

## Chapter 1 - First Encounter

"It's quite stormy out there" I mutter to myself staring outside at the heavy downfall through the glass serving as walls in the fully occupied cafeteria I sat in waiting for someone while lost in thoughts.

The image of a little girl crying while standing before a gravestone beneath an umbrella in a similar weather came to mind as I recalled some painful memories.

Just then, a person made her way into the building looking frustrated while folding her umbrella saying, "Fuck, this unpredictable weather; Heyyy... Charlotte... You there?" The sudden call from the newcomer brought me to reality as I turned to the drenched figure before me.

Standing in front of me was a lady with stunning beauty and perfect body. Although wet from the rain, that didn't hide her allure as it helped accentuate her sexy figure.

"Why are you staring at me that way, do I have something on my face?" Briella asked after seeing me stare dumbfounded at her making her blush.

"Not even the rain could kill your fire and cool you down." I answered.

Stunned by my words, Briella was left speechless for a

while before a smug look appeared on her face with a smirk as she felt pleased, stroking her damp hair she replied, "I am way inferior to you. If you were to be more secular, you would have swayed the hearts of all men you meet."

Hearing her I smiled as a reply since I couldn't deny that unlike other women who dress in revealing, tight body hugging clothes, I dress modestly with fully covering clothes and no makeup.

Then I asked, "You sounded anxious when you called, what's the emergency?".

"Yeah, thanks for reminding me. I have finally found an opportunity for you to get a job." She exclaimed excited.

"Really, are you serious, what is it?!" I said hurriedly with impatience.

"Calm your nerves. Remember the billionaire celebrity, Alexander?" She asked

"You mean the founder of Lucid fashion and modelling brand, engaged to the famous actress Vivian" I asked in reply

"Yes, that's the one. His company is hosting an annual dinner of which several bigshot will be in attendance; my father's company was lucky to get invited and I will be a

representative and I have decided to have you as my plus one, hopefully you'll be able to make connections and get a job as a fashion stylist in any of the fashion companies available." She explained.

Hearing her explanation I stared surprised for a while unable to say a word as various emotions came over me. Tears welled up in my eyes as I looked at this childhood bestfriend of mine who managed to once more surprise me today and I said, "How can I ever repay you?"

"Hehe let's see... How about making me your best-lady when you are about to marry also promise me that you will be my bestfriend for life and be together always." She giggled.

Somehow that statement cast a quick dark shade over my face and mind but before Briella could notice, I answered, "Definitely, I can never leave you not even in death."

Hearing my confirmation, she smiled then proceeded to discuss other matters joyfully like someone who hasn't chatted with a person for a long time.

Unfortunately, I was not able to pay full attention aside some occasional interjections as I thought of a looming issue I have kept from everybody aside my dad.

The problem being that I have a hereditary illness

implying that I don't have long to live and I might cross over at any time within ten years or less judging through my mother.

My mother died aged thirty-six through various treatments to prolong her life as there was no cure to the illness leaving my father wrecked and broke turning him to from the wealthy man he once was to a sickly and unhealthy man.

At a young age, I was already aware of this looming time bomb over my head as precautionary steps were taking to avoid triggering the illness faster than expected leaving me to secluded and ordinary life as I couldn't go out in public too much.

I am twenty-four presently and I am yet to have to have a boyfriend because I have never dated unlike every other girl my age.

I know my life sounds pitiful and sad, but deep down I really want to enjoy life and experience things I never have and live like every other girl would but first, I need to care for my father and find a way to get myself treated.

Taking a break from my thoughts, I turned to Briella and asked, "I know this dinner is going to be a big one with all fancy people in attendance, I don't think I will be able to

blend well plus I don't have any wears suitable for such outing."

"Hehe... You don't have to worry about that, what do you have me for? I already have that planned, I have some clothes you can wear then we will go out shopping whenever you are free then prepare for the dinner next weekend." She answered.

\*\*\*

Time seemed to fly quickly as it was already Friday evening, few hours to the dinner party.

I stood before a building although not a mansion but more of a crib, it didn't lose out to other expensive houses.

The place belonged to Briella and was given to her by her father. Despite being from a wealthy family and having an entire inheritance to her, she preferred to get herself a rich man as a boyfriend than do any work.

I admired the place before Briella opened the door and dragged me in.

"You are finally here, now to get started with the preparation and styling" she said while pulling me along to her room.

"Do I really have to look and dress like this?" I asked while

looking at the almost unrecognisable beauty before me in heavy makeup and sexy clothes revealing her cleavages.

"Oh come on, I already know what you like and I will only be making a light make-up on you." She answered.

Before I knew it, she had started dressing me up and painting my face with all sorts of brush and material. After several hours, she finally finished before bring a mirror before me.

Taking a look, I stared amazed at the reflection I saw in the mirror.

"Wow, I seem to forget how breathtakingly beautiful and how alluring you are without trying. Even I am overshadowed by your charm and your sexy figure with perfect curves makes me envious." Briella said while comparing looks and sizes.

"You look just as great and you will definitely drive the men nuts when they see you." I said.

Feeling elated by my words, she retorted, "Definitely, I am going to make those rich men's heart sway when I make my entrance."

I was stunned speechless with no words left to say in mind.

“Well I just got a call from my boyfriend's chauffeur and he's waiting outside. Let's get going, I can't wait!” She exclaimed as she led me out.

## Chapter 2 - Shocking Sight

Taking a step outside the luxurious the sight of the overwhelming paparazzi came to sight as light, camera and journalists can be seen everywhere as well as fellow invited guests.

I marvelled at the sight of the many fancy, handsome, beautiful, stunning figures in attendance both men and women who came in different luxurious cars and rides all dressed in elegant and expensive attires and I wondered how much would have spent on the clothes and appearance.

Before I knew it, we were overwhelmed by the crowd of journalists and paparazzi who took pictures and asked questions. I closed my eyes from the blinding lights and stuttered when answering the questions directed at me making Briella giggle before finding a way out for me from the tough spot and led me into the building.

The interior design was even more exaggerated and outside my biggest imagination ever with several chandelier hanging from the roof of the hall which was a large spacious place and enough room of several parking lot together.

The hall was designed and decorated with several



materials and colours to display elegance, nobility, royalty, uniqueness and several other things.

Right at the centre of the hall was an erected podium like stage which served as a walkway for the models who would present a shoe later.

To the side was the food section which was a buffet as well as various butlers dressed in tuxedos carrying different sort of drinks and appetizers around. Seeing the dishes made me wonder how a normal person feeds well and grow with such foods.

Looking at the famous people around while chatting with other celebrities made me elated.

Not long before we entered the hall, many eyes laid upon us, some filled with interest, admiration, jealousy including lust as we soon became public attraction making me feel uncomfortable from those gazes.

Soon enough, a fairly good looking young tall man made his way towards us with a look of pride and airs of arrogance around him.

"Hello ladies, you are both looking good. Are you by chance here alone or with someone?" The prideful man asked.

Seeing an opportunity present itself, Briella answered

before me, "You are quite the gentleman, we came alone and have no guide or companion here."

Thinking to himself that he has managed to have us tripping over him, he answered, "Then I hope you don't mind me accompanying you?"

"It's our pleasure to have you with us" She answered coyly, swaying his heart.

Regaining his senses, he introduced himself, "I am Stanley Coker, son of the famous Dave Coker and heir to the Coker Clothing company."

"Really?! I am Briella and my friend here is Charlotte and she's a fashion stylist too although self employed." Briella uttered loudly

Hearing that, light flashed in his eyes as he looked at me saying, "If that's the case, you can just meet me and send your credentials and leave the rest to me. I will work the rest out."

"Thank you very much, I appreciate the gesture." I said before exchanging few pleasantries and formalities before parting way with him

After separating and chatting with several fellows like Stanley from before, Briella led me to a fellow gorgeous lady.

"Hello, I am and my friend here are big fans of your work and have always had you as a role model and a large inspiration to follow."

Briella announced upon meeting her leaving me slack-jawed as we never knew about her existence prior to the meeting until we discovered she was an important worker in Lucid Fashion Brand.

"Do I know you or have we met from anywhere before?" The lady said not expecting the sudden encounter.

"Not at all but we have always revered you and my friend here follows your foot steps and chose to be fashion stylist like you."

Briella seemed to be good with words as she managed to leave the lady feeling pleased and smug.

"So you are also a stylist, what affiliations do you have?" She asked turning to me.

"I am merely a self established stylist with no affiliation" I replied.

"In that case I will give you my details, reach out to me with all needed information and papers I will slide in a slot for you." The lady told me

"Thank you very much, I appreciate the gesture." I replied

Seeing her departing figure, Briella and I jumped with cheers of joy before heading to our seats as the show was about to start

Soon enough, the main event started as a muscular, charming and very handsome man whom maidens will fight to marry kicked off the opening ceremony.

As the show proceeded I noticed that although the event was moving well, something seemed off as the people looked like there was a missing element.

Turning to my friend I asked, "What is happening, why are the people looking like they are expecting something?"

"That's because they are actually expecting something or should I say someone." She uttered.

"And who could that be?" I asked again

"Who else but the owner and founder of the company hosting this show. They are probably waiting to see him. Some say his presence in a room affects the temperature." She said.

After a while I decided to take a break from the long event and constant pester from the men here as I went to the rest room.

On my way out of the rest room I took a stroll to the

packing lot to get some fresh air.

Right at that moment I heard a muffled sound nearby. As I turned to trace the sound I noticed it came from a dark alley.

Following the route before me, the muffled sounds became more frequent with some occasional groan and loud exclaim.

The voice was that of a woman and it sounded like someone being attacked and choked as I hurriedly pick a steel bar and walked down the path to the voice.

After walking for a while, I got to a point of low visibility and I could only see few metres before me. I wanted to turn but after hearing the loud cries that sounded like that of help I couldn't and proceeded further.

Finally, I got to the place the cries came from and saw a car. Making a turn round the car I witnessed a scene which made me open my eyes and mouth wide in shock.

Gently the steel bar slid off my hands till it fell with a loud sound accompanying it. Noticing that I have been noticed and found out I came to my senses murmuring to myself, "Holy Mary."