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After coming home that night, he told Lisa that he had an errand to take care of, then asked her to take care of Andrés and Bautista. When she returned to her room, she bought the tickets to catch the plane early the next morning.

The next morning, the young woman woke up and just packed her belongings before leaving for the airport. Once she left her house, she saw Leandro waiting at the entrance.

"I thought it would be inconvenient for you to drive, so I came to pick you up," she said as she opened the door for him.

With a simple nod of thanks, she went upstairs and sat down; They talked a lot during the journey, when, suddenly, Roxana remembered something and asked out of curiosity:

—Leandro, I remember that at that time you only stayed in Chepa for a short period before going to work abroad. How long do you stay this time?

"At first I thought of leaving, but you should know why I didn't." My departure was delayed due to my relative's surgery," he replied, smiling.

Roxana suddenly thought that he had mentioned her intention to go abroad the last time they saw each other; only that the old man had left the operating room and was recovering well, according to her words. However, Leandro did not mention anything about leaving the country; Instead, he would participate in the Chepa medical congress, so Roxana couldn't help but feel disconcerted.

"When do you plan to leave this time?" I'll go see you off," she asked persistently.

Leandro frowned a bit.

-I'm not leaving.

She seemed surprised by her response.

-Because? Haven't you always liked the academic environment abroad? Also, you should be more used to the research environment there.

From what she understood, he had always studied abroad ever since he entered the medical field. "I wonder why he suddenly decided to stay this time." Leandro's look turned tender when he made eye contact with her.

"It's mostly because of you.

She couldn't help but be surprised by his response.

—After coming back this time, I discovered that the environment in general in Chepa is very encouraging. For example, the country's specialists cooperated well with you on the last surgery you performed; That is why I also plan to stay here, to continue promoting my career for some time. If I can't fit in, I can leave at any time," she explained tenderly.

Roxana sighed in relief without being able to explain why upon hearing her statement, then she bowed her head as she smiled.

—Since you are so exceptional, I suppose many hospitals can't take their eyes off you after you decided to stay in Chepa to boost your career.

“Although he is young, he is already known throughout the world. Having him close is equivalent to having a renowned figure; I am sure that many hospitals would be fighting to have him as part of the team.

—The truth that yes; I have received invitations from various hospitals who hope that I can work for them. The salary they offer me is quite generous, so I'm considering his proposals,” she replied without committing herself while shaking her head.

"If you'd like to join one of Homeros's hospitals, perhaps I can offer you some suggestions." Roxana began to say. In order to make plans for future collaboration, my institute has recently done some research on the most acclaimed hospitals in the city.

Of course, Leandro did not reject his kind gesture; They were talking about the respectable hospitals in Homeros until the moment they boarded the plane. It was noon when they landed in Bellavista; As soon as they left the airport, they immediately got into the event organizer's car and arrived at the hotel where they would stay. Since the conference wouldn't start until the afternoon, they still had plenty of time to rest.

After Roxana returned to the country with Leandro, they basically stayed in Horneros all that time. As she saw that it was a unique opportunity for them to go to Bellavista, she took the opportunity to shop near the venue, since it was not time for lunch. After eating, they went back to their respective rooms to get ready.

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The congress officially began in the afternoon. Roxana and Leandro had arrived half an hour before. As she watched the people entering the compound, she couldn't help but get more and more anxious; Just as Leandro had told him, everyone present was prominent figures in the area. Although she had never seen them in person, she saw photos of her in various media reporting on medical issues; then, Leandro took her to greet them.

"Are you Juana?" The moment one of the senior members realized it was her, he showed a doubtful expression. A woman? So young?

Juana had always maintained a mysterious appearance. Everyone knew that she was Javier's disciple and did not expect him to be so young; seeing her, they couldn't help but doubt her. Roxana, for her part, could clearly see that her looks reflected mistrust, however, as she was already used to that kind of look, she smiled indifferently and greeted him courteously. Standing next to her, Leandro turned to the man and smiled.

"Don't be fooled by her youthful appearance, even I am not up to her in certain aspects."

As the man listened to him, his distrust increased even more; he looked at them with a strange look and then smiled.

"Since she's coming with you, we'll take you at your word."

Anyone could guess what he was thinking just from his reaction. Leandro frowned and was about to speak when Roxana interrupted him:

—Since everyone here is a leading figure in the field, I am confident that they will be able to make appropriate judgments based on medical practice. Whether I am Juana or whether she can live up to her reputation or not, each can make their own deduction after the congress," he told the young man.

"Since these people doubt me, I'll make sure to put on a good show later." Leandro was somewhat surprised; shortly after, he nodded and said,

"You're right. I didn't think it through.

They both took their seats again. Soon the congress began; Chepa leaders began by proposing a theme and everyone would have the opportunity to speak according to their seating arrangements. When Roxana's turn came, everyone paid close attention to her; She politely stood up and smiled at those present before exposing her ideas clearly and concisely. As the crowd listened to her, her gazes reflected admiration and the distrust they showed of her soon disappeared.

The young woman maintained her expression as she expounded her ideas. When she finished, she bowed to the audience and sat down again; an instant later, everyone began to applaud. The leader, who had proposed her topic, looked at her admiringly from not far away, so she once again bowed a little as a sign of courtesy. After a few hours, the congress ended. As Roxana had predicted, everyone present saw her with different eyes and their skepticism had suddenly dissipated.

She, for her part, also learned a lot from that congress. Although the leaders in the medical area were a bit arrogant, they had achieved that title thanks to their extensive knowledge. They had shared many different points of view on the topics discussed, which led Roxana to reflect a lot.

"I apologize for having offended you before, Miss Jerez," the leader told her just as she was about to leave her seat.

A crowd followed him as he approached her. Roxana got up quickly and walked towards him.

— She is very kind, Mr. Linares. I am still very young and it is natural for others to doubt me.

'I've heard of the famous Juana for a long time. Since she was finally able to come to the congress, she must join us for dinner. It is wonderful to have such a brilliant incorporation in this area, in Chepa. The admiration reflected in her gaze seemed to have multiplied tenfold.

With such a compliment from one of the leaders in the area, Roxana was stunned; she did not dare to reject her offer and she accepted smiling.

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The next morning, in Horneros, Luciano took Estela to the garden earlier than usual after the unpleasant conversation he had with Roxana the day before. When he arrived, there were only a few parents in the area, but she was nowhere to be found. Of course, the girl wanted to see her, so she clung tightly to Luciano's hand and refused to enter. He frowned at her stubbornness; even so, he stayed outside with her.

Andrés and Bautista appeared after several minutes, this time, however, Roxana was not the one who went with them. When Luciano realized that, he frowned even more as he approached Lisa with Estela by the hand.

"Where is Miss Jerez?" Doesn't she usually drop the kids off at school?

Since they each took different paths after the hospital, Lisa hadn't seen him again. She didn't know they had argued; therefore, with the idea that they continued to have a good relationship between them, she smiled and answered:

—Miss Jerez has work today, so she came to bring them.

Luciano's gaze darkened upon hearing that. "What a coincidence! We saw each other yesterday and she has a job today, is she trying to avoid me? ». Since Estela couldn't see Roxana, she felt a little downcast, so she pulled his finger while she looked at him worriedly. Luciano patted her head before looking back at Lisa.

-Where was he? When will she come back?

—I think she went to Bellavista. About her return...I'm not sure when she'll be back, but I don't think she'll be gone for a long time.

"Beautiful view?"

"Why was she there?" he asked her, confused.

Andrés and Bautista, who were still clinging to the nanny, felt anger when they saw how the man questioned them about his mother. He was about to marry someone else, so there was no reason for him to worry so much about Roxana. After thinking about that, one of the children replied with a serious look:

"If you want to know so much, call mom and ask yourself!" We don't know either.

Even if they knew, they would never have told him. Luciano frowned as he looked at Andrés and Bautista; he was confused by his furious expressions. Even after thinking about it for a long time, he couldn't figure out what he had done wrong to make the children so angry and prejudiced against him. "Did Roxana tell you something?" Luciano's eyes darkened at the thought of that possibility.

Although Lisa knew what Miss Jerez was doing, she hesitated whether or not to tell the man when she noticed the behavior of the little ones. After a brief moment's hesitation, she decided against it, and instead she pointed out, "

We're not sure about that, but I did see a man come to pick her up in the morning. I think they left together.

Luciano's expression turned serious.

-Do you know him?

She shook her head. She had been working for Roxana for a short time and had only seen some of her friends; still, she remembered what the man looked like.

"I don't know him, but he seems like a well-bred gentleman." I think Miss Jerez addressed him as "Leandro." They must have met at school.

Just as she finished speaking, Lisa suddenly felt a little pressured. Luciano suddenly showed a somber look when he thought about the call that Roxana had received. He only knew one person with that name and it was Leandro Morales; it could only be him. When he realized that she had eaten alone with that man and had gone to Bellavista with him, he was very upset. So, he thanked Lisa and said goodbye to Estela before going back to her car.

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When Luciano returned to the company, he went up the stairs and found Camilo standing at the entrance to the office.

- Mr. Farina. —The man quickly approached when he saw Luciano.

-What happen? asked the other, frowning.

The assistant had a serious expression.

—Some problems arose with our business in Bellavista and we need to send an executive. Who could he be?

"In Bellavista?" -Luciano's look turned somber. When he thought of Roxana, who was in that place, he said with disdain: "I'll go."

Camilo was stunned. The matter in Bellavista was not serious enough to require Luciano's presence and participation. Besides, he had other events scheduled for that day.

Your schedule for today...

Luciano interrupted his assistant:

—Buy the first plane tickets and postpone the rest of my meetings. He turned around and got into the elevator.

Buck followed orders and rescheduled the meetings as soon as he could. After buying the tickets, he followed his boss.

They arrived in Bellavista at noon and the person in charge there took them to the hotel and gave them a guided tour of the place enthusiastically.

“This hotel is quite famous here. A medical conference will also be held today. I heard that the participants are leading figures in the field of medicine.

Luciano nodded slightly; despite his lack of expression, her heart raced a little. After settling in, Camilo asked his boss about the project:

—Mr. Fariña, when is the best time to schedule a meeting with the person in charge in this place?

Apparently, the man did not listen to his assistant and limited himself to saying:

—Find out about the most recent medicine conferences in Bellavista. It's best if you can locate the one Leandro attended.

What the person in charge said reminded him that Roxana and Leandro were in the medical industry; Plus, they had excellent references and there was a good chance they'd be there for the medical conference. Of course, Camilo was oblivious to Luciano's thoughts, therefore, he was surprised to hear

his order. "Didn't we come to take care of our company's affairs? Why did you mention this?"

However, he did not dare to ask so many questions when he saw Luciano's serious expression and agreed to obey him. The search took about an hour. Camilo wasted no time when he found what he was looking for and returned to the hotel immediately.

—I found it, Mr. Fariña. There's a medical conference this afternoon at this very hotel," he informed her. Leandro's name is also on the list, but...

—But what? Luciano frowned.

"The conference is over. He sounded a bit guilty.

When he found that information, half an hour had already passed since the conference had ended. He wasn't sure if he had delayed Luciano's plan.

—Were Leandro and Roxana present? He asked seriously.

Buck nodded. He had checked the list of attendees and the names of both were there. Luciano's expression tightened more as he watched his assistant nod.

"Find out what hotel they're staying at."

By now, Camilo knew what Luciano wanted to do.

—Señor Fariña, they will meet tonight near here. I am sure that Mr. Morales and Miss Jerez will be present," he said after hesitating for a moment.

Luciano nodded in agreement.

"In that case, let's meet Mr. Zamora from Prosperidad Co. in that restaurant tonight."

Buck agreed and contacted the CEO's secretary to schedule the meeting. He was sure that the other party would not object.

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That night, Roxana and Leandro attended the meeting; an event organized by the organizing committee of the conference. It was held in a first-class restaurant called Océano. The place was located near the hotel where the medical conference was held that same afternoon.

The members of the organizing committee had already reserved a private room in advance for those who attended. As soon as Roxana and Leandro entered the restaurant, a waiter led them upstairs to a corner room. The private rooms in that restaurant had different styles and designs. The members of the organizing committee had perhaps thought that since they were academics and scholars it would be

best to reserve a room with classical and academic decoration.

As soon as Roxana and Leandro entered, they saw a round rosewood table with a vase located in the center and surrounded by several chairs made of the same material. The walls were also decorated with various paintings, making the room feel like a study.

A few guests were already seated when the two of them arrived and turned their attention towards them, looking at them in wonder and admiration. Both Roxana and Lautaro were the youngest guests at the conference. Even though she was young, the older people were impressed by her presentation at the conference. Roxana smiled humbly at the crowd.

"I'm sorry I kept you waiting so long. We are not familiar with this area.

After the conference, she had gone for a walk through Bellavista together with Leandro without letting anyone from the committee accompany them. Unexpectedly, they had lost their way when they wanted to return to the hotel and it took them some time to locate the building.

-Alright; Not all have arrived yet. sit down! Gerardo stood up to greet them and gestured for them to sit next to him.

His reaction took the woman by surprise. Gerardo was an internationally renowned figure, even Javier respected him; she never imagined that the man held her in high esteem. She looked at the rest of the people around her and realized that her gaze was filled with envy.

"We'll sit near the door." It won't be convenient for you when the waiters come with the dishes later," she said.

She sat near the door next to Leandro and Gerardo frowned, but didn't insist.

"That's very considerate of you."

Roxana smiled, but she didn't say anything. Soon after, the others arrived.

—Miss Jerez, so young and with excellent references. How talented!

The others began to praise Roxana after noticing Gerardo's admiration for her, as well as having witnessed her abilities and her talent.

—They were only questions raised by Mr. Linares. He gave the coincidence that I investigated on those matters before, so I am familiar with them —Roxana answered humbly.

"Are you planning to work for my company, Miss Jerez?" Just tell me what you want and I'll get it," Gerardo proposed.

The crowd was stunned by that comment; not even Leandro could believe what he heard. It was evident that Gerardo intended to take Roxana as his apprentice. The others at the table knew that it had been several years since she last adopted an apprentice. Instead, he had fully focused on investigating him. The fact that he had made such a proposal to her came as a surprise to everyone.

It took the woman some time to regain her composure. She knew it was an honor to see the encouraging looks from those around her; however, she had something else in mind.

"I appreciate your generous proposal, Mr. Linares. However, I am helping Professor Laborda with some projects and I am afraid that I will not be able to concentrate on this tutorial. I'll have to decline his offer," he apologized.

Everyone was stunned to see that he rejected such an opportunity and Gerardo felt somewhat disappointed.

"In that case, I won't make you." Just call me if she changes her mind.

Roxana gave him a grateful smile.

Thank you, Mr. Linares.

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The others at the table looked at Roxana with more admiration and even felt the desire to take her as their disciple, however, when they remembered that she had rejected Gerardo's offer, they felt ashamed to speak.

Gerardo hastened to change the subject, but the conversation still remained within the medical sphere. Thanks to Roxana's presentation during the afternoon, every time the man raised new questions, everyone turned to look at her immediately. The woman felt that she had joined another conference, since everyone was focused on her. Fortunately, that situation did not last long. Gerardo immediately realized that the atmosphere had become somewhat formal for the occasion, so he hurried to change the topic of conversation to something more relaxing.

Since they were the youngest among the others, Roxana and Leandro became the main target of ridicule. Every time someone older offered them drinks, Roxana couldn't find an excuse to turn it down, so she accepted every drink they gave her. After having taken several drinks in a row, and noticing how the older ones still intended to give her more, she hastened to invent an excuse to go to the bathroom; she was just looking for an opportunity to get out of the room and get some fresh air.

The restaurant was called Océano and the decoration was mostly dark blue with a touch of white, which gave it a mysterious but calm atmosphere at the same time. After wandering near the door of the private room, Roxana finally felt sober enough. She knew that she couldn't keep the elders waiting too long, so she decided to return.

"Dr. Jerez?"

Right after turning around, she was met by a middle-aged man. The white shirt he was wearing looked too tight due to his paunch and it looked like the buttons could pop off at any moment; Furthermore, he had flushed cheeks, which indicated that he was drunk. Seeing that Roxana had turned to look at him, the man took a few steps forward. He looked as if he was about to move his face closer to her to confirm that he recognized her correctly. The woman frowned and stepped back to put some distance between them before greeting him.

—Dr. Chabbarri, it's been so long.

The middle-aged man was a doctor who worked at the hospital associated with Roxana's research institute. She had only seen him a few times before and, except for his last name, she knew nothing else about him.

Seeing that she hadn't mistaken the person, the man grew bolder and gave her a perverted look.

"I remember thinking how beautiful she was when we met at the research institute. Doctor Jerez, now that I see you without her lab coat, I realize that she is not only beautiful, but also has a great body," he said as he slowly approached her. Look at her face, she's glowing. Let me touch it...

Noticing that he had extended a greasy hand towards her, Roxana felt disgusted and slapped it away.

—Dr. Chabbarri, behave yourself!

The man was stunned for several seconds before realizing that he had knocked her hand away, for which he frowned and glared at her.

"How dare you hit me?"

Roxana refused to waste any more time with him, so she tried to leave, but he stepped forward, blocking her way.

"Is he trying to run away after hitting me?" As if he was going to allow it! Her," she exclaimed and looked down at her slender waist, and the anger in her eyes faded a little. Spend the night with me and I'll forget about what happened. What do you think?

"If you dare to get any closer to me, I'll call security," Roxana warned him, secluded in a corner.

He didn't bother in the least and tried to wrap his arm around her waist; greed and lust, reflected in her face.

-Of course. Call them if she wants; we can let them watch how we have fun.

The man was about to cover her with her body and she, Roxana, knew that she was at a disadvantage if she tried to resist him with physical force. As she struggled to come up with an escape plan, little by little, the smell of alcohol reached her nose. Just as she was starting to get desperate, she heard a growl and, in the next instant, the man was blown away from her.

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-Curse! Who the hell ruins my fun?

The doctor covered his waist in pain and stood up. Before he could get a good look at the person in front of him, he was kicked again in the abdomen so hard that he broke out in a cold sweat instantly, so he leaned over and couldn't say anything for quite some time. Roxana looked at the man in front of her who emanated a distant and indifferent aura and was stunned; however, at that moment, she felt calm in his presence.

"Control your hand or I'll have someone cut it off if you don't appreciate it enough."

The person who had come to rescue Roxana was none other than Luciano. He was wearing his expensive tailor-made suit, his hair was combed back, revealing his sharp features; with pursed lips, a merciless shine was reflected in his eyes.

Dr. Chabbarri was finally able to pay attention to him and, when he looked up again and saw Luciano's expression, he understood that he was not threatening him in vain, so he instantly turned pale with fear.

-It is a misunderstanding! I know Miss Jerez! He," he explained quickly. He would ask her if she wanted to have a drink with me. That's all. He —he looked at Roxana pleadingly.

She remembered the perverted way he had looked at her a moment ago and her expression turned grim.

—I know him, but what Dr. Chabbarri did suggested that he didn't just want to buy me a drink.

Seeing that Luciano's expression had become more ruthless after what Roxana said, the doctor shuddered in fear. For his part, Camilo had gone looking for Luciano when he saw that he had spent a lot of time and had not returned to the private room. It was then that he saw the scene and ran over.

- Mr. Farina.

Luciano looked away from the doctor and ordered with disdain:

"Take this guy and check his background." Giving him a lesson wouldn't hurt.

Seeing the doctor next to him, Buck lowered his head and nodded in response. Chabbarri's legs weakened and they practically had to drag him.

Roxana and Luciano were left alone in the corridor; She frowned somewhat as she looked at the man who still looked indifferent.

-Why are you here? she asked cautiously.

The woman felt that it was too much of a coincidence that she was in the same place as her. Luciano didn't answer her, instead, he looked at her from head to toe. She was dressed in a formal suit with a collared shirt inside, which made her look elegant, but, at the same time, provocative. Her flared pants highlighted her long legs and she had her long hair behind her ears, which caused her beautiful neck to be exposed. Under the light, she seemed to glow.

Roxana had blurred vision; maybe it was because she had had enough to drink. Since she was looking at him calmly and somewhat warily, she made it look like she was terrified. Luciano's gaze turned somewhat somber upon seeing the woman's expression. There was no way to tell if she was her under the influence of alcohol, but her intent to keep her distance from him made her seem somewhat attractive to him. After watching him for quite some time and getting no response from her, Roxana pursed her lips and looked away from her.

—Mr. Fariña, thank you for helping me. If there is nothing else, I withdraw. My companions are still waiting for me," he said and was about to leave.

Just as she brushed against his shoulders, she heard Luciano say,

"Miss Jerez, I hope you don't misunderstand anything." I had no choice but to come here to resolve a work matter and I didn't expect to meet you. Luciano looked at her out of the corner of his eye and her tone sounded ambiguous as he continued, "I think the same thing happened the last time I helped her, but he didn't say or do anything in return." In her place, she treated me the same as those perverts and tried to keep as much distance between us as possible.

They were very close to each other and it was not known which of the two came from the smell of alcohol that persisted between them. Roxana remembered the first time she had seen him in the hotel after she returned to the country and frowned. Despite the fact that she refused to admit it, she knew that Luciano was telling the truth.

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"I didn't ask for your help.

After quite some time, Roxana finally broke the silence, but her tone still sounded as distant as ever. Luciano frowned slightly and had a look of disgust.

-Oh really? If he didn't help her now, how did she plan to escape the situation?

Roxana looked down.

-I am a doctor. I would come up with some way.

Since she had studied acupuncture for so many years, she knew which points could make someone instantly lose the energy to attack, but not quite lethal. If the doctor dared to get even closer to her, he would not hesitate to brutally make her see the difference in knowledge between them. However, before she could make a move, Luciano had appeared.

After listening to her, he immediately understood what she meant. In the past, when the young woman practiced acupuncture on Alfredo, Luciano had watched her from the side of her, so he knew that she was an expert in human acupuncture points. It was certainly enough to prove that she had the ability to defend herself. Thinking about it, the man couldn't help but feel more relieved, however, he was still annoyed by Roxana's indifferent look.

"In that case, do you think I'm nosy, Miss Jerez?"

Roxana remained silent and continued to stare at him. Despite her silence, only her expression was enough for him to realize what the answer to her question was. It was the first time he seemed nosy about helping someone out of kindness.

"Anyway, I still helped her.

Roxana didn't want to continue wasting time with that conversation, so she frowned and said sarcastically:

—Thank you for helping me, Mr. Fariña. I really should go now. Since he's here on business, I'm sure someone else is expecting it, too. Shouldn't I go back?

Saying that, she nodded and was about to return to her private room with her colleagues when he grabbed her wrist. Perhaps it was because of the alcohol that Roxana felt that her emotions were magnified at that moment and, suddenly, she felt that something had been triggered.

"What the hell is he doing?" I already thanked him. What more does he want from me? Her," she snapped.

Six years ago, when she was still madly in love with Luciano, he had hurt her badly. However, at that moment when she was determined to stay away from her and make them strangers again, he refused to leave her alone. Roxana couldn't read her mind and she was no longer interested in guessing her intentions, all she wanted was to stay as far away from him as possible; however, Luciano refused to allow that to happen.

At the same time, he didn't know what he was doing; when he snapped out of her reverie again, he realized that he had already taken her by the wrist. Seeing the furious expression on the woman's face, he frowned.

"Is this how you treat a person who helped you?" Why is she in such a hurry to return? Is there someone who cares so much waiting for her?

Roxana thought that her accusation was unreasonable.

"And how is that related to you?" Let me go!

Despite her protest, Luciano exerted more force on her. Roxana felt pain and her expression changed a bit. Of course he noted her every change, but he didn't loosen his grip around her wrist and took a step in front of her. Her eyes narrowed and she tensed at her sudden advance. Luciano chuckled meaningfully; he emanated a suppressive aura as he glared at her.

"Miss Sherry, even if you think I'm nosy and refuse to thank me for helping you, I still risked losing a business opportunity by leaving my client waiting for so long. So is there any way you can think of to compensate me for my losses?"

Roxana frowned and looked into his eyes; she refused to believe that there was someone as audacious as her to refuse to close a deal with the Fariña family. That was just an excuse from Luciano and she knew it; however, since he had already mentioned it, she refused to owe him anything.

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The woman lowered her gaze, composed herself, and suppressed her anger. When she looked up at him again, she did so nonchalantly.

"I don't know what I can offer you to make up for it." I remember seeing a coffee shop that looks great when I was walking around the area this afternoon. How about I buy you a cup of coffee?"

-That seems fine to me. Her—she slowly released her wrist.

When she loosened his grip on her, she thoughtlessly brushed against the soft skin of his wrist. Luciano's gaze turned somewhat pained at her accidental touch, and when he released her, he unconsciously clenched his fist.

The cafeteria that Roxana had mentioned was in the same building as the hotel and it was the same cafeteria that she had seen by chance on her way back to the hotel after getting lost in the afternoon with Leandro. She didn't invite him because it was different from other establishments in the area, but because it was the only place she could think of at the time. Both entered the place together and, immediately, a waitress approached them.

"Do you have a reservation?"

Roxana shook her head and looked around. It was dinner time and the peak time for couples to go out

to coffee shops; therefore the place was almost full when they arrived. Fortunately, the establishment took up a large space, but did not have many tables inside, giving customers enough space and privacy from other tables and not making them feel uncomfortable.

Just at that moment, Roxana saw that some customers were leaving and leaving a table near the window, so they walked in that direction. The waitress hurried to follow them and her eyes lit up as she watched them walk in front of her. It seemed to be a very fancy cafeteria in Bellavista and the customers were usually well-heeled and celebrities. The waitress had seen a lot of people walk by while she was working there; however, it was the first time she had seen a couple like Roxana and Luciano with such striking appearance and a unique presence. After following them to the place near the window, the woman had someone clear the table before handing them the letter.

—We have a new menu of the day for couples that is the favorite of our diners. Would you like to try it? Her,” she enthusiastically recommended.

Both Roxana and Luciano were startled when they heard her. The man looked expectantly at Roxana, who was sitting opposite him, and she realized that she had stopped looking at the letter for a brief moment. She looked at the waitress and smiled weakly.

-No, thanks. We are not couple. Then she lowered her head again and scanned the letter. In the end, she just ordered what she wanted and handed the letter to Luciano. Mr. Fariña, ask for what you want. You don't need to be polite to me, I can still buy you a cup of coffee.

Luciano was still upset by her refusal to be a couple, so he didn't answer her, instead he told the waitress:

I'll order the same.

The woman nodded in response and left with the letter. She stood in a corner as she peeked at them. “Although she denied that she was her partner, I must say that her looks and vibes go together very well. They're like the perfect couple!” Later, when she brought the drinks to the table, she looked calm on the outside, but, on the inside, she was crazy. “They even look better up close.”

Roxana's makeup was light enough to bring out her delicate features. She looked so beautiful that the waitress thought she was a celebrity. Luciano, for his part, had sharp features and was tall, plus he emanated an aura of an authoritative CEO. The waitress couldn't help but imagine them as the perfect couple; Of course, Roxana didn't know what the woman thought about her and Luciano.

When the alcohol he had ingested earlier began to take effect, he felt sick; his reaction was always slower than other people's. However, since he had invited Luciano over for a cup of coffee, he felt it was inappropriate to leave with the excuse that he was not feeling well; that would give the man another reason to tease her. With that thought in mind, Roxana suppressed the annoyance inside her and drank a sip of coffee to try to eliminate the drunken feeling.

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Luciano drank a sip of coffee and remained impassive, hiding the disgust he felt. He wanted Roxana to thank him or make it up to him, not for her to sit across from him without saying a word. "Even though I said business went bankrupt as an excuse, do you really think a cup of coffee is enough to make it up to me?"

The woman put down her cup and looked out the window; she had no intention of speaking. First, she believed that they had nothing more to say to each other; second, she didn't want to get too involved with him. The only reason she had bought him coffee was so they would be close at hand. Her stomach ailments had not subsided and she, from time to time, lowered her head to sip her coffee while she secretly checked how much Luciano had drunk. All she wanted was for her to finish so she could leave. However, the man had the coffee almost intact after several minutes.

—Mr. Fariña, why don't you drink? Her," she asked without choice, looking at him.

A dark glint was reflected in Luciano's eyes as he pursed his lips enigmatically and said:

—I don't like coffee like that; its soft.

Roxana frowned upon hearing this.

"How do you like it then?" Her," she asked as she massaged her temples.

When she finished speaking, her head was spinning again, so she closed her eyes and forced herself to open them again, trying to maintain eye contact with Luciano as if nothing was wrong. The man was about to say something when he saw her expression.

-He feels bad?

Roxana bit her lip.

"I drank too much, but I'm fine." Just tell me how you want me to make it up to you. After all, you handle large transactions and I'm afraid you won't be satisfied with this compensation.

Luciano's expression turned somber when he saw the pale face of the woman, but, in the end, he said nothing. Instead, he asked the waitress for the bill. Roxana was going to argue that she was supposed to pay, but he had swiped her card before she could.

The waitress was the same as before and, from the way she looked at Roxana, it seemed that she was wondering why they denied that they were a couple when, in reality, they had a date. When Roxana looked into her eyes, she felt even more confused.

"Where are you staying?" I'll carry it. Luciano approached her with a somber expression, but he was kind as well.

Without giving Roxana a chance to reject him, he helped her up. Right after her, he was overcome with dizziness, causing her to miss the opportunity to push him away from her. When she came to her senses, Luciano had already led her out of the cafeteria. Almost everyone there was looking at them and could clearly see how he had her arms around her to support her. Roxana felt quite weak from dizziness and, with so many people watching them, she didn't want to make a scene, so she stayed with Luciano and let him take her to her car. Camilo was waiting for them in the driver's seat.

—Mr. Fariña, where are we going? she asked him when they got on.

Luciano turned his head and looked at Roxana.

-Needless. They are waiting for me upstairs. I have to go back,” Roxana answered in a low voice as she continued to massage her temples.

Saying that, she opened the car door and was about to get out of the car when Luciano quickly took her by the wrist and held her.

"Either I take her back or she rests in my hotel." Pick an option; my hotel is close.

Roxana frowned and leaned back in her seat, then she told Camilo which hotel she was staying at. The man nodded and started the vehicle.

"Drive slowly," Luciano reminded him.

The attendant agreed immediately and made sure to drive carefully during the trip. Meanwhile, the two people in the back seat remained silent.