

Fourteen - Flirting

I walk as fast as socially acceptable to my apartment, burying my hurt and pain and focusing on my revenge and fool proof plan. A er I jog up all of the steps, I find I am seriously out of breath, which is quite embarrassing. Note to self: get a gym membership. As I burst into the apartment, I am shocked to see Waverly and Owen sprawled out on the sofa, with his arm around her and her head snuggled into his chest. They jump apart as soon as they hear my dramatic arrival, both sporting red cheeks as if they were children who had been caught with their hands in the cookie jar. Internally my heart melts for them, as they are just so freaking adorable!

"Oh Nell! Hi, hello. Erm... I walked Waverly home today as she said you were out as work and I didn't want her to be alone for too long. Anyway, I better go now." Owen stammers as he awkwardly sweeps some of his long sun-streaked hair out of his eyes and rubs his neck.

"Oh ok, that's sweet of you. Are you sure you don't want to stay? It looks like you two were pretty comfy." I tease him with a mischievous grin.

"Oh yeah, well we were just... just... You know what it was nothing. I'll see you later." Owen sighs as he grabs his bag and scurries out of our apartment, leaving Waverly blushing madly looking very guilty.

"Ok, so what was that?" I ask as I drop my bag and hang up my coat before plopping down on the couch.

"As Owen said it was nothing! He was just being sweet." Waverly answers defensively as she shyly untucks a few of her tight chocolate curls from behind her ear, in order to hide from me.

"You like him, don't you?" I dare to put it out there, knowing she does as her cheeks become even redder and her spring-green eyes open wide in shock.

"N-No... He's your brother I would not do that to you." She shakes her head adamantly.

"I wouldn't mind... I think you two are cute." I insist.

"I don't like him Nell, really. Anyway, how was work?" She quickly tries to deflect the conversation, and I let it rest for another time as she is squirming uncomfortably and looks like she is about to have a smear test. Terrified.

"It was ok... but you never guess what happened... Zander came in." I reveal causing her to sit up straighter and squeal.

"Finally! He took his time! So how did it go?" She asks eagerly.

"Not good. He said he is dating Viv and he doesn't like me." I reveal with a heavy heart.

"Oh... Oh Nell I am so sorry. That sucks... wait how are you ok right now?" Waverly asks as she pulls me into a sympathetic hug.

"Honestly... I'm not." I croak, but I manage to swallow my tears back. "But I know that Zander doesn't really like Viv. He can't. I am not going to back down. I am going to make him want me and forget that Viv even exists." I declare as Waverly squeezes my hand.

"Listen Nell... you are beautiful and he is the biggest idiot on this earth if he doesn't want you, but are you sure he doesn't actually like Viv? You need to be careful; I don't want you to get your heart broken even more." Waverly warns with compassion in her eyes.

"I'm sure. Last week he told me he couldn't stand her, and he couldn't have changed his opinion so quickly! He is doing it to forget about me Waverly, most likely because of his relationship with my brothers, but I won't let him. We love each other so we should be together." I announce confidently, but I feel very small and nervous inside.

What if he actually doesn't love me? What will I do then? My pulse races with worry and nerves as I hug Waverly close, who gives me the comfort I need by simply being there.

The next day...

Ok today is a fresh start and time to start the ball rolling on making Zander mine. I am trying to blot out all my worries and insecurities and be a confident Queen (cringe) like Regina George. I put more effort than usual into my appearance this morning, with a short patterned red skirt that wraps tightly around my shapely legs, a white cami top that leaves little to the imagination and a denim jacket. When I awoke my blonde hair actually resembled a birds nest as I should have washed it last night but wasn't up to it. Trying to make the best out of a bad situation I dry-shampooed and then curled it, making the most out of my extra volume. Paired with a bold red lip and sultry long eyelashes I look like I spent the night warming some hot bachelors bed, which is fine with me. Today I am going to be confident and sexy, even though I would rather die then witness Zander and Viv all over each other. You know what they say, fake it till you make it. A er spritzing the latest Dior fragrance in a tasteful fashion, I am ready for the day, and stride confidently to college with an extra sway of my hips.

Sadly, Zander is nowhere to be found before class, so I am not able to blow his mind. I know I look good though as I notice a few girls telling o their boyfriends for staring at me and gain a few catcalls, which I respond to with a wink. Rylan looks amazed as he notices me strutting into class, letting out a low whistle, which makes me smirk at him.

"Damn baby you're looking fine." He murmurs as I sit beside him, crossing my legs like a lady.

"Thanks Rylan, hey eyes up here." I click my fingers to gain his attention, noticing his eyes are lingering on my legs under the desk for a little too long.

"Sorry Nell... You just look really hot today." He shrugs with a pearly-white smile, not caring he's being a perv.

"Thanks Rylan, you look good too." I compliment him, although he already knows he is hot with that dark chocolate skin, defined bone structure and bright eyes.

"Right class, let's get started." The professor announces as he gathers papers from his desk and double checks the projector is working.

Rylan sends me another wink and his eyes skim my body one last time before he focuses on the professor. Boys. When we are asked to talk to our desk neighbour about our views on company management, I hear two girls behind me gossiping about someone who has just changed their Facebook status to 'in a relationship'. I don't take much notice, concentrating on Rylan when I hear Zander's name mentioned making me feel sick. Great, now everyone is going to know and will be talking about his new 'relationship'. Rylan asks if I am alright as I suddenly look as though I am 'in pain', but I simply nod trying not to act bothered by the fact it seems like everyone is talking about Zander and Viv. It is so infuriating!

"Nell? Nell?" Rylan asks with a frown.

"Oh sorry, what?" I ask, pulled from my angry thoughts.

"You like him don't you." Rylan whispers with a look of realisation flashing across his face.

"Who?" I ask innocently.

"Zander."

"N-no... I don't know who..." I stammer, anxiously looking around the bright hall for anyone who could be listening into our private conversation.

"From the murderous look on your face every time 'Zander and Viv' gets mentioned I'd say you do." Rylan retorts. "Come on, it's fine - we're friends. I'm not going to tell anyone." He promises and I sigh, giving in.

"Ok fine, yes I do like Zander but he is stupidly with this Viv girl." I grumble.

"She is hot." Rylan shrugs causing me to glare at him." But so are you!" He quickly adds in.

"The hardest part is that I know he loves me back, but because of... complications he has gotten with this other girl, who is really not that hot." I whisper grumpily.

"You know what you need to do... Make him jealous." Rylan suggests with a wicked smile.

"That's what I was thinking... Will you help me?" I ask.

"I'm not so sure Nell... I am not a fan of getting beaten up and I don't need him and your brothers on my back."

"Please? I'll do anything! I'll buy you lunch for a week, and I promise I won't let them hurt you! Please Rylan you're the only guy I'm comfortable doing this with!" I plead, fluttering my eyelashes and pulling my irresistible puppy dogface.

"Ok fine." He groans, running his hand through his cropped black hair.

"Thank you so much!" I squeal and pull him into a hug. "Will you come and sit with me at lunch? We can start then."

"Sure Nell." He chuckles good-naturedly as I let go of him.

Just like that, I am suddenly really looking forward to lunch, excited to turn the tables on Zander. Luckily the rest of the lesson flies by and Rylan and I are one of the first to leave - mainly because I am pulling him away before he has even packed away his laptop. As we race through the busy corridors, I hear 'Zander and Viv' mentioned more then once causing an explosion of anger to well up inside of me. I don't want to hear about the new 'IT couple! They certainly aren't couple goals.

As we enter into the bustling canteen, alive with noise, I see that the 'perfect couple' are already here. Hurt and anger makes a lump appear in my throat, which makes it hard to breathe as I see Viv all over Zander constantly touching him. How could he let her put her hands all over him? With a deep breath, I turn and clasp Rylan's hand, hanging o him like a loving girlfriend with a sickly sweet smile.

"Come on then babe; let's get this jealousy game started." Rylan winks.

Steeling my nerves, we stride forward, and I note victoriously that Zander doesn't seem that happy. There is no honeymoon stage glow or bright smile that says he is in a loved-up relationship. Instead, his expression is blank and he looks like he is fighting the urge to peel Viv's hands from his muscled arms and toned chest. As Rylan and I make our way over to the 'cool kids' table we gain stares and points from strangers, until finally Zander sweeps his eyes across the hall before settling on me, and hardening in disbelief as he see's Rylan's hand intertwined with mine. Knowing I have captured his attention I let out a fake laugh and bat my eyelashes at Rylan who winks at me flirtily. As we arrive at the table I pull Rylan down to sit next to me and lean into him, feeling Zander's eyes on us the whole time. Did somebody shout success?

"Who is this?" Isaac frowns as he glares at us, sitting on the opposite side of the table a few chairs down. I feel Rylan tense beside me and squeeze my hand.

"Yeah who is he?" Zander growls as Viv desperately tries to gain his attention.

"Relax guys; this is just my good friend Rylan." I say with a giggle then look up at him dreamily.

"Hi dude." Rylan waves and o ers his hand to my brother who ignores it.

"I guess you've heard about Sheub, right? Well if you touch a hair on my sister's head without her consent, you will wish a beating is all I did to you." Isaac warns with a serious scowl.

"Chill out Isaac, they're just friends." Owen shrugs as he digs into his sandwich two seats down from me.

"Just friends my arse." He grumbles.

"I get it, she is a beautiful girl and if I won't hurt her brother I'd want to protect her too, but I promise I won't hurt her. We are just spending some time together for now." Rylan announces like a true gentleman.

"Sure, but the warning is still in place. You so much as think about hurting her then you will have us three to deal with." Zander threatens from across the table, glowering at Rylan.

"Hey guys how are you?" Waverly chirps as she sits down on the spare seat next to me, conveniently on the other side of Owen.

"Hey Waverly I'm good thanks. You?" I ask as Rylan waves to her too.

"I'm fine..." She murmurs as she looks at Rylan and me curiously but I shake my head, showing I am not able to explain the situation right now.

For the rest of lunch Rylan and I take every opportunity to flirt and touch each other, and I love feeling Zander's angry eyes on me revealing that he is a volcano ready to blow. Roxanne and Holea don't join us today, but Chelsie and Ava do both constantly flirting with Isaac. At least it takes his attention o Rylan and I. Zander doesn't even try to take his eyes o of us though, which makes me very happy. For the most part I ignore him, focusing on sweetening up Rylan, but sometimes I can't resist peeking at him and love the feeling of empowerment I get from his stormy expression and dark eyes.

Revenge is very sweet.

We carry on obviously flirting until Zander, obviously having enough, suddenly stands and storms out. Everyone on the table turns to see what happened as he dumps his tray with a crash on the side and rages away without a look back. Did I go too far? Viv is the first to recover, jumping up and pathetically calling out 'baby' to him whilst he just ignores her.

Even though it's mean I smile, knowing that I have successfully made him jealous.

Edited

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