

The Devil's Love For The Heiress by LiLhyz Chapter 26

Chapter 26: "Something"

Kate was smiling in her sleep. Hearing her phone alarm, she rolled to lie on her back, stretching her arms altogether. As she sat up, she realized Carlos was already in her room. She was facing his back while he sat on the edge of her bed.

"Carlos?" She softly called. "How long have you been here?"

Carlos turned to Kate. In his hand was her diary, and Kate saw how his jaws clenched, his eyes full of sorrow. He said, "Kate, I'm sorry. I did not mean to hurt you."

"It's okay," Kate sat up promptly, crawling next to him. She tried to grab her diary, feeling embarrassed by whatever he found out. Forthwith, she understood what he was sorry for

"You fell into depression? And you had to seek treatment?" Carlos asked, his brows meeting as he sought.

"It was just for a month. Shortly after you left – give me that. It's my personal space," Kate said, reaching for her diary. She did not want Carlos to feel guilty. To her, it was all in the past now.

After seizing her diary, Carlos embraced her. He repeatedly let out sighs of regret. "I'm sorry, Kate. I'm so sorry."

"I wanted to make a name for myself so that you would look at me one day, but I hurt you in the end," Carlos said, recounting the contents of Kate's diary.

Earlier, when Carlos entered Kate's room, he found her diary wide open on her desk. Curiosity got to him that he read it.

He was ecstatic to learn that Kate genuinely loved him back. In fact, he was elated after reading how Kate repeatedly expressed her love for him through the diary. However, through the same journal, he also learned of Kate's pain and felt responsible for her heartaches.

It crushed his spirit to know that his actions led Kate to cry herself to sleep at some point. It dawned on him how, over the years, it wasn't just him who suffered from their distance.

"I never knew," Carlos said. He pecked on Kate's cheek, adding, "I wished I knew."

When Carlos started earning good money, he commissioned an investigator to check on Kate, but her depression came shortly after he left. That part of her life was never reported to him. Under his breath, he muttered, "I wish I was there."

Carlos held Kate longer, letting her know his remorse. Kate had to repeatedly assure him how she was okay now. Only the kissing incident with Hailey caused her recent anxiety.

"It's fine" Kate pulled away, and Carlos pecked on her lips and nose. She smiled, clutching her diary "It was... in the past. And mom always tells me how I should learn from the past."

Caressing Carlos' bearded jaws, Kate proposed, "Let's learn from our pasts, together now... I promise to never ignore you again. And you? Promise me you won't leave me again."

Carlos nodded. His hand rested at the back of her neck, and he kissed her gently on the face and on her lips. He vowed, "I promise – well, um. I still need to go for tournaments, Kate, but I

will be in touch."

Kate smiled. She replied, "I understand, Mister Ronaldo."

"Breakfast is ready, kids! Carlos, son, get your wife down here soon!" Kate could not believe her ears. She could hear her mother's voice from her room. Samantha's voice was so loud; Kate could tell her mother was probably speaking by the staircase. Kate and Carlos wound up laughing. She especially turned red, ashamed of her mother's claims. "I have a feeling that mom loves you more than me."

"Don't be silly, Kate. She loves you so much; she wants you to have the best man to marry," Carlos said, winking at Kate.

Kate's mouth fell to the floor, shocked at Carlos' words. As he laughed, she remarked, "I never thought you had that in you, mister!"

"Go on, take a shower. We will leave after breakfast," Carlos said before helping Kate up. He embraced her tight once more, saying, "I love you, my Kate."

With a smile, Kate replied, "I love you too."

While Carlos came by at six in the morning to fetch Kate, Samantha insisted they take their breakfast before heading out.

At the dining table, Samantha and Ethan could see the sparkle in the couple's eyes, their teasing smiles, and that special look they give each other. Kate's parents frequently smiled while giving approving nods.

When breakfast was over, Samantha asked, "So, where are you going?"

"Not far, aunt. At the house, around the community," Carlos said.

"Will you be okay going out, though?" Ethan asked

Carlos cleared his throat and revealed his plans. "I'll cover up. Also, my assistant closed up the places we will go to."

"Be sure Be safe," Ethan reminded. "I will be careful, uncle," Carlos acknowledged. "And, um. Later tonight, I was wondering if Kate." He massaged the back of his neck, reluctantly resuming his request, "If Kate can stay with me at my house?"

Kate's eyes widened. She inwardly screamed, 'Oh, my god! Yes! Yes!

Samantha and Ethan looked at each other. Samantha beamed, but Carlos could not read if Ethan was okay with the idea.

Leaning back in his seat, Ethan said, "Hmmm... Well, I trust you to do right by me, Carlos Don't do anything that would disappoint me."

Glaring at her husband, Samantha mouthed at Ethan. They whispered to each other before Samantha returned her attention to Carlos and Kate. She said, "Not necessarily everything. I mean, you can do something!"

"Oh, my god. Mom!" Kate complained, covering her face with her hands. "If you get my daughter pregnant, you'll need to get married ASAP," Ethan clarified. "Or better yet, get married fast," Samantha suggested, her smile reaching her ears. "Make it

legal!"

Kate remained to cover her face, but nonetheless, she thought, 'Now... that is an interesting idea.

She did not notice it, but when Kate removed her hands, she grinned like a love-sick fool. When she glanced at Carlos, she realized he was staring at her the whole time. Her face turned a shade darker before she returned her regard to her parents. "Guys, please. Don't do this – "

"So you don't want to marry Carlos?" Samantha cornered her daughter, and Kate was rendered speechless.

"I love Kate, uncle, aunt. We will get to that," Carlos said, smiling, helping Kate out in the situation. "I will definitely marry her one day."

"When?" Kate unwittingly asked. "Did – did I say that out loud?" "Yes," both Ethan and Samantha replied. "Well, I know you will end up together. I'm confident about that. Just... don't take too long," Samantha said with a wink

Moments later, the couple was about to leave when Samantha called Kate's attention. She dragged Kate to one corner of the living room and gave her a small pouch. "What's this, mom?" Kate asked, accepting the pouch. "Something very important," Samantha suggested. Kate frowned while accepting the pouch. She opened it, and to her shock, that "Something" were six packs of condoms! Panic flashed through her face as she frantically zipped the pouch close, knowing that Carlos was about to walk out with her father. "Mom, what's the meaning of this?" Kate asked. "Why do you even have these?" "Oh, my dear, Kate. These were our old stock. These rubbers are expired – guaranteed to fail and break when used," Samantha revealed. She smirked and added, "I hear wedding bells in two months!"

"Oh, my god, Mom. No. Kate tried to give back the pouch, but Samantha pushed it back to Kate.

"Use it," Samantha insisted.

"No!" Kate said back.

"Get my son-in-law," Samantha ordered.

The mother and daughter were still at it, arguing about the contents of the pouch when Carlos walked out. "Shall we, Kate?" "Oh, Carlos," Samantha said. "I gave Kate a gift – for protection, but she would not take it."

Handing the pouch to Carlos instead, she suggested, "Here, use it." Smiling at Carlos, Samantha said, "Goodbye, son." Turning to Kate, she added, "Enjoy your date."

It confused Carlos the whole time, but he accepted the pouch otherwise while taking Kate's hand. When they were inside the car, Kate quickly snatched away the pouch, saying, "Give me that. Mom and her ideas. I swear."

"What's inside?" Carlos asked.

"Nothing," Kate answered, her face burning as she reasoned. "It's just... something." "If it's nothing, why are you blushing?" Carlos asked, and a sly grin formed on his face.

Kate shook her head and chuckled, "You are getting more sly by the day with that smirk."

Carlos laughed and answered, "I did nothing, Kate. Just showing you my sexy side." "I swear, this side of you is so different!" Kate declared, still flushing. "Which Carlos do you like, Kate? The old one or the new?" Carlos sought as he turned on the ignition.

Kate fell silent. She stared at Carlos' handsome face and smiled, saying, "I loved you then, and I love you now. You would not be Carlos without your old self. Thus, I love both versions of

you."

Carlos stilled while looking at Kate. Her words filled him with confidence, knowing that Kate truly loved him now. Gone were the days of his unrequited love. He leaned in and pecked on her lips. He declared, "You have no idea how much I love you."

Carlos' grey eyes held Kate captive. She felt like she was in a trance. Before she could reply, however, Carlos snatched the pouch away from her and quickly opened it. "Oh, my god! Carlos!" Kate covered her face, saying, "It's not what you think, I swear. Mom was just teasing me." "So." Carlos said, amused by Kate's reaction. "So you don't want to have sex?" "No!" Kate reacted immediately, her hands raised. "I understand. I won't force you -"

"No! No!" Kate tried to correct herself, but it only sent Carlos the wrong signals. "I get it. I won't rush you. Besides -" "No!" Kate laughed. Her face turned bloody red as she went at it hysterically. "It's not what I mean! Haha!" "What is it, Kate?" Carlos asked.

When Kate settled her emotions, she shifted her attention to Carlos. In a serious tone, this time, she replied while her face remained flushed, "I want... to make love to you."

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Chapter 27: First Official Date

"Why are you perspiring?" Kate asked, seeing beads of sweat form on Carlos' forehead. 'Why?' Carlos thought. How could he focus on their date now when Kate openly suggested she was willing to give herself to him?

"You make me think about dragging you to my bedroom. That's why," while driving the car, he admitted, but soon he took it back, saying, "But, I want this date. I've planned for it for so long."

"You did?" Kate asked. Still embarrassed at having given herself away, she looked at the window as she sought, "But how would you know we'd be together by now?"

"Oliver and one other person I trust did the legwork. I estimated my return, and to answer your question, no. I did not expect to take you out as my girlfriend. I was."

Carlos paused. He glanced at Kate and disclosed, "This was supposed to be me courting you, taking you out on a friendly date."

From the passenger seat, Kate smiled, her heart galloping with excitement, her cheeks burning

It did not take long before they arrived at Carlos' mansion. He pulled up in the driveway and said, "My Kate, you are going on a mini-scavenger hunt, and each time you find the right spot, you'll get a gift and a clue for the next location."

Kate beamed as Carlos handed her a piece of paper with the first clue. She read, "On the day we first met. You found me, and you told me to find my own place to hide."

Laughter left her lips. She did not remember all the details, but when she was ten years old, she recalled how they were invited to the Ronaldos' home. Kate was running away from Kaleb and hid in the front lawn evergreens. Carlos, on the other hand, was hiding from his nanny.

She got off the car impatiently and found the new set of bushes, trimmed and formed into a circle at the driveway. Kate looked at the very center and found an enormous gift, beautifully wrapped for her. "What's this?"

Leaning against the car, Carlos answered, "Something to hug when I am not around. Go ahead, open it."

Kate promptly unwrapped the gift, revealing a big brown, soft teddy bear with a name on its

belly.

Carlos.

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"Nice," Kate said, hugging the stuffed toy. "I will definitely hug you, Carlos, number two." She walked up to Carlos and embraced him, saying, "Thank you. I love it." Kate found the clue attached to the bear, and from there, she read, "Where I hit you with my tennis ball."

Knowing exactly where to go, Kate ran to the back of the mansion and found Manuel Renaldo's tennis court remade. She looked around and complained, "The area is too big."

Carlos, who followed behind her, hinted, "Exactly where you popped out of nowhere."

Kate snorted, realizing where it was. She walked over and found a pink polaroid camera resting on another clue. There was a note, and she read, "Let's capture new memories together." She turned on the camera and took her first shot of Carlos. When Carlos caught up with her, he placed his arm around her and said, "Together, Kate. Together." "Sorry, I don't have my personal photo of you," she explained and cheerfully took a picture of them together. They kept the printed copies of the pictures and moved on to the next. In the later clue, Kate went to Carlos' previous room. She found two VIP passes for when she would be ready to see Carlos' game. Carlos said, "Anywhere, in all the tournaments, the organizers will know that you are with me. If they have doubts, they will at least contact Oliver or me."

"Got it," Kate acknowledged while grabbing the VIP passes.

Their next stop was the community's playground. Carlos drove five minutes tops, and from there, only Kate walked to find her next clue. Carlos remained in the car, wearing a hoodie over his head and dark sunglasses.

Kate recognized one of Carlos' security team, standing outside, on the lookout. She smiled at the man and went straight to the swings.

The swing was their favorite hangout together with Kaleb after school. Kate immediately understood why Carlos had brought her there. She picked up a new signature bag, a brand that she always loved. When she returned to the car, she squeaked and said, "This is a limited edition! How did you – of course. You could get anything under your name." "So could your dad," Carlos said while smiling at Kate's excitement. It may be just a bag, but it was one that he could never afford in the past. He was proud of himself for being able to offer the luxuries his Kate loved. Kate's next clue led them to an ice cream parlor. It was their favorite back in the day. Her gift was a pint of her old preferred flavor. The treat was specially made since the shop had no longer produced the same kind.

The couple ate in the car since Carlos didn't want to risk going inside. His assistant merely pre-ordered Kate's pint of ice cream.

For a good ten minutes, the couple lingered at the shop's parking lot as they finished their ice cream. Then, they made their way to their old high school.

As soon as they pulled over, Kate asked while assessing the school grounds, "Is it okay for us to go inside?"

Carlos answered, "It's a Sunday. The school is closed. Only security guards are around, plus my own. Then, Oliver. Relax, my contact already paid for the school's private use for today."

Kate's next clue suggested it was a place where they often had lunch during school days. Thus, entering the premises, they proceeded to an open lawn, where Kate found a basket of her favorite cheesy steak sandwich.

They had a picnic lunch while talking about their high school days, and when it was time to read the last clue, Kate took out the note from the picnic basket. It thrilled her to read the note, but she froze just as she saw the clue. Her heart felt heavy, and tears stung her eyes. "Kate," Carlos called her. He offered his hand to her and said, "You don't have to read it. Let

me take you."

It took Kate some time to let it sink. She gave Carlos an apologetic look before accepting his hand. She left a note on the picnic basket that read: (Of all the school dances we spent together; I missed that last one.)

At the end of Kate's scavenger hunt, Carlos brought her to the school's gymnasium, the usual venue for all the year-end dances.

From the entrance, Oliver met them. He said, "Sir, everything is in order." He offered his hand, saying, "May I have your jacket and your extremely large, ugly shades?"

Carlos was at least thankful to Oliver, he brought a smile to her face with his remark. He took off the hoodie and big, dark glasses and held Kate's hand again.

"Miss Wright. Enjoy your dance," Oliver said to Kate before directing the couple through the double doors.

Kate and Carlos walked into the gymnasium. The place was converted into a simple dance area. It was exactly how their school used to cover the entire gym, except for disco lights and intricately themed decors. There were simply drapes of fabrics flowing down from the trust frames above.

Carlos escorted Kate to the center of the gym. Soon the song began to play, and Carlos asked, "May I have this dance, Miss Wright?"

Kate nodded, saying, "Yes, you may."

He held Kate's waist while she rested her arms around Carlos' neck. Slowly, they swayed to the music. It was a song by Calum Scott, Heaven.

– "I used to count the stars in the sky

Now I count the ones in your eyes

I used to think that my paradise

Was somewhere waiting on the other side, but you, ooh, ooh Take me higher than I've been

Laying hands on my skin, it's true, ooh, ooh

Nothing compares to you" –

"This is a new song," Kate remarked. "I like it." Carlos nodded. He replied, "I like it too. It was Oliver's suggestion." "I like Oliver," Kate remarked. A hiss left Carlos' lips. He reminded Kate, "Hey, I'm the superstar. Eyes on the prize." "Of course you are, Devil." Kate laughed while water welled in her eyes. She was still so overwhelmed by what Carlos had prepared for their date. As the song progressed, Kate revealed, "Carlos, I never enjoyed that dance with Tyler, by the way. I hated it. I honestly wished I went with you instead." "Good," Carlos said, and a smile formed on his athletic face. "I hate him for taking away my last high school dance."

Kate could not laugh at his last remark as much as it tempted her to. After all, it was the reason that Carlos left. Instead, she hugged him tighter, delighting in the song's lyrics.

– "So tell me why, what good is life If we're all just waiting to dance in the sky? I'm already there, here in your eyes We climb the gates, every time that you lie down next to me

I rest in peace

They say it's better, but how could that be?

If everyone had a love like us

They wouldn't call that place above, Heaven" –

After the song had ended, Carlos stated, "Kate, my last gift for you was something I meant to give you on your birthday, but since your special day falls on the Wimbledon tournaments, I decided to give this to you in advance." Carlos turned to where Oliver was standing. His assistant walked up to him, handing Carlos a velvet box

Turning to Kate, Carlos opened the box. At the view of what was inside, Kate gasped. "You – you are – It was you?"