

Love Me in the Dark - Chapter 14. Trial and Error

RIVER

Krew calmed down a little bit. His cold hands stopped from shaking, but I could still see the horror in

his

eyes that I wished I could take it away, but how would I if I didn't know the reason? Perhaps, a

traumatic

childhood? My heart ached for him. Poor boy. I couldn't even begin to imagine a boy Krew looked

frightened.

I wished he could just share it with me. I wanted to know him deeper, and I was willing to gamble

and

share something with him. I had hope that he would open up to me, but I knew sharing something

that we

wished didn't happen was difficult, especially to someone we barely knew. It was just unfair that he

seemed to know a lot about me while I knew nothing about him.

I wanted to trust him despite everything that had happened between us. I wanted to trust him with

everything, but how? When he couldn't even consider me as his friend?

"You'll be okay." I ran my thumb on his cheek as I kept my gaze on his beautiful terrified eyes. It was somewhat alarming how I could easily see how vulnerable he was. I guessed he let me in this time.

He let

me in even for a moment like this. So I let my guard down.

Courage pulsed through me. "There's no reason for you to be scared. It can't hurt you. It can never

hurt

you, and I am here. I would never leave beside you,” I reassured him despite there was no
guarantee. I

still wanted to help him even in return, I earned nothing.

‘-I know.’ He finally let go of a deep and long shuddering breath. “Don’t leave me, River.” I felt the
grip

loosening from him, and I let his hand go. He tentatively reached out to my face. “I know you won’t
leave

me.” His voice dropped to a whisper. He moistened his lips as he dropped his gaze down to my face,
settling on my lips. Tension suddenly thickened in the air, filling the room.

Then I felt that I knew what would happen next. I forced to suppress a shudder, but the anticipation
had

made my sense hypersensitive—his breaths sounded louder. My heart thudded against my chest as
he ran

his thumb on my cheek down to my lips.

Heat radiated through my flesh as I watched his reaction—his pupils dilated, darkened even more—
almost obsidian.

His gaze darted back to my eyes, then dropped down to my lips again. He hadn’t kissed me yet, but
the

anticipation of feeling and tasting those lips again was killing me. Oh, god. I was burning and melting
inside.

Just do it, Krew.

He sighed heavily in relief, and he just killed my anticipation into the icy cold as he released his
hands,
looked out the dark window, and inspected if the rain had stopped.

Buzzkill.

I inwardly groaned and leaned against the desk. I now felt the cold of the floor against my skin. What
was I
thinking? He was drunk when he first kissed me, and right now, he wasn't. There was no way he
would
kiss me even if he was scared shitless.

He hadn't said anything, and I couldn't say anything as well. My skin was still vibrating with our
almost kiss
encounter. I was in heat like a cat not a moment ago, and now I was chilling cold.

I got the cue. When I got my courage back, and he seemed okay, I rose to my feet and walked out of
the
office before I could curse the hell out of him and break our arrangement. The worse part was, he
didn't
even stop me.

I drew the curtain and got back to bed. A few moments later, before I put myself in slumber, I heard
a soft
knock on my door.

"You know you have a key, Krew. I'm lazy to get up," I yelled enough for him to hear me. I was
optimistic. 1
knew it was him.

The light from the hallway entered the room, then his shadow hovered.

“You left,” he said. His voice was low and deep.

“You seemed okay back there.” I didn’t make a move even if I could sense his closeness. I was not

ready

to let him see an ounce of my embarrassment.

‘I wasn’t, but I’m an adult.’ He flicked the lamp on the nightstand before the bed set deep. He must

have

taken the liberty to sit on my bed.

“And?”

‘I almost pushed beyond my limit.’ He sounded regretful. Is that how he called it now? Screw him

and his

self-control.

“And you’re here because?” I still didn’t turn to see his face.

‘I regretted that I didn’t stop you.’

“You said it yourself that you were okay.”

‘I was okay from the rain, but I wasn’t okay for making a move then stopped myself.’

I snorted. “I should get used to it by now. It wasn’t the first time.”

He moved, the next thing I knew, his hand was draping around my waist.

“You know this won’t work, right?” How stupid? This was exactly what I wanted, yet my brain was
fighting
against my lust and heart.

“A man could try.” Try harder. Maybe by then, I give in.

‘Krew—”

‘Let me just stay here for tonight, River. I promise I won’t do anything stupid.” Oh, please do more
than

stupid things like touching me, kissing the hell out of my stupidity, and this time, I won’t stop you. “I
keep

myself out of the blanket.” That did it. All my self-pity had vanished.

I turned to face him and meet his eyes. “Tell me what happened.”

His face contorted. He pulled his hand and stared up at the ceiling. “I don’t wanna talk about it.” He
became cagey again.

‘Then you shouldn’t be here. I can’t just open up while you get your choice not to. Whatever those
stupid

things you wanted to do would only remain stupid. I could see it in your eyes that you wanted me,
but if

you won’t trust me or share a portion of yourself with me, then I’d rather be alone in this bed right
now.

You knew how your way in, I’m sure you can find your way out.” I turned away from him and closed
my

eyes despite my racing heart and disappointment.

When he knocked on my door, I was thinking of ending this eventful night more eventful. Haha, a girl
could

dream. Maybe we could cuddle till morning, but it turned out to be worse.

“Good night, River.”

I felt he was leaving. “Suit yourself.”

‘I don’t wanna talk about it.”

“You can’t trust me and won’t ever trust me. Then there’s nothing much to say.”

‘I do trust you. After all this time, I felt like I more than trust you. You can see me through the dark,
River.

But if you would ask me to open something I kept buried deep, I can’t. It’s not easy.”

“You can, but you won’t. I’m not telling you to drop everything into me. You could just say, you’re not
ready,
and I’m fine with it.”

He sighed deeply. “I’m not ready.”

‘It’s not hard, is it?” I looked at him.

He nodded.

I patted the space on the bed. “Help yourself before I change my mind.”

We laid there in silence for a few moments. He got in the blanket, laid flat on his back, and stared up
at

the ceiling again. I could sense that he was struggling with the thoughts in his head. The silence

stretched

further. All I could hear was our breaths until he spoke.

'I want to experiment.'

I cocked my brow as I glanced at him in confusion. "Experiment?"

'I feel something when I'm with you. The same feeling I had when I met you years ago. I like it. I

want to

explore further.'

'I like it too,' I admitted. "How many times you've tried it?"

He gave me a side glance. "I had a girlfriend back in college. Then she couldn't accept the idea of

me not

telling her my secrets. Since then, I have never dated anyone. Just casual, one-night stand."

"When did the last one-night stand happen?"

He shifted, his lips curved up. "Tell me first something about you that I didn't know yet, then I will tell

you."

'I had two boyfriends if I wouldn't count my stalker. One in high school and one in college. I didn't

have

much luck going on a date since that thing happened."

His brows dropped. "I'm truly sorry."

'It's alright. I wouldn't be here lying next to you if I have someone.'

He sighed. "I guess that makes the two of us."

'I feel the same way too, Krew. It felt like I was drawn to you every time I looked into your eyes. It felt like I could trust you.'

"No rush. We can make it casual. Let's get to know each other. We'll see where it goes when this stalker issue is over."

"All right then."

'Believe me, River. I trust you. It's just, it's hard for me to talk about it. But if you have patience in me, you would know everything about me in no time.'

I filled the gap between us. "Good thing I have all the time in the world."