cock twitched and his hot seed spurted inside my mouth. His scent enveloped me as he shot even more of his cum deeper inside my throat. I clenched my hands around his hips while I continue to lick the tip of his cock sapping up the last of his seed. He moaned a little and I knew that the tip of his dick was still very sensitive.

He stilled for a moment as he struggled to catch his breath. Then he slowly withdrew his cock from my now swollen lips. His seed spilled from my lips a little, trailing down to my chin, as his cock exited my mouth. I quickly swallowed the rest of his hot seed into my belly and then I smiled at him.

He seemed a little shock that I swallowed all of his cum, but he didn’t comment on it. The next thing I knew he had pulled me into his arms and was hugging me tightly, his body shaking a little. I guess Reiner is more sensitive than I imagined. I love the feel of his warm hug, it made me feel so safe.

“I’ll get dressed and grab us our new clothes...we should head home now,” Reiner said a little awkwardly as he let go of me. I giggled a little thinking of how adorable he really is. He really is too good for someone so twisted and broken like me...

–To be continued...□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Chapter 82:Our Sacrifices

ring ring

Lucien stared at his mobile screen and began to frown. The unsaved but well remembered number displaying on his mobile’s screen is from one of the people that he dreads talking to the most. He took a deep breath before connecting the line.

“Lucien...” spoke a woman with a deep voice which always sounded tired and serious.

“...Madame Francesca,” Lucien replied with a slight bow. He bowed out of habit even though the other party could not see him from the other end of the line.

“No need to be so formal to your sister. Congratulations on your second marriage,” Francesca spoke slowly making sure to properly enunciate each and every word.

"Thank you very much, Francesca..." Lucien replied as he wondered what she wanted from him. Francesca never called him unless she wanted something.

"I will make sure that my son and I are there for your big day. Please pass on my congratulations to your soon-to-be new wife," Francesca continued.

"Thank you. I will do as you bid," Lucien replied in a tense voice. Francesca has not yet gotten to her objective for this call.

"Let me get straight to the point. My son, Zak, wants Natalia to attend the upcoming premiere event for his new movie," Francesca stated flatly.

"Yes, of course. I would be happy for Natalia to attend," Lucien replied with a little relief in his voice. This is such a small favor and Lucien was confused why she even bother calling about it. The answer was clear: Zak had requested for her to do so.

"That's wonderful. Thank you for your help Lucien. I hope Natalia will continue to be such a close companion to my Zak and I hope to have your support in every way possible regarding this matter," Francesca said in a firm voice.

"Yes...of course, I understand," Lucien replied swiftly. Zak and Natalia have always been close. To promise for them to remain close is not a difficult task, Lucien thought. He never had any intention of separating Natalia from one of her closest friends.

"Good. I hope I have made myself clear. Thank you, Lucien," Francesca thanked Lucien before hanging up without giving him time to respond.

That was a little shocking...but if this is all she wanted then good. She could have asked for more complicated things...

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****Earlier that day****

"It's me," Zak spoke through the phone.

"Zak. You know I'm always happy when you call...which is rarely," Francesca replied flatly. It is ultra-rare for her only son to be the one calling her.

"I have something for you to do for me," Zak stated without emotions.

"You mean that you have a favor to ask of me?" Francesca replied with a grin on her lips.

"I want Natalia to attend the upcoming premiere of my movie with me. Natalia will remain by my side until I decide that I no longer need her. I want Natalia to always be

fully accessible to me. You will tell her father that and get him to comply. Do you understand?" Zak ordered his mother in a monotonous voice.

"And? What will I get in return?" Francesca replied cunningly. Nothing comes without a price and her son knows that very well.

"I'll continue to do what you and the elders tell me to do," Zak stated.

"You will agree to your engagement with Annie?" Francesca asked hopefully. Successfully getting her son to agree to a perfect arranged marriage will further raise the status of their family and help with the growth of the family business. Two birds with one stone. Just as she had done twenty some odd years ago when she married Zak's father.

Francesca Rosenhall is probably the most ambitious woman in the Rosenhall family. At the age of 18 she decided to accept an arranged marriage that would help the family business expand globally with the help of her then husband-to-be, fifty-years old Lucas Smithweld. After a few years, she produced a male heir to further strengthen this business alliance. Francesca did not remarry after the passing of her husband and continued to work for the family business while raising her only son. In the eyes of the elders and all family members, Francesca is a heroine in every definition of the word. Some would say that Francesca leads the family from the shadows. She was also nominated to head the Elder group three times in a row; all of which she declined.

"Sure. I'll marry her but I don't promise anything else beyond that. We're not sexually compatible...not sorry to say," Zak voiced his opinion casually.

"What do you mean? Do you intend to keep up your affairs with Natalia even after you've married Annie?" Francesca asked. How long will it take for him to tire of Natalia? She knew that her son and Natalia has been secret lovers for years now. She didn't see it as an issue but rather as an opportunity to use in order to bargain with her son. Never did she imagine that what she thought was a momentary fling would grow into a multi-year relationship with no ending in sight.

"Do you really have to make me say it? I can't climax with Annie. I tried; it just doesn't happen. Nothing compares to the pleasure I feel when I'm deep inside Natalia. So, you will keep her by my side, and in return, I will do as you say," Zak told his mother plainly.

"Understood. We have a deal," Francesca replied before Zak hung up. I've always known about Zak's attachment for Natalia, but I didn't know that their affair would last this long. I better get Zak married as fast as possible then perhaps Natalia will breakup with him on her own. Who would want to fool around with a married man?

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I just got out of the shower and was resting on the bed in my bedroom. I told Reiner to leave me for the day. I have business to take care of that I would rather he not know about.

I opened my closet to go through my collection of night gowns. Which one would work better for seduction? This red long lacy gown here or this short black lacy one? I guess, black it is.

I slipped on the short black lace night dress. Since it only covered the top of my thighs, perhaps it was more like a slightly long top? I checked my reflection in the mirror, my hair was slightly damp from the shower and wavy, the V neck black lace top clearly showed off my breasts and the lace did nothing to hide my nipples. Let's go with this, no panties required.

I took out my hair dryer, but not to dry my hair. After blowing hot air on my forehead for a while until I was sure that my skin felt slightly hot to the touch, I called Laura to my room. Sorry, Laura, you're going to help me with a little skit in my play.

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"Master Lucien! You must come quickly. Miss Natalia has a bad fever and is calling out for you," Laura informed Lucien in a panic as she entered the sitting room.

"Stay here, Angela. I need to go see, Natalia. If I'm gone for too long, you can leave for today. Sorry about this," Lucien excused himself immediately. Turning to exit the room without looking back at Angela.

"Please hurry, Master Lucien. I'm very worried about Miss Natalia..." Laura told Lucien as she beckoned for him to walk faster.

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"Natalia!" Lucien called my name out loud as he burst into my bedroom. Laura sensing that we wanted to be alone left immediately.

"Lucien..." I whimpered his name weakly as I lay under the covers on my bed.

Lucien came over to my bedside immediately. He looked so flustered and worried seeing that I looked so weak.

"You're hot with fever. Should I call the family doctor over right now?" Lucien asked in a panic when he felt my hot forehead with his hand.

"No, I'm ok..." I replied weakly as I reached out a hand towards him. Lucien grasp my hand in his tightly as he stared into my eyes with genuine concern. I'm sorry for doing this, Lucien.

"I don't think you're ok. Is there something I can do for you?" Lucien asked in a worried voice.

"It's so cold..." I whispered in a dry voice.

-To be continued...

Chapter 83: I'll Show You

"You must be feeling cold because your body is hot from the fever," Lucien replied as he touched his cool hand to my cheek. I pray that the miracle of the hair dryer is still somewhat working.

"I feel so cold...can you hold me?" I whispered as I stretched out both my arms to beckon him closer to me and into my bed. I sat up slowly, feigning weakness, and opened my arms to him.

Ok, showtime for the black lace mini nightgown. I slowly removed the blanket from my body to unveil my upper body to him to my waist. I panted a little to ensure that my breasts were jiggling a little in order to catch the attention of his eyes. I guess that was not truly necessary, because the moment the blanket fell away from my upper body, Lucien's eyes were immediately at my barely covered breasts.

"Natalia..." Lucien murmured my name softly in slight confusion and curiosity.

"Lucien..." I called his name seductively as I pulled him into my embrace. I hugged him tightly to my body, crushing my soft breasts against his hard chest. The next moment, I felt his arms circling around my back to hug me back in return. He kissed my hair softly, it feels good. If only, we were both honestly in love with each other in this moment.

I untangled myself from him a little to create enough space between us for me to stare up at his captivating green eyes. These are the eyes of the man I first fell in love with. Lucien, you are my first love. I'll never lose you to anyone else...ever again. I turned my face up slightly as I moved my lips closer to his. Lucien hesitated a little seeming unsure of what to do.

"Are you...scared of catching my cold?" I asked teasingly.

"Never!" Lucien said loudly before pressing his lips to mine firmly. His tongue deftly entered my mouth as his hands dipped lower to caress my breast through the lace. This is starting to feel good; my body is responding to him. The sensation of lace rubbing against my nipples are making them hard and sensitive. I wanted Lucien to suck them.

Lucien let go of my lips and began his journey of kisses down the side of my neck slowly all the way down to my shoulder and then the center of my chest. His hot hands

quickly removed the straps of my nightgown from my shoulders, exposing my naked breasts to him.

He cupped my breast with one of his hand, squeezing it softly in his warm palm. I moaned sweetly to urge him on even further. His lips continued to trail kisses down my chest and then onto my breast and finally, my erect nipple was inside his wet and hot mouth. He began sucking hard on my nipple sending jolts of pleasure through my body. My pussy clenched each time he sucked my nipples hard and I began to get wetter and hotter there.

“Lucien...you’re making me feel so good...” I told him in between my moans of pleasure.

I got up on my knees on the bed ready to bare my lower body to him. I moved the blanket away from my lower body to reveal my waist, hips, thighs, legs and my dripping wet pussy to him. His eyes instantly went to the area between my legs which was barely covered by the short dress.

“I’ll make you feel even better...” Lucien muttered, and his fingers found my throbbing and wet slit. I wrapped my arms loosely around his neck so that I could show him my erotic face as he fucked my pussy with his fingers. Lucien slid two fingers into my tight hole, and I clenched my pussy instantly around his fingers.

“You’re super wet...Natalia,” Lucien whispered into my ear and I moaned in response. He began to move his fingers in and out of me faster and harder. I could feel my pussy getting wetter as I squirted out more of my juices onto his intruding fingers. My pussy started to twitch wildly around his fingers. Ahh...I want to cum.

“Can you bend over the side of the bed? Come, I’ll help you,” Lucien instructed, and I complied. He supported me as I got off the bed and turned around to bend over so that I was lying on my stomach with my ass thrust upwards. I looked back at Lucien who was now standing behind my ass, wondering what he wanted to do with me.

Suddenly, Lucien got on his knees and I felt his hot breath in between my legs...

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“Miss Angela, I can let Master Lucien know that you’ve left. There is no need for you to go to see...” Laura tried her best to explain to the now impatient Angela.

“I have my manners. I’m just going to say goodbye before I leave. Plus, I should be able to see Natalia when she is sick, right? So, tell me, where is Natalia’s room?” Angela retorted, snapping at Laura.

“Miss Angela, please wait!” Laura protested one last time before giving up. Any further and she would get into trouble with Miss Angela for sure. In the end, Laura had to explain the way to Natalia’s room.

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“Lucien...oh...Lucien! It’s so good...so good!” I screamed loudly as I felt Lucien’s hot tongue pumping in and out of my hot hole. He’s fucking me with his tongue, and it feels so good. This position is also weird, I can’t see him but it’s turning me on so much. Lucien’s hands gripped my ass cheeks to spread them apart to grant him better access to my wet pussy entrance. He continued to lick and suck on my love juices and I could hear loud slurping sounds from behind me.

“Ahhh!! Ahhhh!!” I cried out loudly once again when he thrust two fingers inside of me from behind. This is driving me crazy; he’s fingering me while licking and sucking on my swollen clit. I thrust my ass backwards and upwards to shove my pussy closer to his face. I’m going to cum very soon, my pussy is twitching more frequently now, and my juices are gushing out faster. I could feel my own wetness combined with Lucien’s saliva rolling down the inside of my thighs.

It’s about time our honorable guest arrived, I thought as I turned my head to the side so that I could watch the slightly ajar door. Bingo. My eyes met a pair of blue and very round eyes. I stared into those eyes as my face contorted with pleasure as my climax hit me.

“Lucien!!! I’m cumming...God, Lucien...I’m cumming...cumming!” I screamed at the top of my lungs when my orgasm finally hit me. I felt his tongue swirling inside of my hot hole before gliding out to lap at my love juices. He sucked and licked me clean.

Angela, I promise that your marriage to Lucien will never be lonely. After all, there will always be three of us in this marriage. I made a vow to her silently as I stared deep into her blue eyes...

–To be continued...□□□□□

Chapter 84:Wandering to His Room

“How’s my princess doing?” Edward asked through the phone. Finally, he was able to get in touch with Reiner. He couldn’t find an opportunity to meet Natalia and it was making him anxious.

“She’s fine. The argument she had with Lucien seems to have died down. If things go well, she should be free to leave the house soon,” Reiner replied without any emotions.

“I highly doubt that. You don’t know my brother as well as I do. If he could, he’ll keep her under lock and chains with him forever in that house,” Edward stated coldly. Nothing

that seems to go well is necessarily going well. Calm water may be calm only on the surface.

“What is the purpose of this call?” Reiner asked. He wanted to get to the point immediately.

“I heard Natalia went to see Doctor Greta. What did she have to say about Natalia’s case?” Edward asked.

“How did you know that?” Reiner asked back. Edward seems to know about everything that is going on.

“Walls have eyes and doors have ears. I actually know Doctor Greta personally. We’ve met a couple of times at conferences and such. Lucien is not the only one who knows her. However, as protocol calls for, she is unable to reveal details of her patient’s case. I know that well, so I won’t bother her by asking,” Edward explained quickly. It was clear that his patience was wearing thin.

“Natalia told the doctor about her dream of getting lost and scared in a dark and rainy forest. Doctor Greta believes that her dream could be remnants of a real traumatic event that actually happened, but her brain has chosen to forget. Something someone said or a place she has been to recently could have triggered her memory of it,” Reiner summarized the session.

“I see...” Edward replied in a low voice. His brain was already racing ahead to think of his next move.

“Let me ask you directly. You know the truth behind Natalia’s dream, don’t you? The place she’s been to recently...the things someone said, you took her somewhere and said something to her, didn’t you?” Reiner asked with clear concern in his voice.

“Maybe. Until she tells me directly, I won’t know for sure,” Edward replied levelly.

“I don’t know what you have to gain from this, but you are putting Natalia through another trauma and so much pain...” Reiner said with a clear edge in his voice.

“How about we both do our best for Natalia. I might hurt her for her own good, but you’ll be there to comfort her, right?” Edward replied without any worry before ending the call.

...

Hmm...how should I go about this? I’ve been standing in the main hallway of the house for a while now as I gathered my courage and wits. A couple of maids have walked past me already and I still couldn’t gather enough courage to ask them what I wanted to ask. Ok...I will definitely ask the next maid that walks pass me.

Here she comes! I think she is new and still quite junior. Perhaps this is just my luck!

“Hi there!” I greeted her awkwardly as I stepped into her path.

“Oh...good afternoon, Miss Natalia. How may I help you?” the young maid asked me. She must be around my age or just slightly older. She’s young compared to the other more senior maids we had in the mansion.

“I was wondering if you could...tell me where Reiner’s room is?” I asked her. Finally, I was able to spit it out.

Immediately after those words left my mouth, the young maid gave me a very puzzled and suspicious look. No surprise there, why would the Lady of the house be asking where her butler’s bedroom is? And asking a random maid on top of that...

I guess it’s obvious why I’m asking her. It’s because I could ask Reiner a million times and he would never tell me! So, I didn’t even bother.

“Umm...Miss Natalia. If you would like, I could let Mr. Reiner know that you would like to see him in your room?” She finally replied in a timid voice. This is going to be harder than I thought hmm...

“Actually, there’s something I want to personally give to him and thought it would be more efficient if I went there directly...” I explained to her.

“Umm...I guess if that’s the case then...” she murmured softly before giving in and provided me the location of Reiner’s room.

This is slightly ridiculous. How can all members of the female maid population of this mansion know where his room is but I, the lady he’s supposed to be serving, cannot know? This is driving me insane.

...

I stood in front of the door to Reiner’s room. Now that I’m here I don’t know why I’m here. I mean, if I wanted to see him, I could just call for him to meet me in my room or any parts of the mansion. I’m not even sure if he’s in his room right now. Maybe, I should just leave?

I was still stuck in my own thoughts when suddenly the door to Reiner’s room opened.

“Natalia? Why are you here?” Reiner asked with one eyebrow raised. Ok, braincells, now is the time for you to think up some smart excuse...

“Umm...I asked one of the maids where your room is,” I replied reflexively. No! that was not what I was supposed to say.

“And...why did you go asking around for where my room is?” Reiner asked in a lighter tone now, amusement clear in his twinkling blue eyes.

“Because...you probably wouldn’t tell me no matter how many times I asked...” I replied with a slight pout. It’s hard not to be honest with him when Reiner is so sincere.

–To be continued...□□

Chapter 85:In His Room

“You’re right, I wouldn’t have told you. There is no need for you to know where my room is. If you need me, you can just call,” Reiner replied, and I knew that logically he was right.

“Well, there seems to be a need for all the maids in the mansion to know where you room is. How come I’m the only one without the need to know?” I countered. I had my logic too.

Reiner sighed loudly as he seemed to have given up.

“Now that you know where my room is, what are you going to do with that information? By the way, all the maids know where my room is so that they can find me in case of emergencies and I’m not picking up my phone. They don’t know where my room is so that they can come inside and play,” Reiner questioned with challenge in his voice.

Hmm...so he’s clearly not going to let me in.

I guess the fact that he wouldn’t let me in made me more curious about what his room is like. I just want to see more of his private space to learn more about his on a more...personal level? After all, they say that you can learn a lot about the personality of a person by taking a look at his or her room.

“Hahaha! You’re so on guard around me now. Don’t worry, I’ll give up for now, but in no time at all, you’ll willingly let me inside your room...” I stated with certainty, a smile on my lips. The one who will win this challenge will be me. You’ll be letting me inside in no time...

I had no idea when I said that that the time would come much sooner than I thought and for a very different reason...

...

“R!...R!...Reiner!” I yelled his name so loudly that my throat hurts as I pounded hard on his door. My hands hurt from the effort of my pounding, but nothing beats the throbbing pain in my head. I don’t remember how I got here but if he doesn’t open this door

soon...they're going to get me! They're going to find me! My body was wet with sweat and my face was wet with tears. Please, you have to open the door!

"Natalia..." Reiner whispered in shock when he saw me standing in front of his door.

The moment I saw him, I threw myself into his arms as I hugged him tightly to me.

"Help me...R..." I sobbed into his hard chest. My voice was so cracked that I could barely recognize that as my own voice. I was panting hard and finding it difficult to speak and stay on my feet.

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Natalia is crying. Something is very wrong about her right now. She looks scared out of her mind, hopefully, of something that doesn't truly exist. She's still crying hard and her frail body is shaking in my arms. Judging from the fact that she is wearing only her night gown and is barefoot, she most likely ran straight to my room from her bedroom. I hope no one saw her in this state running around this late at night.

I stroked her messy hair softly as I held her tighter in my arms. I need to calm her down before I can find out what is bothering her. She's about to lose her ability to stand as she leaned even more of her weight on me. Seems like I have no choice, I looked behind her on both sides of the corridor to check that no one saw us before pulling her gently into my room, closing the door behind us and locking it.

This is so ironic. True to her words this afternoon, I did let her into my room in no time at all...

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The moment I heard the door of Reiner's room close behind us, I felt a little safer as if whoever that was chasing me wouldn't reach me here. I knew deep down that there was absolutely no one and nothing chasing me in this mansion, but my fear wouldn't subside. My head was still throbbing, and I focused all of my energy to control my irregular breathing. I leaned my body on Reiner as my legs gave out and he supported me as we slowly slid together to the floor. I hate how I'm feeling right now, and I hate that he has to see me like this. I'm always showing him my worst and never my best.

I was still unable to stop the sobs that were wrecking my body as I hugged Reiner tighter to me, my nails digging into his back. I closed my eyes and focus on steadying my breathing as I inhaled Reiner's calming scent. It reminded me that I was not alone, Reiner was with me. Reiner hugged me tighter as he continued to stroke my hair and then my back. He's so warm and comforting. I want to be in his arms like this forever.

"Natalia...can you get up?" Reiner whispered softly in a calm voice into my ear after a while has passed.

I shook my head in reply, not trusting the sound of my own voice and my ability to speak.

“Can you put your arms around my neck?” Reiner asked softly. I slowly moved my arm upwards a little so that my arms were around his neck.

I felt his arm under my knees and around my back before my body was lifted princess-style into his strong arms. How he carried me seemed so effortless and yet he handled me with such care as he slowly walked towards his bed. I felt the softness of the pillow behind my head and the touch of the bed on my body as he slowly laid me down. I'm sleeping in Reiner's bed, I thought to myself, as he pulled his blanket over me. I closed my eyes and inhaled his scent; this bed smells like him. It feels so safe and so warm.

His footsteps were silent as always, so I felt rather than heard him walking away.

—To be continued...