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Jakobia's POV

"Nevermind. I'll explain later." I watched as Valdo placed the phone down without taking his eyes off me. He looked relieved to see me for some odd reason.

"Hi," I whispered, not quite sure what to say. I didn't expect him home until the next hour. What's he doing here?

He ran his hands through his hair and let out a smile. After a few seconds, he finally spoke, "Hi."

That's when it clicked. That call was about me and by the look that was on his face I could tell it was because he thought I runaway. "You thought I left, didn't you?"

He nodded, "Yes. I thought you did. I called a few times earlier, and I didn't get any answer, and so I decide to come and check if everything was okay. When I came home, the place was quiet, the things I bought were there, the only thing missing was King. I've been waiting for two hours and no sign of you. So yes, I thought you left."

I nodded understanding, "And the person on the phone?"

"Private Investigator." He answered honestly, but I could see he was hesitant at first.

"It's okay. I understand your side of the story; now you listen to mine. I got really bored. I didn't find anything on the TV remotely interesting, and I wasn't in the mood for reading. You see for the past six months I've been on the street, not locked up in some fancy apartment with four hundred different channel and so I wanted some fresh air and King looked like he needed some as well. So I decided that the park would be a great idea. With King as my compa**, we went to the park, but on the way back, we got lost and were going in circles. I finally decide to ask someone for directions." That was the most straightforward way I could put today's activity in words, but I also learnt a vital lesson. Dogs are great at memory records but not necessary it the correct order.

I looked at Valdo, waiting for his response. After a few seconds of silence, he smiled, "The reason why you got lost is that when I'm coming back from the park or walks with King, we don't usually take the same route. I'm sorry for doubting you. Sorry for thinking you stole my dog."

I shrug, "We only met a few days ago. I am a pregnant stranger you decided you wanted to help. I understand if you don't trust me 100%, to be honest, I still don't trust you 100%, but I'm grateful for the help. Words can't explain how thankful I am to you. Even if you turn out to be a creep, I'll still be grateful because it's kindness anyone has been to me since I became homeless. Thank you."

He laughed, "I'm not a creep."

"That's what a creep would say."

He laughed a little harder, "I'm a creep. I'm a creep. I'm a creep."

I laughed at his childish behaviour, "Say that one time and I just might believe you."

He shook his head and smile, his blue lighting up. He mumbled, "Women are so hard to please."

"I am not hard to please." I defended with a smile. I turn around placing the key on the rack then look back at him.

"Hmmm..that's what all women say." he took a step back walked off to the couch.

"I'm not like all women." Being homeless taught me not to be picky. I'm thankful for everything I get. Some people have it worse than I do so why complain when I can be grateful?

"I'm starting to realise that," he said, looking into my eyes. He broke eye contact with me then cleared his throat, "You've been on your feet for a few hours. You should get some rest. We're having dinner with my mom and stepdad later."

"It's okay. I'm used to being on my feet all day."

He shook his head, "Yes, you are. But now you don't have to be on your feet all day anymore, you have a nice comfortable bed with silk sheets that are waiting for you to lay in it." he looked down at my feet and frowned, "Your feet is swollen. You need to lay down." I was used to my feet being swollen. It didn't pain me anymore, or I've just gotten used to the pain. I never made a big deal about it before, and now here he was, a stranger, telling me to rest my feet. I knew he wouldn't stop until I agreed, so I did.

"Okay, fine. I'll go rest but wake me up when it's time to get ready to go to your parents."

He nodded and smiled, then he waved his hands in the direction of the room. "Good. Now go get some rest."

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"Are you ready?" Valdo asked as he parked in the allotted area.

I nodded my head, even though I was dying of nervousness. No one's ever introduced me to their parents before, not even Will. It was always sneaking around with us, I should have known by then that nothing good would come from our relationship, but I was naive. Too dumb to see the signs.

Valdo placed his hands on mine and squeezed, "You don't need to worry. My mother is wonderful, and Kevin is great. They'll love you, and you'll love them."

I nodded again and offered a fake smile. Would they really love me? Their son is bringing home a pregnant, homeless girl, not a good first impression.

It doesn't matter; you're not his girlfriend.

Just someone he's helping out.

"Come on. They're waiting for us." He removed his hands from mine and reached for my seatbelt to unlock it, and then he reached to do his as well. I pulled opened the passenger door and exited the car.

I looked at the home in front of me with my eyes wide. I didn't notice it before because I was in my thoughts but standing in front of it, brought it to light. In the centre of the yard, there was a three-layered marble water fountain, and around it lay rose bushes. Beyond the fountain was the biggest house I'd ever seen in real life. The mansion was three stories high. It was painted in beige and dark brown. It had about six beautiful tall arched victorian windows with a few balconies.

It was beautiful, the perfect place to have a family.

Valdo stood beside me and look at the mansion, "Amazing, isn't it?"

I looked up at him and nod. It was the first time I've ever stood side by side with him, and the height difference wasn't as bad as I thought. I was 5'5, and he was around 6', not that comparing our height mattered anyway.

I look back at the house, "It's beautiful. It's like the houses you see on TV."

"It's better than the houses we see on Tv." he paused then look down at me, "Ready to go in?"

I lifted my head and stared into his blue eyes, "Yes."

He smiled down at me, "Great."

He took my elbow, and we started walking up to the door. Before we could reach the wooden doors, it opened. A woman with dirty blonde hair and a ma**ive smile on her face was looking at us.

"Uvaldo, my baby." She walked up to her son and pulled him in a bone-crushing hug. "I missed you."

He laughed, "Mom, you saw me four days ago."

She pulled him out of her embrace and looked at him with soft eyes, "That's four days too long."

I couldn't help smiling at the two, it was sweet, and it reminded me so much of what I'm missing. I didn't have my mother to hug me like that. Would she hug me like that if she ever sees me again?

She looked over at me and smiled, "You must be Tiffany. I'm Hannah." Before I could answer her, she had her arms wrapped around me in a hug, "Vally has told me so much about you, you're one strong girl. I can't wait to get to know you better."

She pulled her arms from around me and looked at me. She pinched my cheeks and smile, "So beautiful. Thank God, Vally found you. Believe me when I say it's dangerous for a pretty girl like you to be out on the streets."

"Thanks." I tried not to blush at her words, but I've never been called beautiful and pretty by anyone except my mother. It was weird too because she has green eyes similar to my mothers.

"Let's go inside Kevin is setting the table just as we speak." Hannah laced her hands and mine and the elbow, and then we entered her home together. "Welcome to Garner's Villa. It's been in Kevin's family for centuries."

The outside of the mansion was just as beautiful as the inside. With clean white walls, filled with centuries-old paintings but modern-day furniture, the contrast was amazing. "I'll give you a tour later, but for now we should eat. You must be starving after that long drive up here." She was right, I was hungry, and the only thing I ate was two hot dogs at the park. "You're going to love what Kevin has cooked up for us."

She smiled, and we entered into the dining room together. As we entered, I noticed a very handsome man who was probably in his fifties, putting things on the dining table. He lifted his head when he noticed he had company and smiled. He looked at his wife then at me, and his eyes went wide. "You must be Tiffany." he walked over to his wife and me and pulled his hands out for me to shake. I

took his hands in mine and shook it. "I'm Kevin Garner." he paused and frown then look up at his wife, "Where is Uvaldo?"

"I'm here," Valdo said, coming into the room.

The older man's face lit up as he sees his stepson, he moved towards him and hugged him, "Good to see you son. We have so much to catch up on."

If Valdo hadn't told me the story about what happened to his mother, I would have never believed that Kevin wasn't his father. The love the man showed towards his stepson was evident.

Kevin looked over at me and smile, "I always wanted a daughter, and now I have one."

My heart melted at his words.

I've always wanted a father too, and I think one just adopted me.

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Hannah touched my shoulder and smiled. "Kevin doesn't have any children of his own. When we got married, we tried everything, but then we found out that.." she paused and looked over at Kevin asking for permission. When he nodded, she continued, "Kevin had a nonmalignant tumour that caused him to be infertile." she looked at me a little sad, "Uvaldo is the closest thing he has to a child, and now you're in Vally's life, you're in our lives as well. We've always wanted a daughter. So if you'd let us, we'd be great parents."

I smiled at her. I always wanted to know what it feels like to have two parents who loved each other. I've always wanted a family. I nod then wipe the stray tears.

Hannah saw immediately and pulled me in a hug, "Don't cry, dear." She held me for a minute then releases me.

"I've never really had a family. Only my mother." I inhaled and looked at them, "I'd love to be your daughter."

Kevin clapped his hands and laughed. "Great. I hope you like Paella."

"I've never actually had Paella before, but I've seen pictures on Pinterest." My mother and I could barely afford regular food, and so we didn't go out much or cooked fancy Spanish dishes.

"Oh well, I have no idea what Pinterest is but you're going to love what I've prepared for tonight." he looked around at everyone, "You guys should have a seat, especially you missy, shouldn't be standing on your feet at all. How far along are you?"

"Thirty-two weeks," I answered.

Valdo moved over closer to the table and pulled a seat. "See, Uvaldo agrees with me. Have a seat." I walked over to seat that Valdo pulled out and sat. Kevin smiled with approval, then looked at his wife. "You should rest your beautiful legs too. You've been standing all day."

"I haven't been standing all day." She pulled out a chair nonetheless and sat.

"Hmm..." he said, not convinced. He looked at Valdo, "You should sit too."

Valdo pointed down the hall, "Don't you want any help moving the things from the kitchen."

Kevin shook his head, "No, I'm good. You sit down and keep these lovely ladies company." Kevin took the mitten from the dining table then walked out of the room, heading to the kitchen. Hannah's eyes followed him until he disappeared. It was obvious that they were crazy in love with each other.

"How did you meet Kevin?"

Hannah laughed. "Well, that's what you call a story." I raised my eyebrows at her. What did she mean exactly? Instead of asking, I waited for her to tell me. "Vally had just graduated from college, and he was fortunate to get a job. I was so happy for him. He was such a smart child." She reached over the table and pinched his cheeks, he responded by smiling sweetly at her. "Anyways, he was working and was getting some good money, but I could tell he was unhappy with his job. A few weeks later, he came home crying."

She lifted her hands and placed it over her heart. "My baby crying. Now that was a shocker because Uvaldo is a strong man, always has been. Always want to fight my battles for me, and so when he came home in tears, I was curious to know what happened. He wouldn't tell me. I tried to force it out of him, but he wouldn't succ**b. I thought it was girlfriend problems at first, but then I would have known if he had a girlfriend, after all, I was still washing his clothes. Then I conclude it must be something at work, so I took a day off work and went to his workplace. That's when I saw it."

She paused and looked at her husband, who was returning with a jug in his hands.

There no way she could leave me with a cliffhanger like that so asked, "What did you see?"

She quickly looked at me, "I saw this tall man towering over my child yelling at him."

Kevin mumbled something under his breath, so I looked over at him to see if he was going to say something.

I looked back at Hannah, "How does Kevin come into all of this?"

She laughed, "Who do you think was shouting at Uvaldo?"

My eyes widen. I shook my head and looked at Kevin, whose eyes were on his wife. "He didn't."

"He did." Valdo and his mother said at the same time while Kevin said 'I did.'"

I laughed and look at Hannah, "What did you do?"

Hannah smiled up at her husband, "Why don't you let Kevin finish the story."

Kevin shrugged, "I have to get wine from the cupboard."

"Vally will get it for you," Hannah said without moving her eyes from her husband. She used her fingers and pointed at the seat beside her. Kevin listened to wife command and pulled out the chair next to her and sat. Valdo looked between his mother and step-father smile before standing up.

When Valdo was gone, Kevin took a deep breath and started. "Uvaldo was working with the accounts department at the time. Every month he is supposed to make sure all the accounts are balanced. He made an error, and so I asked to see him, but he wasn't there. I was furious. He went out when he's supposed to be working."

"I was working," Valdo said as reentered the room with the wine in his hands.

Kevin took his eyes from me and looked at his stepson, "I didn't know that at the time." Kevin looked back at me and continued his story, "I was furious because he didn't do what he's supposed to do. When he returned, I was there waiting for him. Yes, I started shouting. I'm a man who values work ethics and so when I thought Uvaldo was slacking off I was pissed, and I was about to fire him. Then I heard a chair being pulled behind me, so I turn to look."

I let out a laugh and looked at Hannah. "Did you really do that?"

"Yup." the three of them answered in reply.

"But that's not the end. She stood on the chair and was hovering over me. At this time, I was mesmerised. I'd never met a more beautiful woman in my life. I was looking up at her all dreamy wondering where the hell she came from. Then she opened her mouth." he looked at his wife and smile.

"What did she say?"

"She frowned at me and then said 'So you like hovering over people, do you? How do you feel now having me hovering over you.' I returned her frown because I had no idea what she was talking about. Anyways. She rolled her eyes, then shouted, "Don't you dare shout at my child."

"So embarra**ing," Valdo mumbled.

Kevin smiled at Valdo then continued his story, "That's when I realise that the beautiful woman in front was the mother of the worker I was shouting at. Long story short, she slapped me, then came off the chair then she grabbed Uvaldo hand and pulled him out of the office. Many of the other co-workers saw what happened and I thought about the embarra**ment Uvaldo must have faced and so I looked up his address and the next day I went to apologise. But of course, that didn't happen."

"What happened?" I looked at Valdo, sitting beside me, for an answer.

But Hannah answered before he could get the chance, "I slammed the door in his face of course. I thought he was there to finish what he started."

I looked at Kevin, who was smiling at his wife. "What did you do next?"

"I gave up and went back to work. That's when I found out that Uvaldo was actually saving the company. The break he took was to go to a private investigator about the next co-worker who was embezzling money from my company. I was so happy because that employee had been stealing money from my company for ten years before Uvaldo caught him. I was grateful, and so I went to his house the following day. Luckily his mother wasn't at home at that time. I spoke to him, and I gave him his job back but with higher status. He started working as my financial adviser." he looked over at his wife and smile. "Why don't you finish the story?"

She waved her hand at him, "Maybe later. I'm starving."

We all chuckles at her words. She clapped her hands twice then looked around at everyone, "Vally, why don't you say grace?"

He nodded then bent his head now, everyone followed, including me. "Thank you, heavenly Father, for giving us another day to live. Thanks for providing family and thanks for providing food. We ask for your blessing as we eat this food. In your son, Christ Jesus names, Amen."

I lifted my head after the prayer and looked around. Praying wasn't something I'm used to. I never grew up religious; neither did my mother. I've never even stepped foot in a Church or any other place of worship before.

"Are you okay, Tiffany?" I looked up at Hannah and nodded quickly.

Kevin smiled, "Great. Let's eat. Bon Appet**e" He lifted the cover off the container which held the Paella, and when he did, my mouth went dry at the look and the smell.

"It looks amazing," I whispered.

Valdo looked over me and smile. "It does, doesn't it?"

Hannah looked at us with a grin, "You should wait until you taste it."

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"Thank you, so much for having me over," I said as Hannah pulled me in a hug.

She released me then smiled sweetly, "You're welcome, sweetheart. I was in your position, so I know what goes on in that head of yours. Sometimes we just want someone to care for us." She looked at her husband and son, then back at me, "We care for you."

I nod and wiped the tears from my face, "Thank you."

"You're welcome." she looked up at Valdo then back at me, "What have you been doing in the days?"

"Nothing. I slept today, and I took King to the Park."

"You must be awfully bored."

I smiled and nodded, "I am."

"Why don't you spend your days with me? I teach a baking cla**. I think you'd love it." she looked across at Valdo, "What do you say, Vally?"

Valdo smiled at his mom, "That would be great." he turned to me, "Of course, if you rather stay off your feet we'd understand." I smiled at the simple gesture of kindness.

I nod, "I'd love to come to your cla**. I'm sure it would be better than sitting down all day doing nothing."

Hannah grinned at me, "Perfect. I'll pick you up at eight-thirty."

"And maybe you can bring her to the soup kitchen afterwards," Kevin suggested.

Hannah's face lit up, "Yes. That's a great idea." she turned to me, "You wouldn't mind, would you?"

I shook my head. Of course, I wouldn't mind serving food to the homeless. I know what they're going through, what they like so who better to help them than someone who knows and understand their struggles.

I've been to a few soup kitchen myself, and it was because I was hungry and I had no money, just like the other persons there. Everyone had a different story. In a Soup Kitchen, you're surrounded by hundreds of people who have a story. Some stories were similar to mine. Some were much more worse. Going to the soup kitchen allowed me to see how other people cope with being homeless.

Hannah looked between her son and me, "I don't want to keep you guys on the road too late, so I'm going to let you go home."

"Thanks, mom. I'll see you tomorrow." Valdo pulled his mom in a quick hug then release her than did the same for his stepfather. We didn't go back to the story, but I was curious to know how Valdo and Kevin got so close after what happened.

As Valdo and I made our way to his car, Kevin and Hannah waited at their front door to see us leave. Valdo opened the pa**enger for me, and I entered. I waved at the couple as Valdo entered and started the car. When we were a few minutes away from the house, Valdo turned to me, "Did you like them?"

I smiled, "I love them." I did. They weren't what I expected his parents to be. I expected arrogant and egoist people just like movies portrayed, but the Garner's weren't. They were friendly, loving and down-to-earth not what she expected at all, especially from the stepfather who was a multi-billionaire. What shocked me was that there were no chefs around, and he cooked and served us himself.

Valdo smiled, "Great, because they love you too."

I blushed then turn to look in the opposite direction of his beautiful eyes, "Thank you. I always used to wonder what's it like to have two parents or at least a father, and you gave me that opportunity." I looked back at him with a serious face, "You've done so much for me. I don't know how I'll ever pay you back."

He looked at me and smiled, "The Law of Value states 'Your true worth is determined by how much more you give in value than you take in payment.' I want to give you as much as I can so that you can have a better life." he smiled, "The law of Authenticity states 'The most valuable gift you have to offer is yourself.' You might think you're giving me nothing in return, but that's not true, you're giving me yourself. Your time and your attention. They're nothing more valuable than you can give me, except yourself."

I nod, "Those are some strong laws."

He smiled, "They're the ones I live by. I can never go wrong if I follow them."

I smiled and looked at him. It was this moment that all my doubts and sus***ions about him disappeared. He lived by-laws, he had a wonderful loving father, a loving heart and a generous soul. He isn't the type to steal a baby from a teenage girl, and so I had to do the right thing by telling him the truth.

"My real name is Jakobia Taylor, Tiffany is just the name I use on the streets, I come from a small town, and I'm not twenty. I'm eighteen." I bent my head in embarra**ment, "I'm sorry, I lied, but I couldn't trust you, not 100% at least." he turned for a sec and continued looking at the road ahead, "You have to understand, they're so many creeps out there that would do anything to get a baby or worse, people who just kill for pleasure. I just couldn't take the risk."

"I understand." he looked at me briefly before shifting his attention back on the road, "Why did you change your mind? Why do you trust me completely now?"

I thought thoroughly about the question before I answered. "It's everything. The way you are, The way you soc*****e with your family. The relationship you had with them. Everything."

"Thank you." he suddenly slowed the car down and parked on the side of the road. He looked me in the eyes. "I only want what's best for you and what's best for you is to be surrounded by people who will love and take care of you. The only thing we want in return is your love and respect as well. For the past six months, you've had it hard, I can only imagine some of the things you are going through, but now is time to let all of that go. Many people have hurt, mistreated, and abandoned you, but now it's time for you to forgive them and let go. You might think the world is full of bad people who are going to hurt you, but I'm not going to hurt you, neither is Kevin or my mother. There are still good people in the world. We want to help. Let me help you. Let us give you the love you deserve."

I held my breath as I looked into his piercing blue eyes. It seemed as if he had cast a spell on me because I was lost for words. My heart kicks up. I also knew he was attractive, but there was something different now that I was sitting so close to him.

I'm not attracted to Valdo. He's the guy who's helping me, and he's way older. I'm not attracted to Valdo. I can't be, can I?

I'm pregnant with another man's child, why does thinking about Valdo gives me b***erflies in my stomach?

Because you like him.

Stop it, Jakoby!

You've known him less than a week. I couldn't possibly have any romantic feeling towards him; it would be wrong, so wrong. Yet by staring into his eyes, I couldn't help but wonder what it would be like to have a man like Valdo loving me.

He was already good to me, imagine how he would treat me if he fell in love with me.

Get over yourself!

You're just sad and lonely and need someone to comfort you, that's all it is. Admiration for the man who is helping you. Don't complicate the situation by falling for him. You're pregnant, for Christ sake! Get a grip.

I can't believe all the thoughts that were going through my head as I stared at him. What is wrong with me?

I'm fantasising about him while I stare at him, not weird at all.

I finally came out of my reverie when he cleared his throat and back away. He started the car, and we were back on route.

"You said the most important gift someone can give is themselves." I look straight ahead; I didn't want to fall into his abyss of eyes again. "How do I give you myself? I don't have much to offer you. I'm boring to be around; I don't watch TV a lot. I'm a house rat, but that's because I never had a lot of money to go out anyways." I sighed, "The only thing I can give you is my time and attention."

He took his eyes off the road for a second then smiled and at, "Your time is all I need."