

Chapter 57

Chapter 57

With her phone in her hand, Vicky took slow steps to the couch on the other side of her room and sat on it. She went through her contact list, located her brother's number, and dialed him.

He picked up after a couple of rings.

"Hi Babe,"

Vicky rolled her eyes. "Don't let Lara hear you."

He chuckled, "She's here."

"Oh cool. I guess you guys are busy."

"Not really. You want to say something?"

"Yes, but I don't want to disturb you or spoil your mood."

"You want us to come over?"

"Can you?"

"Yes. We are heading to a party later but we would just stop by your plate first."

"Okay. See you soon."

"Yes, baby, take care!"

Stretching out on her couch, Vee spent the next forty minutes on goggle, searching for different things that had to do with pregnancy, in the hope that it would give her all the necessary information that she needed if she was ready for another baby.

She eventually received a text from her brother that he was outside, causing her to bring herself up from the couch after which she exited the room.

"Hey, Gabriel hugged her the moment she ushered them in.

"Hi Sis," Lara took turns hugging Vee.

"Where is my baby? Asleep?" Lara asked

"Yes"

They all made their way to the living room. Lara and Vicky took their seats while Gabriel went straight to the bar area to pour them a drink.

“Look,” Vee whispered, turning her attention to Lara.

“Things are going to get pretty heated. Please just have my back and if I die in the process, please take very good care of Sophie and tell her that I love her so much.”

“What is going on, you are scaring me?” Lara voiced out, frowning at her.

“Just promise that you are going to do as I have said.”

“I...I promise but what the hell is going on?”

“You are going to know very soon.”

“What are you both whispering about?” Gabriel’s voice came through. He approached them with two glasses of wine, he handed Lara a glass who quickly collected it and took a few sips for some dutch courage as she had no idea what was going

to open.

Vee collected the glass of wine from her brother regardless and placed it on the table by the couch where she was seated.

Gabriel went back to the mini bar for his drink and came back almost immediately, taking a seat opposite both ladies.

“So what is it you wanna tell us? We have a party to attend in less than an hour.”

Vicky did not say anything, thinking of where to start from

“Or you want to see me in camera?”

“No!” She replied instantly. Her hand reaching for Lara’s own. Lara gave it a light squeeze regardless.

Gabriel frowned at that gesture.

“I only spent half a day at work today because I was sick.”

“What’s the matter? Did you go to the Doctor?” Gabriel’s concerned voice came through.

13-416

Chapter 57

Vicky nodded.

“You are not dying right?” Lara had no idea when those words came out of her mouth. The fear was evident in her voice.

“Maybe.”

“You are scaring me. What do you mean by maybe?”

“I’m pregnant” She said, looking from her brother to his girl who was seated by her side.

“Excuse me?!” Gabriel found himself saying, the tone of his voice sounding really casual.

“I had no idea you were seeing anyone.” He added.

“So why are you being nervous?”

Because of the way Vicky’s hand was shaking in hers, Lara knew there was a bigger problem.

“Oscar is the father”

If the duo were not listening attentively, they would have missed what she said.

“What?????” Gabriel’s resounding voice came through.

“What the f uck, Vicky?!”

“Look Gabe, I know you are mad about this but I promise you that I feel so terrible about it. I am literally very embarrassed to be before you both saying this. I wish there was something I can do to take back my statement. Eknow I made a mistake but no matter how much I would like to correct it, this still remains my reality.”

“I know him being here that night was a terrible idea. How the hell did you let this happen?”

Vicky shrugged, not knowing what else to say. “We could not keep our hands off each other.”

Everyone was silent.

“Say something.”

“Please,” she mumbled, looking at the duo.

Vee was not really expecting Lara to say anything because she was fond of not interfering in matters between the siblings.

“What do you want me to say?”

“I don’t know! Anything but keeping quiet.”

“I am honestly speechless. I was thinking you had a thing with that guy at work.”

“It is just so surprising that after everything, you still have a thing with Oscar.”

*I thought the saga at the airport was the height of it so you guys have been keeping in touch?”

“No, I haven’t heard from him since that day.”

“Does it not feel crazy to you that after everything you are still in love with that guy?”

“I don’t love him.”

“Now is not the time to play games, Sis. Denying your feelings for him at this point makes no absolute sense.”

Victoria sighed, “I feel so stupid!”

“Don’t be.” Lara finally said, giving her shoulder a light squeeze.

“No wonder why you didn’t touch your drink,” Gabriel mumbled, gulping almost all the wine in the glass cup.

“So what’s the next move?” Gabriel asked.

“I don’t know. I am still thinking things through and trying to weigh my options.”

“Options? Lara reiterated.

“I do not know what is on your mind but if you are going to get rid of my nephew or my niece, I might as well get rid of you

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Vicky glared at her brother while Lara tried to muffle her laughter.

“Don’t look at me that way. I am being serious though. Whatever option you are weighing, just take that off your mind if it is part of the option.”

“That means you are keeping the baby. Are you going to tell Oscar?” Lara said.

“Sophie has been praying really hard. God definitely answers Children’s prayers. I guess you haven’t told her.” Lara said.

“No, I have not said anything to her since I wasn’t sure if I would be keeping it.”

2/4

13-519

Chapter 57

“I don’t know what is going to happen next. I just felt the need to let you guys know of my condition.”

“Kathie attended the meeting and did the presentation on my behalf. She said Mr Philip nominated me to go to California to oversee the startup process of our branch there and I would be spending a few months there.”

“Yeah, about that....” Gabriel started to say.

“Philip told me yesterday about nominating you. I knew you were not going to consent to it because of the history you have in that city. I tried to convince him to pick another person but he said he spoke to the rest of the board and they also nominated you since you are the best person for the job.”

“No matter how much they want you to be there, just know that they cannot make you do anything you do not want to do.”

“But now that you brought up the topic, with the situation at hand, I think you really want to be there.”

“Don’t put words in my mouth, Gabe. I really haven’t decided anything.”

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“As I said before, now is not the right time to hide anything from us. And that includes your feelings. You still like that bastard and in as much as it upsets me, I don’t know if I have any choice than respecting your wish.”

“You are not mad if I make up my mind about giving him the chance he had always wanted?” She said in disbelief.

“Not really?”

“Not really?” Vee reiterated.

“About two weeks after the encounter at the airport, Oscar’s lawyer reached out to me. You know he is no longer a

shareholder?”

Vee nodded.

“Since him being involved in the firm would upset you, he decided to step down and that included giving away the shares. He wanted Sophie to have it.”

“Since She is still young, he appointed a trustee on her behalf. Sophie will get the shares when she is of age. That is why the shareholder’s name remained undisclosed except to the rest of the shareholders.

“Oscar reached out to me before everything was finalized. He apologized, and told me about what transpired in the past and how it transpired.”

“I felt a bit of pity for him but that did not mean I forgave him completely because I believed he could have handled things differently.”

“Him being sorry cannot replace all the maltreatment he caused you.”

“I won’t stop you if you want to be with him or if you want him to be involved in your Baby’s life. It is just that, this time around, I am going to be readily available and active to deal with him if he ever hurts any of you.”

“You need not be embarrassed or sad about anything. I am cool with whatever you decide as long as you are happy. And I promise to continue to protect you.”

Victoria had no idea when she started wiping tears from the corner of her eyes. She had no idea why she was all teary. If it was because of the sweet things that Oscar did behind her back or because her brother did not lash out at her as she had envisioned. Instead, he was willing to support her decision as far as she was happy.”

“Don’t cry, you know I can’t stand seeing tears in your eyes.” He tossed his now-empty glass of wine on the table beside him. rose to his feet and went over to where Vee was seated, and pulled her into a brotherly hug.

Lara smiled proudly at the duo. “You both are so sweet.”

“I would do anything for my baby sister.” He whispered, still hugging Vicky but blowing kisses at Lara.

After a few seconds, the duo eventually pulled away from the hug.

“How are you feeling? Good report from the Doctor?,”

Vee nodded, sniffing. “Said I am fit to carry the baby. And I was given prescriptions.”

“You have done this before with Sophie. You are going to do amazingly well with this little buddy.”

“I agree!” Lara grinned.

Victoria found herself smiling at her brother's words. "How do you know it's going to be a boy?"

Chapter 58