

## ~ By Request ~

by Mavis Applewater

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A special thank you goes out to my beta reader Mountain Girl.

As always this is for Heather.

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Carmen blew an errant lock of hair from her brow. Her dark brown eyes widening as she studied the student's file. "How did you get into college?" She muttered under her breath hoping the arrogant young man standing before her didn't hear her. "Mr. Saunders your GPA last semester fell to a 1.0 which means the letter you received is correct. Are these your grades for the past two semesters?" She asked as she slid the computer print out over at him.

"It wasn't my fault," he grouched indignantly.

"I understand," she lied as he shoved the print out back at her. She ran her fingers through her dark curly locks sighing heavily at his snotty demeanor. "There are so many pressures," she lied once again knowing that the boy hadn't bothered to crack a book in, at least, three semesters. "I can schedule an appointment for you to talk to Mr. Akins, the Dean of students. Perhaps he can help you by setting up tutoring sessions or counseling."

"I don't want those things," he barked. "I need you to understand that I can't be on academic probation."

"And yet you are," she smirked. "At the moment the only way to rectify your status here is to complete this semester with a GPA no lower than 3.0."

"And if I don't?" He scoffed as he rolled his blood shot eyes further convincing Carmen that the only thing this young man had studied since beginning college was how to tap a keg.

"Then you will be dismissed," she concluded. "Now would you like me to set up an appointment with Mr. Akins?" *'So, he can tell you the same thing you arrogant piss ant,'* she mentally grumbled.

"Fine," he sniped as he folded his arms across his chest.

"Good," she grunted as her nimble fingers glided across the keyboard of her computer. "He is available at eight on Monday."

"In the morning?" The youngster gasped as Carmen smirked. Charlie had slots available later in the day, but she couldn't resist forcing the snotty young man out of bed as early as possible.

"That is what he has available," she smirked as she wrote out the information for him and slipped it over the counter. She wasn't surprised when he snatched it up and stormed off. "Next?" She requested wearily. Her dark brown eyes lit up as the tall, athletic woman with short, streaked, blonde hair approached her counter with a bright smile.

"Wow that guy was jerk," the younger woman greeted her with another charming smile. "What part of start studying or you're out doesn't he get."

"All of it apparently," Carmen smiled brightly in response. "Now how can I help you?"

"It seems that I am supposed to be in two classes at the same time," the blonde sheepishly explained as she slid her schedule over. Carmen's insides fluttered as the blonde leaned over her counter her brilliant smile never wavering as her emerald eyes sparkled brightly.

"You mean you can't be in two places at the same time?" Carmen teased the charming student as she typed in the young woman's schedule.

"I could try, but somehow I doubt it," the blonde quipped her eyes darkening slightly. "I know I must have typed in the wrong information when I registered on line. I hope you can forgive me."

"Does that line work for you Miss Stone?" Carmen chuckled as she went about altering the confident young woman's schedule.

"All the time," Cheryl retorted with a saucy grin.

*'She's hot and she knows it,'* Carmen mentally sighed as she went about clearing the student's schedule. "It looks as if you were only one key stroke off," she explained to Cheryl whose eyes began drifting up and down Carmen's body. "Is this the schedule you wanted?" She asked fully appreciating the blonde's leering as she printed out the new schedule.

"Yes," Cheryl beamed as she pumped her fist in the air. "You're a life saver. I really must think of some way to thank you."

"You're shameless you know that don't you?" Carmen laughed as her dark brown eyes did a little leering as well.

"So, I've been told," Cheryl agreed, as her smile grew brighter. "Are you going to let me?"

"Excuse me?" Carmen choked out bowled over by the younger woman's bravado.

"Thank you?" Cheryl taunted the now quivering brunette. "When can I take you out to thank you? Coffee, dinner or whatever? Unless it is against the rules."

"No not against the rules," Carmen laughed lightly. "That only applies to the faculty, Scooter," she added noting the name on the woman's lightweight team jacket.

"Team name," Cheryl shrugged. "Think about it? In the meantime I'll let you get back to work; I seem to be holding up the line."

"The beginning of the semester is always a nightmare," Carmen retorted while returning the blonde's smile.

"Some other time perhaps?" Cheryl added coyly before making her departure.

Carmen paused for a moment to catch her breath and sneak a peek at the tall blonde's shapely behind. "Next," she finally called out her gaze still lingering on the doorway. She shook her head and smiled. "Now that was fun," she chuckled under her breath as the next student in line began to whine about her problems.

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"Why are you in such a good mood?" Her friend, Mariel, inquired with a hint of suspicion when Carmen joined her at the table in the small coffee house.

"Who me?" Carmen feigned innocence.

"Yes you," Mariel snickered as she stirred her coffee. "Normally at the start of the fall semester you are positively cranky. Actually cranky is putting it nicely; normally your attitude rates a little higher in the alphabet."

"I should be insulted, but since I'm in such a good mood I will let that one slide," Carmen shrugged trying to appear indifferent yet unable to keep the silly smirk from sprouting on her lips.

"Yeah," Mariel slowly blew out. "What's her name? Never mind, let me guess it is that new English professor, isn't it?"

"Nope," Carmen taunted her eager companion.

"Are you going to make me keep guessing?" Mariel grumbled.

"It is no one," Carmen lied. "I just had a very pleasant day."

"Yeah right," Mariel scoffed at the notion. "Out with it."

"Fine," Carmen responded with a giddy laugh. "I had a very pleasant encounter with a student."

"A student?" Mariel questioned as her brow furrowed. "Is she a late starter?"

"What?" Carmen asked with confusion. "No."

"Really?" Mariel questioned as Carmen gave her friend a curious look. "I'm sorry it is just that in all the years I have known you, I've never known you to be attracted to or go out with anyone under thirty. Then again since you are fast approaching that age now, perhaps you've had a change of heart?"

"Hey!" Carmen sneered at her friend's teasing. "I'm not there yet. Plus I'm not going out with Cheryl; I just enjoyed her flirting that is all."

"Cheryl?" Mariel beamed with delight. "So, tell me about your new dream girl."

"Fine," Carmen sighed. "She's tall, blonde, and very sweet. She has these amazing green eyes and she is a complete, overly cocky, smart ass."

"But you barely noticed," Mariel laughed at her friend gushing over some student. "How old is she?"

"Twenty," Carmen supplied with a blush. "I just happened to notice when I was looking up her records."

"Just happened to notice?" Mariel snickered. "So when are you and Miss Wonderful going out?"

"We're not," Carmen balked. "I just helped her with her schedule."

"Did I miss something?" Mariel questioned with concern.

"No," Carmen grumbled. "Like I said I just helped her with her schedule."

"And took the time to look up her birthday and notice her amazing green eyes," Mariel chuckled once again. "But you didn't ask her out?"

"No," Carmen confessed. "Although,"

"Although?" Mariel pried.

"She did kind of ask me out," Carmen sheepishly explained.

"And you turned her down because?" Mariel fussed as the lines in her brow deepened.

"I don't know," Carmen squawked. "I was surprised and she was just so cocky. I bet she has half the basketball team falling at her feet."

"A jock?" Mariel murmured with a shy smile. "Okay, let me see if I understand what happened. She's hot and knows it. She likes you and you like her, and you shot her down? Again I have to ask why?" Carmen's jaw hung open as she tried to come up with a reasonable explanation. She failed to come up with just why it was she didn't accept Cheryl's invitation instead she just stared at her friend. "Next time say yes," Mariel concluded. Once again Carmen was unable to form a verbal response.

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Over the next couple of weeks Carmen went about her life, surprised that the tall blonde was never far from her thoughts. She even went as far as to look up the schedule for the basketball team. She lied to herself that she was just curious about seeing a game. Deep down she knew she just wanted to see Cheryl in action. "In more ways than one," she grumbled under her breath one morning when she found herself, once again, looking up the tall blonde's class schedule.

"Talking to yourself?" A sultry voice inquired. Carmen felt a shiver running through her body from the tone of the other woman's voice.

"Hi." She squeaked out in the most embarrassing fashion when she looked up and found Cheryl leaning against the counter. Carmen quickly shut her computer off fearful that the blonde would see what she was looking at. "What brings you back? More trouble with your classes?" She managed to ask without sounding like a complete idiot. She almost melted into a puddle when emerald eyes captured in her in a luring gaze.

"Maybe I just wanted to see you?" Cheryl teased with a sly grin.

"Really?" Carmen snickered with disbelief.

"Really," Cheryl asserted with sincerity. "I still owe you coffee or something for helping me out."

"Well, Uhm, that is what I am here for," Carmen stammered out feebly.

"And I'm here to ask you to dinner," Cheryl smirked. "Or coffee?"

"Are you always this arrogant?" Carmen laughed at the younger woman's bravado.

"Confident," Cheryl corrected her.

"Arrogant," Carmen countered. "What makes you think I'm interested?"

"Because you haven't told me to bugger off yet," Cheryl confidently retorted. "If you're not

interested just say the word and I'm gone."

Carmen couldn't stop the smile that spread across her lips as she studied the younger woman. "Dinner?" Cheryl pressed her cocky smile growing brighter with each passing moment.

"Coffee," Carmen snorted amused by the blonde's attitude.

"When?" Cheryl purred as Carmen shivered from the sound of the blonde's voice that seemed to be echoing down her spine.

"Tomorrow," Carmen conceded as her stomach fluttered.

"Tonight?" Cheryl tempted her.

"Tomorrow," Carmen asserted not willing to have the blonde dictate their interaction. "Dunbar's at six."

"I can't wait," Cheryl giddily responded bouncing slightly. "Thanks for not shooting me down."

"Why do I think no one does?" Carmen teased the blonde as she shouldered her backpack.

"Oh they do," Cheryl quipped. "Just not very often," she added with a playful wink.

"It's just coffee," Carmen reminded Cheryl.

"For now," Cheryl sighed happily before making her departure.

"Arrogant little shit," Carmen laughed as she watched the gentle sway of the blonde's hips as she strolled out of the office.

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The following evening Carmen felt as nervous as a schoolgirl as she entered the tiny coffee house. She spotted the tall blonde instantly from across the room. She was slightly impressed that Cheryl had been watching the door and stood when Carmen approached the table at the back of the room. "Hi," Cheryl brightly greeted the small brunette with a brilliant smile.

"Hi," Carmen responded as she took her seat. Carmen felt slightly in awe of the younger woman's beauty and confidence as she sat down next to her. "Am I late?"

"No, I was early," Cheryl reassured her. "I wanted to watch you as you walked in."

"My God, are you always this cocky?" Carmen playfully admonished the girl.

"No," Cheryl reassured her. "I'm direct. Like coming out; I never really did because I always knew and never hid my true self. I like being completely honest. I mean not brutally honest. If

someone was wearing a hideous outfit I wouldn't say anything. I just hate games."

"Good because I don't waste my time with games," Carmen stressed as she took a moment to appreciate Cheryl's attire. "You like nice," she complimented the blonde's brocade vest and snug fitting black jeans.

"Thanks," Cheryl blushed slightly as she waved the waitress over. "You look great." As Cheryl's emerald eyes drifted up and down her body she felt as if the younger woman was caressing her.

"This isn't a date," Carmen cautioned Cheryl even as she felt her body temperature rising.

"I know," Cheryl readily agreed much to the brunette's disappointment. "I just wanted a chance to get to know you better. I felt this connection, call it a spark, the first time we met."

"I'll have the Latte special," Carmen requested from the waitress.

"Carmen," Cheryl began as she covered the brunette's hand. "I'm an outrageous flirt."

"No kidding," Carmen laughed once again feeling the heat surging through her.

"I'm also direct," Cheryl continued her smile growing. "I am very attracted to you, but if all we become is friends that would great. I'm not trying to bed you, yet."

Carmen studied the woman for a moment unable to believe how quickly she felt connected to this stranger. "I should run now," she offered in a breathy whisper. "Tell me about yourself?"

"No," Cheryl cut her off. "I want to hear about you."

*'A woman who takes the time to look nice just for me and wants to hear about my life this is just too good to be true,'* Carmen sighed happily as she began to tell Cheryl about her simple childhood back in Michigan. By the time she reached her college graduation the coffee house was closing. "I am not going to be able to sleep tonight after all of that caffeine," she jested as they stepped out into the cool night air.

"I had a good time tonight," Cheryl sighed. "Can we do this again?"

"Sure," Carmen agreed feeling slightly light headed from the amount of coffee she had consumed and the electrifying gaze Cheryl was directing at her. She reached in her pocket and handed the blonde her business card. "Call or email me and we'll make plans," she offered as she tried to stop her hand from trembling.

"Great," Cheryl beamed as she clutched the card tightly. Carmen felt the air escaping from her lungs as the blonde engulfed her in a hug. The taller woman's body felt warm and inviting as Carmen leaned into the embrace. Then just as suddenly her body felt cold as Cheryl reluctantly released her.

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Cheryl didn't waste any time. She emailed the small brunette the following day, and then she called Carmen just to confirm that she had received her email. Carmen felt slightly apprehensive when she accepted the blonde's invitation to go out to dinner. Then she recalled how her body trembled each time their eyes met. "What am I thinking?" She grumbled as she plowed through her work. "She isn't even old enough to drink," she muttered as she was filled with a slight sense of panic. She did the only thing she could think of she called Mariel.

Mariel watched the fidgeting brunette carefully afraid to make any sudden moves. "At the risk of freaking you out," Mariel began slowly. "What exactly is the problem? You said that you had a great time last night."

"I did," Carmen admitted with a shy blush. "I can't deny that I feel a current flowing between us. But dinner on a Friday night, you know what that means."

"Yeah, it means it is a date," Mariel cackled. "Again I don't see the problem. It sounds like the two of you have a lot in common, and she went out of her way to show you how much she appreciated being with you."

"She's twenty," Carmen stressed.

"And?" Mariel droned in the most annoying fashion. "You are only four years older than her."

"Four very crucial years," Carmen pointed out.

"True," Mariel nodded in agreement. "Still she sounds very mature for her age. If you are really worried why don't you just change your plans to lunch on Saturday? That way it won't be a date, it will just be lunch as friends."

"That is a great idea," Carmen gasped astonished by the simplicity of the solution. "Wait she has a game on Saturday."

"Then brunch on Sunday," Mariel scowled. "Do I have to think of everything?"

"That will work," Carmen sighed with relief.

"Good, now you can go out with me on Saturday," Mariel slyly retorted.

"What are we doing on Saturday?" Carmen hesitantly inquired.

"We are going to a basketball game," Mariel snickered.

"What?" Carmen said with a hard swallow.

"Think about it," Mariel gloated. "It isn't as if we haven't gone to the games before. As members of the staff we are expected to encourage school spirit. Then after the game you can compliment her, and introduce me. This way you get to run her by one of your friends without it being obvious."

"I don't know," Carmen stammered slightly. "Sounds like a set up."

"No," Mariel quickly corrected her. "Only if you lied about it. But since you are going to tell her at brunch that it was my idea and I bullied you into it isn't. And it is my idea and I am bullying you into. No arguments."

"You are such a pain in the ass, you know that don't you?" Carmen snarled.

"Who only has your best interest at heart," Mariel reassured her.

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Carmen was relieved when Cheryl agreed to change their plans to Sunday. The blonde went as far as to apologize for pushing things. Carmen wished her luck in her upcoming game before briefly mentioning that she might be attending. Cheryl seemed to be excited by the news. "I'm going to be nervous now," the blonde sheepishly added.

"Why?" Carmen asked truly surprised by the admission.

"Because you'll be watching," Cheryl whispered.

"I'm sure you'll be fine," Carmen quickly sputtered surprised by Cheryl's sudden shyness.

"I'll see you on Saturday then," Cheryl brightly concluded.

"We'll be there," Carmen responded with a bright smile.

"We?" Cheryl questioned with a hint of sadness.

"My friend Mariel," Carmen quickly explained. "Actually it was her idea."

"Oh, so she wants to check out your new hottie?" Cheryl teased.

"Hottie?" Carmen laughed. "Now there is the cocky, smart ass I know."

"I'll see you Saturday," Cheryl purred into the telephone. "Bye."

"Bye," Carmen choked out feeling breathless all of a sudden. As she hung up the telephone she felt a sudden sense of loss. "This is bad," she muttered. "I can't be missing her already I just talked to her."

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"She is amazing," Mariel offered brightly as they watched the lady Panthers running up and down the court. Cheryl was having a great game. Carmen was breathless from watching the blonde's firm lean body jogging up and down the court. "And a heck of a basketball player too."

"Pig," Carmen muttered under her breath, as her eyes remained locked on Cheryl.

"I think it is sweet the way she keeps looking up at you," Mariel smirked as she playfully nudged the brunette.

"She does not," Carmen hissed in protest.

"She does," Mariel snickered.

"Does not," Carmen growled.

"Chill," Mariel chuckled. "It is a good thing."

Carmen chose to ignore her friend's running commentary and watch the game. She blushed each time Cheryl did look up into the stands and smile up at her. By the time the final buzzer rang her stomach was in knots and her palms were sweating. "How does she do this to me?" Carmen whispered as Mariel dragged her down from the bleachers to courtside.

"I'd tell you, but you would just deny it," Mariel whispered.

"Hi," Cheryl blushed slightly as she greeted them.

"Great game," Carmen complimented the blonde's win.

"Thanks," Cheryl beamed as she shuffled her feet nervously.

"This is my friend Mariel," Carmen quickly introduced her friend in an effort to resist reaching out and touching the enticing blonde.

"Nice to meet you," Cheryl greeted Mariel with a firm handshake before she began to introduce her to some of her teammates. Carmen's chest tightened as she chatted with Cheryl's teammates while Mariel grilled the blonde. Carmen quickly realized that Cheryl wasn't the only one who was being introduced to the friends.

Carmen managed to hold up her end of the conversation by talking about the game. Despite her ability to chat in a friendly manner her gaze was firmly fixed on the sweat running down Cheryl's well-toned bicep. She released a slight whimper when the sound of a whistle blowing ended the gathering.

Cheryl lingered behind as her teammates rushed off towards the locker room. "I'll see you tomorrow?" The blonde inquired with a shy smile.

"Noon at Giovanni's," Carmen gleefully agreed as she became lost in Cheryl's smoky gaze. She blew out a breath as she watched the young athlete jogging across the court.

"Wow." Mariel blew out jerking Carmen from her wayward thoughts.

"What?" She absently questioned her friend.

"I was getting turned on just by watching the two of you watching each other," Mariel sincerely explained.

"Hey," Carmen groused.

"Relax," Mariel reassured her. "It was just the chemistry flowing between the two of you was amazing."

"It's not my imagination?" Carmen nervously questioned her friend as they strolled out to the parking lot.

"No," Mariel smiled. "You two have something. And just so you know I think she is very nice."

"That's it?" Carmen suspiciously questioned Mariel.

"That's it," Mariel confirmed. "No snide remarks, no teasing. I'm happy for you."

"But there isn't anything going on between us," Carmen protested.

"Not yet," Mariel boldly exclaimed.

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Brunch the following day turned into an all day event as they once again became caught up in chatter until the restaurant forced the duo out so they could close for the day. Carmen learned many things about her young admirer. Cheryl was bright, witty, and confident and had been a bit of a player when she was in high school. "So there wasn't anyone special?" Carmen carefully inquired as they strolled through the common.

"There was," Cheryl softly began. "Lena, but she ended up going to college in California and I came here to Boston. We tried making it work, but the distance was too much. I think I will always care for her, but we just couldn't handle being on opposite sides of the country. But enough about me tell me more about you?"

Carmen felt a sense of relief when Cheryl quickly changed the subject. Carmen felt the stirrings of jealousy creeping up on her just knowing that someone else held a piece of the blonde's heart.

They fell into an easy banter.

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Each time Carmen went out with Cheryl could felt herself being drawn closer and closer to the tall blonde. They talked for hours on the telephone almost every night revealing more and more to the other. Carmen's attraction quickly grew from the physical to the emotional. Every time she even thought about the blonde her body warmed with a sense of comfort and desire.

They had been taking things slowly each ready to wait to see where their heart was leading them. Yet, as the semester drew to a close each of them grew antsy, since they hadn't even held the other's hand. One of the things that were making Carmen edgy was that Cheryl would be flying home for the holidays and they wouldn't see one another for weeks.

She was thrilled when Cheryl insisted that they go out to dinner the night before she left. Her excitement grew during dinner when the subtle flirtations they had been exchanging for months detoured into raw sensuality. As they stepped out into the cold winter night Carmen's heart skipped a beat when Cheryl took her by the hand.

They didn't speak as they strolled back to campus towards Cheryl's dorm their bodies brushing each time they turned a corner. Their hands remained linked even after they arrived at the blonde's dorm room. Carmen stared deeply into Cheryl's deep green eyes unable to speak as they lingered outside the blonde's door. "Promise me that you will call me?" Cheryl entreated her in sultry voice.

Carmen's mind was screaming for the blonde to invite her in as her gaze drifted to Cheryl's soft, pink lips. She felt her body quivering as Cheryl dipped her head and placed the softest, sweetest kiss she had ever experienced on her trembling lips. "I am going to miss you so much." Cheryl confessed as she cradled the brunette's face in her hands.

"I miss you already," Carmen confessed.

"I have to pack," Cheryl grumbled. "I hate saying goodnight but,"

"I understand," Carmen smiled as she took a shy step away.

"Would tomorrow be too soon to call you?" Cheryl offered her bottom lip quivering slightly as she spoke.

"No," Carmen laughed. "Have a safe trip."

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True to her word Cheryl called the very next day. They talked endlessly every night reaffirming the connection they shared. Carmen was eagerly counting down the days until Cheryl returned

and they could pick up where they had left off. The only thing troubling the brunette was that Cheryl wasn't the only one who had returned home for the holiday, Lena was there as well.

Carmen tried not to be jealous, but as Cheryl and her ex-lover spent more and more time together she became troubled. Cheryl was honest that seeing Lena again was confusing her. Then the call came, the one that broke Carmen's heart. "I don't know what to do?" Cheryl nervously began.

"Why?" Carmen choked out as she felt a gnawing in the pit of her stomach. "You're back with her," Carmen supplied knowing in her heart it was true.

"Yes," Cheryl confessed. "I don't want to hurt you or lead you on. I really do care for you."

"What about the distance?" Carmen inquired in a surprisingly calm voice as she fought to be reasonable about the situation.

"Lena is transferring," Cheryl explained.

"To the same school," Carmen concluded with a heavy sigh.

"Yes," Cheryl responded in a heavy tone. "This semester. I don't know what to do."

"I think you do," Carmen reassured her. "You have a history with her," she graciously bowed out briefly wondering if it would be a bad thing to look up Lena's file and screw with her transfer. "You broke up because of the distance and that isn't a problem anymore. Even though I have feelings for you, I do understand."

"I wish I did," Cheryl grimly countered.

"Cheryl you have to do what is best for you," Carmen asserted. "And I have to do what is best for me. It hurts, but I really do understand that you have to at least try with Lena."

"How can I have feelings for the both of you?" Cheryl asked her voice filled with agony.

"I can't answer that," Carmen sighed as her heart shattered. "I need to hang up," she sniffed unable to endure the conversation any longer.

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The rest of the spring break was a somber affair for Carmen as she tried to reconcile her feelings with knowing that she had done the right thing. If she had pushed Cheryl she would never know that she was the one the blonde truly wanted. The semester began and Carmen fell into a funk. She and Cheryl still talked but not as often, each time proving harder for the both of them.

Carmen had wanted to convince herself that Lena was a bad person, but she couldn't. The few times she had seen the young brunette she was nothing but charming and nice. Still each time she

had witnessed the couple together, she never saw the connection she had been so certain she and Cheryl had once shared. "Oh, this has got to stop," she finally admonished herself one afternoon after spying the couple together. "I need a date."

"Talking to yourself?" She heard Mariel question from behind her. Carmen's dark, brown eyes welled up with tears as she turned to her friend. "Oh that sucks," Mariel sighed when she caught a glimpse of Cheryl and Lena strolling across campus. "I just don't get it."

"What's to get?" Carmen shrugged. "They had two years together; all Cheryl and I had was a few months of flirting."

"So that is it?" Mariel scoffed. "You just folded up your tent, tucked your tail between your legs and ran? I don't buy it."

"What was I supposed to do?" Carmen bellowed. "Challenge Lena to duel?"

"That would have been fun." Mariel teased in an effort to lift the brunette's spirits.

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Another few months passed as Carmen slipped back into her life. She still couldn't help thinking about Cheryl still she moved on. One rainy spring night she was walking out of the administration building when she spied a familiar figure leaning against a tree. "Hi." Carmen greeted the blonde who was shivering from the cold.

"Can we talk?" Cheryl quickly blew out.

"I don't know," Carmen hesitated. "Aren't your freezing standing out here in the rain?"

"Yes," Cheryl smirked. "I really need to talk to you, is there some where we could go?"

Carmen's mind screamed for her to reject the blonde's offer, her heart had other plans. "Fine," she stammered. "I live just around the corner." On the brief walk home Carmen tried to convince herself that she was only taking Cheryl back to her apartment so she could get the girl dry and warm. Again her heart denied the notion.

"I'll get you something warm to put on," Carmen offered as they stepped into her small apartment. Before she could shrug off her coat she felt the chill leave her body as Cheryl pressed her up against the door and kissed her. This kiss was just as sweet as the first one they had shared months ago. Carmen's eyes fluttered shut as she became lost in the feel of Cheryl's body pressing against her own.

Then her brain caught up with the situation and she pushed the taller woman away. "Excuse me," she barked as she slipped away from Cheryl's grasp. "I not up to being the other woman, thank you very much."

"And I don't cheat," Cheryl frantically reassured her.

"I swear if you tell me you broke up with her an hour ago I'm kicking you back out into the rain," Carmen fumed feeling that Cheryl just assumed she'd be waiting for her.

"Over a month ago," Cheryl quickly asserted.

"Huh?" Carmen stammered as her eyes widened while her stomach fluttered.

"I did what you said I should do," Cheryl began her body trembling as she spoke. "Lena and I once shared a beautiful relationship. We're just not the same people anymore."

Carmen slipped off her coat as she allowed the blonde to collect her thoughts. "You told me that I had to do what is best for me," Cheryl continued as she captured Carmen in an electrifying gaze. "After I realized that we no longer belonged together I ended it. I couldn't get you out of my thoughts. But I had to know, so I've been alone ever since."

"No one?" Carmen suspiciously inquired despite she felt the truth in the blonde's words.

"No one," Cheryl asserted as she took a shy step forward. "No flirting, no dating, just me getting to know me. Now what I need to know is how you feel? Do I still have a place in your heart?"

"You're scaring me," Carmen trembled as Cheryl closed the distance between them. Unable to control her emotions Carmen reached out and clasped the blonde's hips.

"I know," Cheryl admitted as her hands came to rest on Carmen's shoulders. "I told you before I believe in being direct."

"I still say arrogant," Carmen found herself smiling.

"Not this time," Cheryl blew out. "Right at this moment, I'm terrified. If you tell me to go, I will. I just couldn't let you go without knowing if what I felt was real. I'm drawn to you. It is your smile, your wit, your amazing good looks, and the way you look at me with confusion when I babble like an idiot. I'm not looking for a score; I'm just following my heart. I'm falling for you. If you don't feel the same, just tell me."

"You're dripping on my carpet," Carmen quipped with shy smile. "Why can't I resist you?" She asked as she reached up and slid the windbreaker down the blonde's shoulders. Cheryl leaned in and stole a shy kiss after her jacket fell to the floor. Carmen moaned deeply as she felt Cheryl tugging on her bottom lip. She gave into the feel parting her lips, inviting the tall blonde's tongue to explore the warmth of her mouth.

She shivered as she caressed Cheryl's wet clothing her body screaming for more as the passionate kiss over rode her senses. "I'm scared," Carmen gasped as the fiery kiss ended. "I feel it too."

"Should I go?" Cheryl offered sincerely as she nuzzled the brunette's cheek.

"No," Carmen choked out her fingers drifting to the buttons on the blonde's blouse. She leaned up and captured Cheryl in a lingering kiss as her nimble fingers began to open the buttons. "We have a lot to talk about," she gasped as she felt her shirt being tugged out of her slacks.

"If we are going to talk then you really need to stop kissing me," Cheryl helplessly choked out.

"Can't," Carmen whimpered as she brushed open the wet blouse revealing Cheryl's creamy white flesh. "We can talk in the morning," she concluded as her eyes drifted to Cheryl's erect nipples straining against her soaking wet bra fully revealing the blonde's flesh lurking beneath. "I promised to warm you up," she said as she took Cheryl by the hand and led the blushing woman towards her bedroom.

Once they entered her bedroom, Carmen was overcome by months of frustration and heartache. She kissed Cheryl deeply as their bodies melded together; each tugging at the other's wet clothing. Carmen's body ached with desire as they struggled to free one another from the confines of their clothing.

Carmen shivered as her wet naked body was finally revealed to her lover's smoldering gaze. Carmen reached out watching her dark hands caressing Cheryl's body; she tore the last remaining garments from her soon to be lover's body. Her body pulsed with desire as her eyes caressed Cheryl's naked flesh.

Carmen's heart raced as she watched her hands gliding softly along Cheryl's pale flesh. "I could die happy right now," she sighed while brushing her fingers along the swell of her lover's breasts. Cheryl quivered before her giving into the brunette's tender caresses. Their eyes met once again, captivating the other. Carmen's breathing became labored as she lowered her lover down onto the bed.

She never broke the fiery gaze as she hovered above her lover. Cheryl laced her fingers in Carmen's curly hair and drew her in for another passionate kiss. Carmen reeled from the sweet taste of her lover's mouth as their bodies became one. Carmen kissed her lover deeper as she felt Cheryl's desire touching her skin.

The softness of their breasts pressed against the other's body as they wrapped themselves around each other. Slowly they swayed against the other the bed creaking beneath the slow sensual dance while hands began a gentle exploration. Carmen began to kiss her lover's face, tracing her jaw with her tongue while Cheryl's hands drifted down her back in a tantalizing fashion.

Carmen was trembling as her lover quivered beneath her. The brunette's kisses drifting lower until she was suckling the blonde's neck. Many questions and doubts still plagued her as she felt Cheryl's tender touch gliding lower until she massaged the firm flesh of her backside. Her doubts slipped away as she felt the rapid beating of Cheryl's heart beneath her lips.

Cheryl's thigh slipped between her thighs while she guided Carmen to rock against the firmness.

Carmen growled against her lover's skin while her body ground wildly against her lover. She flickered the rose colored bud with her tongue before capturing it between her lips, her body thrusting wildly as she suckled her lover's nipple.

Her clit throbbed with an aching need as she felt the bud puckering in her mouth. She suckled Cheryl harder as their bodies swayed in perfect rhythm. She could feel Cheryl guiding her hips up. She moaned as she reluctantly released the hardened nipple from her mouth.

She was struggling to breathe as Cheryl ran her hand down along the front of her body. Carmen's head was spinning as she felt the blonde's fingers parting her swollen nether lips and dipping into her wetness. "Oh Baby," she gasped as her lover slowly stroked her. The brunette's body swayed in response as she pressed her breasts against the blonde's soft, full lips. Carmen's head fell back as Cheryl captured one of her dark nipples in her mouth while her long, slender fingers slipped inside of her warm, wet center. "You feel so good," Cheryl groaned with pleasure as she squirmed beneath the brunette's body.

"Take me," Carmen whimpered while Cheryl feasted upon her breast as her fingers slowly plunged in and out of the brunette's wetness. Carmen cried out as Cheryl's thumb began to tease her clit. Carmen fought against the storm brewing inside of her while she balanced her body with arms, Cheryl's mouth teasing her breasts while her fingers drove her higher. Carmen thrust wildly her mind spinning as she felt her body erupting.

Cheryl never slowed pleasuring the smaller woman as Carmen exploded in ecstasy. Carmen's cries of joy filled the room, her body shaking as she once again fell over the edge. Through half opened eyes she glanced down at her lover who was lost in her own euphoric haze. Carmen leaned down and seized the blonde's lips in a savage kiss.

Cheryl murmured as Carmen slipped from her touch. The brunette was on fire as she kissed her way down Cheryl's long, lean body. She blew a warm breath in the younger woman's soft golden tufts as she nestled her body between Cheryl's long legs.

She drank in the musky aroma of her lover's desire before parting her slick folds with her tongue. Cheryl's blunt nails dug into her flesh as Carmen buried herself in the sweet nectar. Every nerve in Carmen's body tingled as she feasted upon the blonde's wetness. She suckled her throbbing clit eagerly as her lover's body thrust against her.

Carmen became lost in the feel of Cheryl's thighs trembling against her as she drove the blonde higher. She grazed her teeth across the aching nub while pressing her tiny fingers against the opening of the blonde's center. The walls tightened against her touch as she slipped deep inside her lover.

Her fingers and mouth pleased her lover with a frantic rhythm as she felt Cheryl's body releasing her passion. She fought to hold the blonde steady unwilling to stop pleasuring her as her own passion grew. She refused to yield until Cheryl collapsed beneath her whimpering for her to stop. Carmen kissed the blonde's still quivering thighs before licking the traces of her passion from her lips.

"Let me hold you?" Cheryl gasped out her plea as she looked up at Carmen with a glazed look in her eyes.

"Anything," Carmen vowed as she nestled beside her lover. Her heart was beating rapidly as they became entangled in a loving embrace. Soon they were rocking slowly together once again their bodies becoming one swaying slowly until each of them cried out as they exploded in unison.

Carmen released a happy sigh as she nestled her head against her lover's chest. She murmured with pleasure as Cheryl massaged her scalp. Carmen smiled as she listened to the steady beating of her lover's heart. "This is where I belong," Cheryl murmured.

"It better be," Carmen cautioned the younger woman with tender smile as she kissed her breast.

"This is where I belong," Cheryl confidently vowed with a promising smile.

The End.

Send comments to [findingmavis@comcast.net](mailto:findingmavis@comcast.net)

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