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Chapter 1

2014

Cali's POV

"What? Stop laughing!" I rolled my eyes over Zanaya who kept on laughing at my state. I was video calling her since today's shoot for the MV I was involved with just recently ended.

It ended earlier than usual which means I can go home. Tough luck though, there was an emergency and the manager who accompanied me for the shoot had to go back to the building because there had been a conflict of schedule.

So now I'm left alone, patiently waiting when I will be picked up. I could have gone alone but my ankle is swollen. Due to my carelessness, I slipped at one scene and since I was wearing some heels, I sprained my ankle a little.

I've already tried contacting the manager and I was told to wait and they'll fetch me once everything was settled. So now I'm camping on the stairs within the fire exit to hide from all of those people outside.

It's hard to mingle with people especially for amateurs like me. This is an industry where normally, your agency is your armor and though I am currently from BP Entertainment, I'm still a trainee and my armor isn't as strong as it should be.

Plus, some people always had that misconception about coming from BP Entertainment and I'm not getting any of that. At least not today.

This is how hard the life of a celebrity is. For someone like me who hasn't debuted and basically to those artists who weren't on a big company, they either have to go to a shoot alone, drive on their own and wait for everyone else because you have to.

If I knew I'll have to cry a lot during Imagine High's music video, I would have pleaded and begged Max to do it instead.

Crying is something I can't easily do, especially if it's forced. But I don't really have a choice, do I?

This is a good step for people to get used to my face and another reason for me to get used to the camera, an edge I am willing to grab to make up for everything that I lack.

Hypocrisy aside, I knew for a fact that I am not at par in terms of dancing compared to all of the other trainees in BP Entertainment, but I at least try my best to make it up for it with something else.

Practicing, that's what I normally do whenever I am not booked with commercials and photoshoots. I am just also thankful I was being considered for these gigs even though I lack in many aspects.

"California, your eyes are really swollen, are you sure you can go outside looking like that?" concern laced over her tone and I had to resist the urge to smile at how adorable she looks.

Zanaya, Tokyo, and Max had always been the closest to me out of all the other trainees. Surely, I was close to a few more people but the four of us clicked really well the first day.

Tokyo is such a sweetheart. She may be from another country but sometimes, she's more of a Korean than I am. Most often, my heart cries for both Tokyo and Zanaya because they are a thousand miles away from their family.

The two would bicker with each other but cries together every time one misses their family. But I know that's half of the reason why they work hard and sometimes, I feel apologetic because most often, I was the reason why they have to practice longer so I can keep up.

"Hey, I'm still pretty even with my eyes swollen," I joked and she doubled with laughter.

There's no need to tell that my ankle was sprained. She'll definitely tell the others and I don't want them to be worried.

"Of course. Hey, I need to go. Tokyo is cooking in the kitchen. She might burn the place down. We'll wait for you here. Take care!" she sweetly stated and I bid my goodbye too.

Once the video call ended, a long sigh escaped my lips before putting my phone beside me.

My hands rested on the elevated step as I close my eyes.

Once again, I'm left all alone.

I bit my lower lip as I try to fight the emotion that is starting to bother my already calm state.

"Don't cry Cali. You can do this," I whispered to myself as I feel the pain on my ankle.

My hands started fanning my face to keep myself from crying.

While seated on the stairs, I removed my shoes to free my feet a little.

It was already red.

When I tried to move my right foot, I almost shriek in pain so I started hitting my legs to keep myself from shouting.

"No, no, no. You can do it Cali. Think about Dalgom. She needs a strong mom. Dalgom-ah, your Mom is not crying!" I started talking to distract myself. Dalgom is my dog. If someone hears me,

they'll probably think I am weird but people have their own ways to deal with situations and I'm dealing mine this way right now.

"You're too noisy,"

"Aahhhh!" I shrieked in surprise when I heard someone speaking.

My head automatically searched for the owner of the voice and my eyes widened when I saw a figure on the upper level of the fire exit. He was leaning on the corner and it was a little dark so I didn't notice him earlier but I'm pretty sure he had been there the whole time.

Was he sleeping?

"Oh my God, I'm sorry, did I wake you up?" I apologized and stood up so I can bow to him but I heard him snicker.

"Dalgom-ah's Mom is a little stupid and careless, I see," I heard him mumble and I was caught off-guard.

And then I saw him slowly stood up before reaching for the bag on the floor.

My eyes squinted as I try to see the face of the person in front of me.

I should be afraid because some stranger in denim pants and black jumper started coming close to me but I'm not sure if it was because I was tired or what but I wasn't afraid.

"The pain won't go away even if you cry," he stated. "Sit down," he ordered and it was as if I was in a trance, I followed his order without even objecting.

He was wearing a cap and a face mask but seeing him this close makes me see how his skin seems so pale yet it looks so soft.

"Have you eaten?" he asked, his voice a little raspy and it send shivers through my spine.

"Yeah," I mumbled and I watch as he sat in front of me, his hands suddenly reached for my swollen foot and I flinched in surprise.

But he still checks on it.

"Put an ice on it once you reach home or better yet, ask to be sent to a hospital, that would be better," he stated and my mouth hung wide open.

Is he a ghost or something?

Just then, he lifted his gaze until our eyes locked with each other.

His eyes, they were beautiful like thousands of emotions were hidden inside them.

And then I heard it, the irregular sound of my heart beating.

It was fast. Too fast I'm not sure if it was normal.

"Than-" before I can even finish, I screeched when he suddenly flicked my forehead. My hand reached for it and started rubbing to ease the pain.

I glared at him in annoyance.

"Next time, be alert when a stranger comes into you especially when you're all alone in a place like this. Better yet, don't stay alone in here because it's not safe," he snickered and I rolled my eyes in frustration.

But before I can even say something, I watch him as he reaches for my phone and started doing something. The next thing I knew was the sound of another phone ringing, which I assume was his.

"Send me a message once you're home so I'd know Dalgom-ah's Mom is still alive," he stated which left me in awe.

Did he just call his phone using mine?

And did he just indirectly call me stupid?

"Wahhhh," I exclaimed in surprise. What's happening right now feels so weird I'm not even sure if it's true.

Just then, my phone started ringing and I saw my manager's name on it so I grabbed the phone from his hands so I can answer.

"Yes, thank you, manager Jen," I bowed as if my manager is in front of me.

Once the call ended, I glared at him in annoyance.

"Sorry for bothering you but please erase my number from your phone," I scowled at him but to my surprise, he removed his cap and put it on my head instead revealing his brown hair.

To say that I was surprise was an understatement.

His hands started fixing my hair a little and I was left in awe.

"What's your name?" I can't help but asked.

He was a mystery.

It scares me how I felt comfortable the moment I saw him even without knowing what he looks like. Moreover, it amazes me how he seemed to be comfortable to me the same way when I was sure this is the first time we met.

He stood up from sitting in front of me before heading through the door.

"Go out in a minute. It's not safe here," he whispered before opening the door. "Storm..." he said next and I was once again surprised. "It's Storm Michaels to them but to you, I'm just Storm,"

My mouth hangs wide open as he casually went out as if nothing just happened.

"What was that?" I talked to myself.

My hand reached for my things as I try to assess everything that had happened.

In a span of five minutes, a lot had happened and I am so confused.

My eyes fixated on the door where he just left.

He's a ghost. He's definitely a ghost.

Coz there's no way he is real.

Chapter 2

Cali's POV

"Cali, you should have told us so we can tell the managers here. Otherwise, you wouldn't have waited there for hours," Max puckered her lips, quivering in worry.

Max, she had always been the one with the strongest character but to us, she's the most protective and caring. She easily gets edgy whenever something is wrong but she keeps it whenever she's having a hard time.

When a bullying scandal involving her suddenly arose, she never talked about it. She said she was fine but everybody knows she isn't.

"They are busy. I'm fine. I can walk, see?" I told them wiggling my feet along the process, my grin never leaving my face.

In all honesty, it's hurting a little, but showing them I was hurting meant them being frantic all night, and that's something I don't really like.

Every one of us is busy taking classes like singing and dancing lessons, plus, we get to have our monthly evaluations. I don't want to add up to the trouble they are facing.

"Yah, go to sleep. You guys have practice tomorrow," I told them as I move and disperse everyone.

Tokyo looked at me in worry, "Will you be able to shoot tomorrow with your foot in that state?" she asked and the three looked at me, waiting for an answer.

A forced smile escaped my lips strengthening the strong facade I'm trying to show in front of them.

"Yah, the manager promised that she'll feed me chicken for my breakfast. That's more than enough to give me energy," I cheekily exclaimed and they all smiled, giving up on me.

In no time, each of us was heading straight to our rooms. Thankfully, only the four of us share the dorm.

After washing up and changing into a pair of pajamas, I plopped my body on my bed, a satisfying sound emerging on my lips. My hands were spread on my bed, a smile on my lips.

My eyes were still swollen from all the crying that I did for the MV and I hope my face wouldn't be bloated tomorrow.

"Whatever, I would film another crying scene anyways," I whispered to myself before pulling the blanket to cover my body.

I let out a sigh, another long day ahead for tomorrow.

Just then, the sound of my phone beeping startled me.

"Huh? Who would send me a message at this hour?"

I sat on my bed and reach out for my phone which was resting on my bedside table.

To be honest, I'm not someone who usually fiddle with my phone texting people. But I do use it a lot to play some games. I don't have a lot of things I spend my time with so I settled with playing games on my phone.

My brows furrowed after seeing an unknown number flashing on my screen.

Unknown: Are still awake?

"Huh?" I tilted my head a little. "Who could this be? Maybe it was a wrong number..."

Shrugging my shoulder, I put my phone back at the table and went back to bed. Covering my body back with a blanket, I closed my eyes as I desperately try my best to sleep.

The next day, I had to wake up really early for my shoot and like what happened before, it was so hard and exhausting.

"It's so hard..." a soft thud echoed through the place as I sat on the lowest elevation on the stairs.

Once again, I found myself sitting alone in the fire exit.

Like yesterday, the shoot was tiring. And it was tiring because I'm having a hard time forcing myself to cry. I'm a naturally jolly person and sometimes, I go zig when the others zag. It's just basically my personality.

"Ahhhh," I whisper cry as I remove the shoes I was wearing, a swollen ankle greeting before me. It wasn't that swollen but it's still a little painful. Maybe it was because I was forcing myself to walk like usual so people won't notice that I hurt my foot.

Lifting my gaze in the ceiling, a set of feeble sounds escaped my mouth. Again, my manager is not yet around.

There's no hope in waiting. I have been waiting for my manager outside for more than an hour and the pitiful stare I kept receiving from the staff are too much to take in so I decided to go back and wait at the fire exit like yesterday.

"Haissst, you really are noisy aren't you, Dalgom-ah's Mom?" I almost choked on my own saliva after hearing that familiar voice.

Abruptly, I stood up and turned my heels and saw the very same person I met yesterday, only this time, he's wearing a dark blue jumper paired with black pants, and a cap over his head.

I felt all the hairs at the back of my neck stood up, my right hand covering my mouth in shock.

"Oh my God! Ghost! You're that ghost!" I exclaimed and my knees almost gave in when I heard him chuckle.

I watch as he slowly moved and walked straight to me, gently pulling me back so I can sit down.

My eyes widened, my heart beating rapidly.

"Wha-"

"Don't speak. I'm tired, just let me handle this," he cut me off and I watch as he sat down and pull out something on the bag he was carrying.

He reached for my swollen feet and I was startled when he put an ice pack on it. I flinched the moment the cold pack made contact with my skin.

"Why do you have an ice pack with you? You normally carry this around?" I laughed but he didn't.

"No matter how you hide it, it was obvious that you were hurting. Don't be stubborn. Have it check or you might say goodbye to your career this early," he stated before lifting his head and stare straight to my eyes.

That instant, I was lost for words.

His stare, they were different, unlike those I've seen before.

His eyes, it was as if...

As if he cares...

I gulped.

And then he smiled.

Holy fudge.

"How's Dalgom-ah?" he asked but I was too lost over his smile I wasn't able to grasp what he was saying.

"Huh?"

"Awwww!" I hissed in pain when he flicked my forehead once again.

But I was caught off-guard when he started rubbing it to ease the pain.

"Focus. Didn't I tell you not to stay here alone because it isn't safe?" Once again, I was lost for words.

The way his touch started calming my nerves caught me off-guard.

"You're really a ghost, aren't you?" I whispered and he laughs.

I love hearing the sound of his laughter. It's refreshing and pure.

"I just told you to focus yet here you are spouting nonsense. You remind me of someone, a certain member of mine," he said while smiling.

My eyes avoided his gaze.

His smile is not good for my heart.

The sound of my phone ringing gave me a reason to do something. But before I can even answer the call, it ended. Instead, a message came right in asking where I was and that I go down since the car is ready.

I stood up immediately, the ice pack on my foot fell.

"I- ahhmmm, I need to go," I don't know why but I started stuttering.

I grab my things and frantically walk straight to the door.

"Cali..." I stopped midway when I heard him call for my name.

I don't remember introducing myself to him.

"How d-"

"I heard it from the staff around," he looked at me intently. " in an accident," he added and that made me a nod before stepping out.

Of course, why would he know?

"Chu..." he called me once again and this time, it was a nickname.

I turned around and looked at him.

"Answer my message next time so I'd stop worrying," he whispered.

"Huh?"

Before I can even hear his response, I heard my manager calling me from afar.

"Go. And put another ice pack on that once you get home," he whispered while smiling, though from where I was standing, I can clearly see how exhausted he looked.

I released my hand from the door and watch how his form slowly diminished from my sight.

This is my last day of filming; will I ever see him again?

Chapter 3

2016

Cali's POV

"I will always love you, Chu. Remember that"

He reached for my forehead and gave me one last lingering kiss before turning his back.

My heart shattered into pieces. The picture of his back slowly diminishing on my line of sight is almost like my breath being taken away from me.

And for the first time, I wish all of this never happened.

I wish he wouldn't say goodbye.

I wish we were still together.

I wish he was still mine.

"Gi-chi!" My body bolted up immediately, my face full of sweat. The fast beating of my heart is more than enough to wake up my disoriented system.

"Liar..." I whispered to myself.

Tears, they were streaming down my cheeks again d I felt my chest tightening.

My eyes scanned the place before me. That's right. I was sleeping in my room.

My hands reached for my forehead as I rested my back on my pillow and leaned on my headboard.

These past few days, I keep on dreaming about the past, starting from how we first met and even how we ended.

I thought I was okay. I'm doing good. Why do I have to remember now?

Was it because of Seth?

I let out a long sigh.

It all started when WHISTLE saw him in the hall on our first recording for our debut. Seeing him made me remember SHADOW, the group I have been trying to avoid seeing in the news and any social media articles.

It was hard, especially when even the girls admire their talent. Who wouldn't? Their story is even as close as our seniors. They started with nothing, shared spaces in only one room, and had to do everything from scratch. Now, both groups made a name of their own.

But now, SHADOW attracts the general public, and I know it wasn't just because of their talent and hard work. They are really meant to be there, at the top.

But here I am, just debuted a few days ago and is now struggling to keep my emotions together, all because I saw someone related to him. What more if I see him again after more than a year?

You can't breakdown again, Cali. You can't.

After checking the time, I headed straight to the bathroom to freshen up.

A cold shower is all I need.

Once done, I wore a white shirt underneath a large black hoodie and paired it with grey sweatpants.

It's still five in the morning and not many teenagers come out at this time. Plus, we just debuted less than a week. I'm pretty sure not many people can recognize me if I go out.

After wearing a black cap and a face mask, I headed outside so I can calm myself while doing a morning jog beside the Han River. I'm wearing the shoes Zanaya gave me as a gift.

I didn't bother waking up any of the girls. They were also exhausted from all the preparations for our comeback so I don't wanna get this little time that they have so they can rest.

With the mellow music blasting on my ears through my earphones, I busied myself by doing a round of jog along the circle. It's refreshing that I'm still able to do things like this right now.

Yeah, like how the two of you do this kind of shits before. My conscience stated but I brushed it off.

In a matter of fifteen minutes, I was already panting, my breathing ragged and my feet slowed down its movements until I stopped and plopped myself down on the steps on the stairs where I have a clear view of the buildings towering in front of me.

I removed my earphones while I lean both my hands on the ground, my eyes closed as I let the sun shine on my face, my mask already gone.

Max will freak out if she realized I'm not in my room.

A small smile escaped my lips.

I can clearly picture her freaking out. She did once when Tokyo went out to buy some books and ended up going home ranting about her escapade.

"You shouldn't be jogging around this area alone, not after you just made your debut, should you?"

My heart almost leaped out of my chest when I heard a very familiar voice emanating closed to where I was.

A voice I wished I never heard three years ago...

A voice I wished I will never hear again... But at the same time, I wish I would hear again. Confusing - I know.

But it's impossible.

Slowly, my head turned on my right, my heart rate hammering real fast like I was being chased by a lion.

And there he is, like always, covered in black clothes, his face covered with a black mask.

But there's no hiding it. No matter how much he hides his identity - no caps, face mask, or anything. My heart can easily recognize him - perhaps even with my eyes closed.

Storm, Storm of SHADOW…My Storm-chi...

The first person who made me feel I was important, and the first one who made me feel I wasn't as well.

His pale skin which can't be covered by his mask can be seen.

He was there, looking at me like things from last year didn't happen.

He was there, standing in front of me like he didn't leave.

And I am here, even after all those painful memories...

Those stupid nights that I would cry in secret, my face covered with a pillow so my members won't hear me bawling...

Or those times when I would stay for more than an hour on the bathtub almost lifeless as I try to ransack my mind what I did wrong...

Even after all those, my heart still beats the same - the same way it did when I first saw him on that fire exit.

I didn't know what snapped but right this moment, everything just dawned into me, my hands immediately reached my face as my tears poured automatically.

I was crying. I was crying so bad I can't stop. With him, I am weak - vulnerable.

I thought I cried enough. But I guess I didn't. I guess I will never be ready to see him without breaking down.

I didn't know how long I was crying when I felt a pair of hands grabbing me gently on my shoulders. And in a flash, I was already standing, my face now buried over his chest, his right hand gently rubbing my back while the other was at the back of my head.

"Damn it, Chu. Stop crying, boo bear. Please, I'm sorry. Fuck I'm so sorry," I heard his voice broke and I thought I was just hearing things.

Why does it sound like he was hurting too?

He left me, right?

He pulled away from me a little and cupped my cheeks, his eyes moist with tears threatening to spill and I was left confused.

"I'm here now... Your Gi-chi is here, okay?" he whispered and I didn't care if we were standing in a public place and the sun was almost rising.

He's back.

I don't care if I looked desperate and pathetic.

I want my Storm back.

With all the longing I had within me, my hands reached for his cheeks and pulled him for a quick kiss.

It was brief, sweet yet magical - at least to me.

"You're here..." I whispered and my heart did a mini somersault when I saw a sincere smile showing on his face.

Once again, tears started streaming down my cheeks.

Fuck with the dating ban.

If I have to go against my Boss again just so I can be with him, I will. Coz the past year without him in my life, I felt like dying.

I need him so I can live again.

I need you, Storm.

Chapter 4

Cali's POV

"Cali, what are you smiling about?" my head snapped to Tokyo's direction.

We are heading to our scheduled recording for a music show.

An innocent smile escaped my lips as I try to gather my composure.

"Nothing, just a meme I saw online," I told her before focusing back on my phone. This time, I tried to remain poker-faced so she won't think that I was acting weird.

However, my insides were feeling the exact opposite.

My head was floating and so are the organs inside my body. They felt like they were wiggling or something if that's even possible.

My Storm, I got him back, and ever since we got back together, my days had been a thousand times happier. It feels like I was back to how we started when all he brings is comfort and contentment towards my heart.

I wasn't an idol then but he is.

And we never cared. We never cared if the reporters see him. He said he isn't that famous for reporters to even bother. And that was two years ago. Now, Dispatch and the whole world monitors even the number of times he blinks, he sighs or furrowed his eyebrows.

We never cared for the world until we were forced to. But that's the past. I don't care if he hurt me or left me. I don't care why he did that as long as he's back. Because I'm desperate.

Storm, his mere existence affects my whole system.

Did you ever felt like you were walking on a cloud nine every time that someone comes into your mind? Like, you can't help but smile. There is always that moment when your world would stop and you can't think straight because you kept thinking about him?

That's how Storm is to me.

I just can't describe the feeling.

And now, I am looking like a fool in front of my members all because he sent me one short message.

My Gi-chi, he got me so whipped.

Gi-chikun: I had a dream, and you were on it. That made my day, my Chi-chu. I love you.

Goddamn it, Storm.

Once again, my mind drifted off to how our story started a few years ago.

***flashback**

"Huh?" my brows furrowed when I heard my phone beeping once again. I was about to sleep and my phone had started beeping indicating that there was a message. And that's the third notification.

I was planning on not reading them until tomorrow because I was already exhausted but it must have been important.

Slowly, my hands reached for my phone and checked who it was.

My heart started beating rapidly at the messages before me.

"Chu, did you get home safely?"

"Put some ice on your ankle, that'll ease the pain,"

"At least tell me you're home,"

My body immediately bolted up from my bed, the sleepiness dawning in me earlier now gone.

Instead, my body suddenly felt so alive, my heart growing some feet running around inside my chest.

It's the ghost guy, I'm sure.

"Oh my God, what should I say?" I bit my index finger, panic starting to build up my system.

"Whatever," I whispered to myself before typing a response.

"I'm home?"

I reached for my pillow and buried my face on it while I scream over my stupidity.

"Really Cali? That's all you've got?" I stupidly asked myself.

Even after exhaustion, my body had suddenly turned alive.

Just then, my phone started ringing startling me once again. My eyes almost went out of my socket the moment I saw who was calling.

"Mom!" I shrieked in shock, the phone slipping out of my hand. Thank God it landed just right on my bed.

My body started shaking. The effect of this on me is not only alarming but weird in a way too.

Why am I frantic over someone I barely knew?

I let out a deep breath and fixed my hair.

"Damn, he won't see your face Cali. It's a call!"

Before I change my mind, I already hit the accept button.

"Hello?"

If phone calls can go 4d or 5d, he'd probably hear the loud beating of my heart.

Why was it racing like this?

"Chu..." my heart skipped a beat at the sound of his voice. Like the last time, he sounded exhausted.

And Chu - was that a regular thing for him? Like a nickname, he'd given to me?

The background noise was too loud.

Was he on a shoot or something?

"Hey..." I can't help but be worried. We've only met twice but both days, all he did was take care of me. "Are you on a shoot? Don't you think you should rest instead of calling me?" I told him my voice low and uncomfortable. To be honest, I am feeling so nervous. It's not like we knew each other for so long.

"Did I wake you up?" he asked and I straightened my body, his voice a little raspy making me think that he hasn't gotten a lot of sleep.

"No!" I exclaimed. Why do I feel like he'll be sad if I said Yes?

And why do I have this feeling that I don't want him sad?

"I was about to, but I am okay. So..." I bit my lower lip. Honestly, I don't really know what I should tell him.

"It's loud from where you are. I'm guessing you're on a shoot right?" I tried to start a conversation though I am pretty sure my voice sounded awkward but he did not respond.

Am I being nosy asking him things like that?

"You don't have to answer, sir!" I exclaimed immediately and I heard him grunt. I bit my lower lip when I realized I called him sir because he is my senior.

"Storm," he stated, and my breath hitch. "I told you it's Storm to you. And yes, I am in a shoot. I wasn't talking because I like hearing your voice. It's relaxing," he stared and words were stuck on my throat, the overwhelming feeling inside my chest is about to explode.

Good Lord. How will I sleep after this?

"Chu...?" he whispered. I wasn't sure if he was calling me or I just misheard him.

"I was wondering," he started and for some reason, I felt like what he was about to say is gonna blow me away.

"Do you wanna go grab a midnight snack with me?"

What?

"You're kidding," I whispered and my eyes widened.

"Why? Why are you doing this?" I can't help but ask.

To be honest, it's not like we have seen each other for so long. I am merely a trainee. I am nothing compared to him.

The sound of him chuckling caught me off my trance.

"My Chu, isn't it obvious?" the way he said My Chu sent shivers down my spine.

"I like you, Cali...." he stated. And as if the first bomb wasn't enough, he decided to go deeper.

"A lot."

"Fuck..." I accidentally muttered, too shock about what he said. It was too late though when I realized what I just said.

"Believe me, I would but not until you're mine,"

Storm, what the hell are you doing to me?

Chapter 5

Cali's POV

"Did you see me? I messed up, didn't I?" I pouted as I hugged my legs while sitting on one of the steps on the fire exit, him squatting just right in front of me.

My heart fluttered the moment his face softened, his right hand stretching to reach the side of my face.

"You didn't mess up Boo bear. You were amazing right there. And I am so proud of my Chu..." the smile showing on his face is more than enough for me.

Ever since I knew I wasn't as amazing as the others in terms of both singing and dancing. And I used to get stressed about it. I always have to practice trice as much as they did just so I can keep up, one reason why I am thankful for having Storm when I was still a trainee.

He always gives me hope, the courage to move forward. He always reminds me that it was all part of the process, for a better me.

And the constant support that I always get from my members, that no matter how much I struggle, they don't leave but make sure I move forward with them. As each of us always says, we're sisters and friends more than a team. We don't leave anyone behind.

"Do you guys have any other schedule?" I asked and he shook his head. A huge smile escaped on my lips, an idea coming to my mind.

"Can we cuddle? Like, just one or two hours at home, please? I miss you," I cooed and again, butterflies started going wild on my stomach when I saw his gummy smile.

Like before, Storm always gives in to me and I am normally the one who seeks attention. One thing I love about him is that he gives whatever I want - time, love, attention, and I'm normally the clingy type. He spoils me, like, a lot.

"Will it be okay?" He asked, his eyes boring into mine. He was looking at me lovingly and I felt my stomach churning.

Nothing's changed. He still looks at me like I am the most precious of all. He looks at me like I am the only person his eyes can see. He looks at me like he loves me, and I know he does. He always does.

What happened a year ago - why he left, why he let go - we never talked about it, rather I don't wanna know the reason coz I know it will hurt.

I'm fine as long as I have him back. I know that I'll be in a lot of trouble for repeating my mistake but Storm to me will always be special. I can take everything, even hate from the fans as long as I have him.

"The girls stay inside their room after nine," I moved a little and reach for his cheeks, my hands fitting perfectly over his face, his soft skin grazing over mine.

"You seem thinner; did you not take care of yourself when we were not together?" I whispered letting out a long sigh.

"Chu, you know why... " he whispered and it's as if something got stuck on my throat once again, the heavy feeling I used to have just a few weeks ago coming back to me.

I know, that even though he left me, he had been miserable the way I do. I don't have to ask nor confirm and he doesn't need to tell me.

Storm won't leave if he doesn't have to. I may have gotten angry about his decision but I know that he had suffered too.

I know.

The two of us, we just happened to fall in love with the most unfortunate circumstances. And we both know we're bound to feel a lot more pain after this.

With a heavy heart, I repeat the question he asked earlier, only this time, we both know it's out of different context.

"Will we be okay?"

And he knew that once again, my heart is starting to feel heavier, doubts clouding on my mind. He leaned closer and gave me a peck on my forehead, something he loves doing ever since.

"How about we go on a date instead, like the first day?" he smiled and my heart skipped a beat, remembering the first time we went out on a date.

"You're going to catch me some stars?" I exclaimed, excitement building in my system.

His gummy smile emerged once again and I'm lucky to be still breathing.

"This time, I'm going to catch the moon for you too," he smirked and my memory brought me back to the first of our many dates.

***flashback**

It was Thursday night and not a lot of people are walking around Han River, or was it already Friday midnight?

On my bed, soundly sleeping, that's what I should be doing, except not. Instead, I decided to go and sneak out of the house, all because a certain Storm asked me if I wanna grab something to eat. And that's food. Cali finds it hard to refuse food - very rarely.

So here I am, in my white shorts and a yellow baggy shirt. Or maybe I should have worn some pants?

I decided otherwise because I feel like I would attract even more attention if I would be roaming around fully covered. That's what idols do these days and even though I haven't debuted, I've done a few commercials, and the fact that I'm going with an idol like Storm spells even more trouble.

Slightly, my hand reached for the mask covering my face, slowly adjusting it so I can see clearly.

Why did I forget to wear a cap?

"Why are you wearing just that?"

I was startled when I felt something on my head, and the moment I turned around, my eyes caught the confused expression showing on his face. His brows furrowing as he fixes the cap he was putting on my head occasionally brushing the hair covering my face.

"What am I going to do with you Chu?"

I wasn't sure if he was talking to me or more to himself but my cheeks redden, his gesture I'm finding so adorable.

My cheeks got even more flustered when in no time, he suddenly moved two steps away from me, staring my body like I am some object of his affection.

"What?" I whispered and he titled his head, unsatisfied by what he is seeing and that made me feel a little more conscious about myself.

Normally, I would be confident because apart from my supposedly "lack of natural talent" as some may say, most people normally praise me for my looks. But seeing him examine me like this makes my confidence drop a little.

"Do I look weird?" I whispered, my gaze dropping down a little and I heard him release a sound that seemed like he was hissing or something.

"Aside from the fact that you seemed cold, there's nothing wrong with how you look because you are perfect to me. But I don't think this will work,"

My breath hitches as I watch him removed his hoodie, his stomach showing a little and the sight of undefined abs almost took my breath away.

He probably got it from practice and most idols are doing exercise to keep in shape.

They weren't chiseled but they were attractive, especially to my eyes.

In a flash, he removed the cap that he put in my head and instructed me to raise my hands which I did and oh boy, I never thought that being dressed even in just a hoodie like I'm some child would make my heart beat so fast I'm afraid it'll jump out any minute.

I didn't know what happened or maybe it's because everything was a blur but in less than five minutes, I was wearing his large black hoodie, his cap, and a mask to cover my face.

I would have protested but the satisfied look on his face made me think otherwise.

And then my eyes widened at the realization, "You're not wearing any mask!" I exclaimed, my hand immediately reaching the mask covering mine but he stopped me, an amused look showing on his face.

"I have one, thank. Though I like the idea of you worrying for me," he mumbled and I starred coughing earning fits of laughter from him.

After covering his face by a mask, his hand reached for mine and the irregular beating of my heart filled my ears as I follow him, my eyes focused on our intertwined hands.

It's not two years, two months, or two weeks but just two days but we are now holding hands.

I don't know where we went but once we entered the stall, I almost yelp when I bump into something, rather someone.

"Awwww!"

My eyes widened when I realized that it was a young kid who maybe around five or six years old. Thank God, Storm was quick enough to catch her before she falls releasing my hand from his grip.

"Careful hunn," he mumbled and we heard someone screaming in panic.

"Sohee!" our eyes met the frantic expression of who seemed to be her mom.

"Oh, thank you," she smiled at us as she hugged her daughter and I felt my heart warming up with her. She seemed kind.

"Oh, you're here to eat. Come and I'll take your order," she guided us closer to the counter and I felt Storm's hands on my back.

I would have stiffened but I'm not sure why I feel comfortable with him.

Do I trust him this much?

"What do you want to have?" he asked, his eyes boring into mine and I shyly smiled.

"Anything will do," he raised his eyebrow but shrugged his shoulder anyways before facing the old lady, the girl named Sohee looking at me intently.

She looks adorable, with a pink shirt and black legging, her hair tied up in a bun. The girls would be gushing if they see her.

"Missy," she suddenly whispered, tugging the edge of the hoodie I was wearing.

Surprised, I bent down and moved closer to her.

"Let's catch some stars," she exclaimed and before I knew it, her hands were already in mine as she guides me on a corner, a what seems to be rectangular pool came into view.

"There! Help me catch them!" she exclaimed before giving me a paper net.

"Oh, Goldfish scooping?" I yelp in surprise, seeing a traditional Japanese game like this being available in a secluded eating place like this. And take note, the place doesn't even look Japanese.

Come to think of it, the moment we entered, we've only seen one table occupied with what seem to be two students doing midnight study on the corner.

"No, Missy, those are stars! Look, their eyes are shining" she pouted and I giggle at how adorable she looked.

"Chu?" I turned my head a little as I heard Storm's voice. He was looking at me expectantly as I crouched on the ground with a scooper on my hand.

"Missy will catch me stars!" Sohee was now clapping and my heart fluttered when I saw Storm's face softening.

"They are beautiful stars. Do you want me and to catch them for you?" he stated before crouching down too.

The way his eyes shines and smiles adorably to the kid, I didn't know it back then but it must have left an impression to me.

But it was that time that I know that Storm will play an important role in my life.

He will be a part of my life, a part of me.

Chapter 6

Storm's POV

"What do you mean that I can't go?" I asked calmly, Cali's hushed voice makes me a little more intrigue by the minute.

I promised to visit and cuddle with her since she doesn't have any schedule and so do I, but right before I can sneak out of our dorm, my phone rang and here we are, changing plans as if we don't miss each other.

My brows furrowed at what she just said.

"What do you mean Seth is there? Seth like, our Seth?" I asked confused, my body turning autopilot from getting back to my room into heading out once again once I heard what she just said.

Why would Seth be there?

As far as I know, Seth doesn't personally know anyone from WHISTLE.

What business does he have with them, and more importantly, in their dorm?

I almost started coughing at what she said next.

"Zanaya's family? No, I don't have the slightest idea. He never once told us anything about it,"

Or maybe because I don't really listen that much with anything that concerns other people especially if it's a woman.

It may sound harsh but I never really paid attention to her members for two reasons. First, during her training, I never really meet any of them. Second, I wasn't exactly thinking about anything or anyone but Cali.

A sigh escaped my lips at what she just said.

"I'm coming, Chu. I want to see you badly. At least that, don't take away from me," I whispered and my heart fluttered when I heard her giggle.

Our world revolved each other. My eyes can only see her.

Our love, it was pure and real.

My heart dropped a little at the thought of not being able to get a glimpse of her beautiful face today.

She is perfect and this has nothing to do with her looks. If not, her being so beautiful is just a plus but setting that aside, everything about screams perfection.

"I'm out, boo bear. I'll message you as once I'm near," I told her as I pull put my mask along with my cap, the large hoodie that I took from Sky's closet covering my head so I am sure to hide everything that would relate me to Storm of SHADOW. Because right now, I am just Storm, Cali's boyfriend.

As I hop inside a cab I hail just right at my dorm's corner, my eyes automatically close while the vehicle moved towards where my lady would be, the corner of my lip tugging as the beating of my heart quickened.

Just the thought of seeing her again made my heart beat so fast as if I was not with her earlier.

I have her back.

I know it's wrong and I'd probably hurt a lot of people because of my decision but one year of being away with her almost killed me.

One year of not seeing her makes me feel even colder than most people initially thought I was. I can barely smile even on camera.

The boys never thought it was weird because I am normally not fond of too many people. But deep inside, it feels like the world was crushing me.

Thinking about how she may be suffering makes me lose my mind too. But I can't see her. Not after I made a promise.

What changed then? I thought to myself.

I thought I was getting better. I thought I'm slowly drifting away from her memories.

But goddamn it. Sky and Raze just had to show me the photos of the girl group members soon to debut in BP.

I knew there was seventy percent of a chance that she'll be included on the lineup. She was more than qualified to debut.

And when I saw her name, I just can't take it.

Day by day, I started getting back to the places where we used to meet. My thoughts started traveling back to those days when all I can hear is her laughter, those days that where the first word she utters was my name and the second is how much she loves me.

My hand balled into a fist.

The trouble I have to face if the news of us getting back together reaches her management, I don't care about it at this point.

After she just had her debut and I saw her back to where we used to meet, seeing her crying even though the sun is barely up, I knew it was because of me.

I know Cali, everything about her, even how she views things. I know she must have nearly lost it when I left her.

But there's this little hope that is on me that wishes that she's okay.

Seeing her breaking down, open for the world to judge, I can no longer stop myself.

I have to be with her.

So I did.

And as always, she accepted me. Even after everything.

I never wanted to leave her. But I had to.

I had to after her mother begs on her knees.

My eyes closed at the memory of my last encounter with her parents.

***flashback**

"I'm begging you Storm," my heart clenched at the sight of her Mom, the person I had considered my second mother too.

Her face filled with tears and my eyes caught the painful expression showing on his father's face who decided to just sit a meter away from us as Cali's mom had her hands over mine.

My eyes started to moist.

"Mom..." I whispered, barely able to utter a word. I call her Mom then.

I can't do what she was asking me. Especially not now when Cali needs me the most.

"You have to Storm. You know I adore you and I am never against your relationship. But we both know this needs to happen before her condition turned even worse. You understand, right?"

She was begging.

The mother of the person I love the most was begging that I leave her daughter. And it wasn't even like those where they don't want the guy for their daughter. I knew that she had treated me as her own.

"When everything's okay and the two of you still love each other, you can always have her back. You knew me Storm. I accepted everything, whatever she wants and whoever she loves, I love them too. But this time, please give me this,"

She pulled me for a hug and I can hear my heart shattering into pieces, my tears now streaming down my face.

I knew I have to do it eventually.

I have to leave her. Not for me but for her own sake.

"We're here," I was brought back from my travel to the past after the cab driver caught my attention.

"Oh," My eyes scanned the place and we indeed have arrived.

In no time, I was already standing a corner away from their dorm's doorstep.

"I'm here, Chu... I'll wait for you. I love you,"

After sending her a message, I leaned my back against the wall, my hand reaching for the corner of my eyes as I wipe the tear that escaped from it.

I didn't even realize that I was almost crying earlier.

Cali, she never asked me why I left. She didn't get mad. Instead, she made me feel like we never even parted ways before.

"Storm-chi,"

I turned on my right when I heard her voice, a smile emerging on my face.

In two steps, her body flung towards mine and I accepted her with all smiles.

"I love you..." she whispered and I felt a tingling sensation that washes over my chest.

For her, I am her sanctuary. But deep inside, I was afraid I'd trigger something both me and her parents were afraid of.

Her hands were wrapped around my waist and I pulled away from her a little before brushing the strands of hair covering her face.

"I love you more, baby..." I smiled at her before giving her a kiss on her forehead, the cute smile showing on her face while her eyes were closed made me fall in love with her a thousand times harder than I already was.

I love you, Cali.

I wish we can stay like this forever...

Chapter 7

Cali's POV

"Hey..." a smile automatically escaped my lips at the sound of his voice.

My back was facing him and I felt his arms wrapped around my waist.

"Yah, they might see us," I whispered before turning around, my cheeks getting red as I felt him kiss my forehead.

Ge'ez.

I felt my stomach now churning. Just the way his hands touched my skin gives me shivers throughout my body. He was addicting, and so was his touch.

Scratch that. Everything about him was addicting. His smile, the way he looks at me, the way he calls my name...everything. He's just so perfect.

"I don't care if they see. They can't say a word anyways," he chuckled and my hands automatically reached to hug him too.

It's not like we're not seeing each other often coz we do, in secret but seeing him always gives me warmth and comfort.

Whenever he's with me, I feel like everything will be okay.

We just came back from Japan and imagine our surprise after finding out Seth and the rest of SHADOW are outside our dorm. Storm didn't even tell me.

Zanaya and Seth, I knew something was up when the later showed in front of our doorstep that one-time Zanaya was sick.

"Did Seth tell you?" I asked and he looked at me sweetly.

"No. We just caught on after Zanaya's niece came to our fan meet," he whispered and I just hummed in acknowledgment.

We don't really know what's with the two but I am in no position to meddle. Especially when even I haven't been sharing my deepest secret with them.

"I miss you, Chu..." he whispered and I smiled, my eyes locking with his.

"I miss my Storm-chi even more," I giggled.

Just then, we both heard the sound of people chattering and in a flash, I pushed Storm away and he grunted at my action. I smiled sheepishly and he just let out a sigh.

"Sky stop following me," we heard Raze protesting and I almost laugh at Sky's response.

"Raze, did you see how Max glared at me? I don't like to stay there. I feel like she'll attack me any minute,"

"You stole her GUCCI, Sky. Give the woman a break - ah, oh gosh!" Raze hissed when he saw both Storm and I. "You two scared me. Hey, Storm! What are you doing here? You're not scaring Cali, are you?" Raze glared at Storm and I stifle a burst of laughter.

"Raze, I'd do anything but scare her. Besides, I don't think Cali would be scared of me, right?" he teased and I saw how Sky's eyes widened.

"Woah, you're teasing someone outside SHADOW, and a girl?" he spouted and Storm just shook his head.

"What are you two doing in the kitchen anyway?" he asked, his arms crossed over his chest and I can't help but noticed his muscles which are showing on his arms.

"Storm, this is where we can get water," Raze gagged as if Storm is stupid and I laughed. They look so adorable.

"Uhuuu, Cali is laughing," Sky pointed and I covered my mouth in embarrassment.

"Stop embarrassing her. Get your water and let's go find Seth," Storm instructed and I was surprised to see that even Raze follows even the age gap.

Soon enough, all four of us were back in the living room.

"Where's Seth?" I heard Storm asked and everyone pointed their hands towards Zanaya's room.

"Ooh, they sure work fast," Mono joked and I glared at the man.

"Just kidding," he pouted and I grin.

"Come here," I saw Storm mouthing, instructing me to sit beside him.

I wet my lower lip in nervousness but realized no one was paying attention so I followed what he said and sat beside him.

"Don't you think we should be calling them out? I mean, I don't know..." Raze pouted and I wasn't really sure how to react.

To be honest, I'm not really sure how to react with the two.

"We can try to listen to them, right?" Demo grinned and I wasn't sure if that's a good idea.

But the moment I saw Sky and Demo locking eyes with each other, I knew the two is up to some trouble.

"Don't mind them," Storm whispered and my cheeks blushed a little. Suddenly, I felt his hand over mine and I cough in surprise.

"Cali?" Max asked in concern and I gulped, my hand immediately putting a cushion to hide our intertwined hands.

"It's nothing," I smiled but Max raised her eyebrows. Among the girls, Max was the most attentive, mostly because she's the overprotective type. And that fact made me nervous.

It'll be bad if Max catches on. Seeing Zanaya is probably in a relationship with Seth, I'm sure Max will be all over the two. Zanaya is like our baby. Even though Tokyo is the youngest, their age isn't really that far off.

If Max ever sees Zanaya cry because of Seth, I can easily see how Max will react and that I'm starting to be scared.

"Just then, I heard my phone beeping. With my free hand, I pulled out my phone in my pocket. I had to bite the side of my cheeks to keep myself from smiling.

Gi-chikun: I forgot to tell you that you look even more amazing today. My girlfriend is so beautiful.

I gave him a glance and saw him smirking, his phone on his other hand too.

This flirt.

Me: I know. You're lucky I even said yes to you.

I saw how he smiled at my response.

It was an inside joke that we had. He'd often tell me how beautiful I am and I'd tell him how lucky he was I even spare him a glance.

Gi-chikun: I feel honored to be this lovely and ethereal girl's boyfriend. And I will be even happier if I get to get a kiss,

I had to stifle laughter at his silliness.

Me: Well, let's see. You might get one if you behave really well today, Mr. Michaels.

I was startled when he immediately responded.

Gi-chikun: Yes, boo bear. Save that kiss coz your guy right here is always behaved.

"Yah, come back here you two," we heard Raze calling Sky and Demo.

Soon enough, every one of them including Storm gathered outside Zanaya's room to pull the two. Storm had to stop them after I insisted and we all gasped when the room accidentally burst open

My eyes closed at the sight of them, the boys and even Storm were entangled together.

These boys, I wonder what other mess will they bring to our life in the future.

But of course, as long as I have Storm, I don't actually mind.

Chapter 8

Storm's POV

"You have to keep quiet," I felt Cali's hands covering my mouth as she tries to keep me from stopping her making noise. But the alcohol in her system probably thinks it's not fun to be quiet.

Soft giggles escaped her lips and no matter how much I try to stop myself, I felt my insides churning.

Damn it. I feel like a girl.

"Chu!" I whisper-shouted, my voice is still soft afraid that I would upset her in any way, silently condemning myself too for being too soft with her. However, that didn't seem to be effective as she just leaned closer in her cute attempt on getting a kiss from me.

Oh, Lord.

I gulped. Cali being like this is something I both like yet I also dreaded especially if she desperately wants to sneak inside our dorm-like how she used to.

She called me earlier telling me that she's almost at our dorm and the blood on my body almost drained since the boys were planning to have a movie night in the living room. And that will make it hard for me to sneak her in.

So I did the stupidest thing I have done this year, I pissed everyone off by spoiling the movie so they all went inside their room.

It was a dick move but I don't have a choice.

As for Cali, I didn't know why she drank and how the hell she was able to go out of her dorm without her members knowing but she must have been a master in sneaking out since she always finds a way to see me even before.

"I'm not noisy, see? I am so quiet!" she whisper-shouted, my eyes widening because knowing how my members have sensitive ears, one would definitely hear Cali at this rate especially the youngest members.

I then turned around, my hands cupping her already red cheeks.

"Boo bear, if you want to reach the room without the guys knowing, you have to be quiet for me okay?" I cooed at her, a soft smile showing my lips when I saw her eyes flutter.

Damn it Storm. Calm down.

She didn't respond but she smiled anyways, the same smile she gives me whenever she's trying to be playful. That's also the same smile she gives whenever she sends me photos of me from the internet which she finds amusing. And what's even funny is that she sends it whenever we're together. She said she loves seeing my reaction.

"I love you," she whispered.

Fuck this.

So I lost it. In a flash, my lips were connected with hers, the bitterness of alcohol lingering on my taste buds yet it fails to mask the natural sweetness within her.

Her footing was wobbly and I had to wrap my arms around her to keep her balance while her lips still hungrily answer mine.

We were careless, I know, especially me since I am the one sober but Cali is my sanctuary. She had always been and always will be. The heaven she exudes over me is more than enough for me to lose my control.

I was still drowning over our shielded ecstasy when I heard the sound of the door opening. In instant, my eyes went wide and my hands reached for the doorknob just right beside us.

Shoot.

I mentally scolded myself for being so damn careless. Why do I have to put her into this kind of situation?

How I manage to do it and how Cali actually followed despite her chuckling state was a mystery to me, but when I carefully guided her to enter right through that door which happened to be the restroom, she obliged.

I didn't want to make her feel as uncomfortable as she already is but I had no choice but to cover her mouth because she was giggling.

"My sweet Chu, be a good baby girl to Storm-chi, okay?" I whispered to her and my heart melted when her eyes glistened, and slowly, she nodded.

"Storm?" I heard Grey calling for my name. And soon enough, I heard the sound of them knocking.

"Are you there? Aren't you done yet? I need to use the restroom. Demo was camping on the other," Grey's panic voice can be heard. And was that Sky laughing.

"Ahm," I gulped. "I'm doing number two. This will take a while," I shouted, and just when I moved to make sure that the door was closed, Cali jumped away from me and started flushing the toilet.

"Shit," I cursed.

"Ah, Storm!" Grey started whining and I jumped closer to Cali.

I put down the lid on the toilet but she suddenly grabs on of Raze's towel and my eyes widened after I realized what she was about to do.

It's been a habit of her to throw things on the tub and I swear to God Raze will lose his cool if you mess up with his things.

So I did what I knew better, my right hand took a hold of the towel and secured her hands around my waist my other hand securing both of hers. It wasn't tight because I don't wanna hurt her.

And then she gave me the look, the same one she used to give to me when she thinks of something.

I gritted my teeth, my eyes avoiding her gaze.

Her eyes, the spark has changed, something that still puzzles me how she was able to do ever since. Her eyes channel every emotion she wants to convey.

Just then, we heard another knock.

"I told you, Grey, I'm-ahmmm, oh shit" my words were cut off when I felt her lips starting grazing the skin on my neck, she was prepping it with kisses I feel like my inside is about to burst, "not, hmm, done yet," I continued as I try to call every Greek God I know so I can stop myself from moaning even more.

But no matter how much I try, another moan escaped my lips and this time, the knocking stopped.

"Storm, if you're going to watch some porn and do the deed, do it in your room, ge'ez!" Greysnickered and soon enough, Sky's laughter echoed outside.

I grunted internally and I felt my member down there getting wild when I felt Cali biting me a little, sucking my skin.

That's definitely going to leave a mark.

"Whatever, I'll just use the bathroom inside Raze's. Stop following me Sky, I told you I'm not going with you," I heard Grey's voice fading until I the sound of another door shutting filled my ears.

A long breath escaped my lips, I felt the beads of sweat forming on my forehead.

"Boo b-" I was about to scold her a little for her little stunt earlier when I felt her body leaned even more on my own, her weigh all pressed into mine.

Releasing a long sigh, I carefully put down the towel and carry her bridal style.

I'm pretty sure Sky followed Grey. Knowing the two, Sky will not stop until Grey gives in to what he was asking.

So slowly, I tried opening the door with my other hand, my eyes scanning the place. Once I was sure nobody is outside, I walked straight to the corridor to the direction of my room.

I wasn't breathing. The idea that one of the boys would see us scaring the shit out of me.

But we were able to reach the room without anyone seeing. After locking the door, I put her down on my bed, my hands reaching for my blanket to cover her figure.

My eyes scanned her face, a soft smile forming on my lips.

She was smiling.

It wasn't the first time Cali acted like this because she had done it multiple times even before. Only this time, she's a thousand times prettier.

Like always, I would admire her beauty while she sleeps on my bed. Cali, like the first time I saw her, I was mesmerized, not just with her beauty but her adorableness too.

Normally, I would be mad when someone cuts my sleep but when she entered the fire exit that time and kept mumbling how Dalgom-ah Mom should stay strong, she already got me.

That's when I knew I need to have her.

And I did.

I lifted my hands to brush a few strands of hair covering her face.

One major problem now is, how am I going to sneak her out without anyone seeing? Additionally, how long until her members find out that she wasn't in her room.

A smirk show on my face

California, you are indeed a troublemaker.

But it's fine, as long as you're mine.

I lean a little and gave her a kiss on her forehead.

"Sleep well my Chu," I smiled. "I love you..."

Chapter 9

Cali's POV

"Yah, are you crazy?" My cheeks were red as hit him lightly on the shoulder, his head resting on my lap and I didn't know if I should feel happy or scared of what is happening.

After the incident on the awards night, Zanaya was called to the office. And I guess Seth was worried about her so the rest of SHADOW decided to come over.

It shouldn't be a problem, until Storm deliberately went and use my lap as his pillow, not minding the curious looks our members has been giving us.

Of course, I knew I'd be in trouble later once they're gone. Knowing the girls, they won't stop until they hear what the deal is.

Not that I'm ready to tell anyways.

Suddenly, he pulled his phone from his pocket and started typing. I tried to avoid my gaze over his phone. As much as possible, I don't really want to intrude. It's his privacy and even with our relationship, I know we both have limits.

The sound of him chuckling caught my attention and I was met with his amused expression.

"Why are you looking somewhere else? I wanted to show you Holly," he smiled and my lips stretched onto a huge smile after hearing his dog's name.

And then I saw it, the video of a dog running around what seemed to be their living room.

I have been to Storm's house before just like he had visited our house multiple times in the past too. Our parents have acquainted, that's how deep our relationship has been.

"Is he wearing the one I bought the last time?" I cooed and she just nodded.

"Dalgom and Holly should meet one of these days. They'd be happy to play with each other again," I softly whispered and his gaze lifted towards my direction. And since he was lying on my lap, I have the perfect vision of his beautiful face.

My heart fluttered, the butterflies I always feel going wild in my stomach getting activated.

His eyes, the way he looks at me adorably, I can't get use to that.

A groan escaped my lips when I saw his tongue sticking out on the right corner of his lips, a habit he had that has been killing me as always. I bet all of his fans too.

Storm, they had made it big but in my eyes, he's still the same guy who doesn't care about what other people will say.

He's not that people-friendly and is very much uncomfortable with being into too many people but because he loves what he is doing and he appreciates the love he had been receiving.

Music and the stage, regardless of how painful it is for him to be around with too many people, has now turned to be his sanctuary. They were his escape, his haven.

Storm, no matter how one can call them, superstars, is still the same guy who would say what's on his mind, a man with so much knowledge and a man with deep understanding of someone else's feelings.

He's my Storm-chi.

When I noticed his brow furrowed, I knew he was now in deep thought.

"What?" I asked, my voice low as I try my best not to attract any attention. Though I doubt they would notice looking how everything is a mess right now.

"Nothing," he stated, the confused looked in his face now masked with a new smile that would make my knees go weak every time.

And then I noticed his hand getting closer to my face until it grazes the side of my cheek.

He was staring at me intently, his gaze softening even more.

Our eyes locked with each other. And like how it has been, it was more than enough for the both of us.

We understood each other's silence. He's never the showy type but he is with me.

"Should we go visit Mom and Dad?" I asked him and I felt his hand leaving my face.

He was still smiling but I was sure I saw something flashing in his eyes. Was it fear? Guilt?

I wasn't sure because it was fast I thought I was seeing things.

He bit his lower lip, his eyes now focused somewhere else which made me even more sure something was off.

"Have you told your parents that we're back together?" he asked and I watch as he slowly sat, body facing mine.

"Hmm, not yet?" Unsure why he is even asking. Storm was never bothered about our families knowing our ties.

"Ahmm," he scratched the back of his head before looking at me, "Can you let me tell them about it? I mean, give me some time and I'll do it myself,"

"Why? Mom and Dad knew about us anyways. It'll no longer be a big deal,"

A long sigh escaped his lips.

"Cali, just-" he stopped midway before a sigh escaping his lips once again. "Just trust me on this,"

My brows furrowed, my stomach churning once again.

Why do I feel so bad about this?

I looked at him straight in the eyes, "Are you hiding something from me?"

His shoulder slumped forward and my hands balled into a fist, anxiety starting to seep through me, a habit I have developed after I lost him before. "You know I love you, right?" he whispered and my eyes turned soft once again.

He is my weakness after all.

Soon enough, his head was back on my lap and of course, my cheeks were red once again.

Sometimes, I hate the fact that he can melt my heart every time he wants to. He can control my feelings without him even trying.

Just then, we heard someone screaming. And then I saw it, Max, on top of Sky, her lips on him.

Shit.

Chaos was everywhere.

I don't even understand what's happening until Storm stood up along with the boys as they all listen to Seth while he talks with someone over the phone.

Storm turned towards my direction.

"I'll call you later," he reached for the top of my head and started messing with my hair, my cheeks burning red even more.

But before they can even go out of the door, we heard a loud bang.

My eyes widen at the sight before me.

Max just hit Sky. The boys run towards the man in panic as he lies stone cold on the ground.

Holy shit.

Chapter 10

Cali's POV

"Cali, something wrong?" lifting my head a little, I spare Tokyo a glance before turning my attention back to my phone as I furiously type a long-ass message to Storm.

That fucker. He told me he won't go home but he did. I saw the tweets online.

And now, he's not even telling me when he will be coming back.

Last time, I told him I'll go with him and bring Dalgomie to play with Holly.

"Calm down. You're going to break your phone," she chuckled and I pouted.

After getting satisfied with the words that I told him, I pressed the send button and threw my phone beside me as Tokyo sat on the opposite couch.

Storm, as much as I love him, he tends to be authoritative at most times. He makes decisions without consulting me thinking it was the best. And it's always at his disadvantage.

I don't like that. I don't want him suffering from anything just so I won't. Because in the end, when he's in pain, I am in pain too. It's a two-way result - always.

However, I'm not sure he gets it. He's that protective ball of fire but he burns himself on it.

What should I do with you, Storm?

"What's bothering you that you can't even hear what I was saying?" Tokyo tried getting my attention and I smiled apologetically at her which she returned with a cheeky grin.

"Is that boy problem? Like, did someone confess to you? Oh, is it Jino?" she exclaimed and I threw her a cushion while she laughs endlessly.

Tokyo thinks it's fun to tease with my co-MC for the music show. I don't even understand where she gets those ideas but I hope Storm doesn't hear her.

Storm never likes it when I am being associated with some other guy. He was subtle about the topic but he totally gets jealous.

When I was a trainee, he once saw me talking to one of our dancers and he asked for his name immediately.

Since then, I would notice his brows furrowing every time we meet after my practice. He doesn't admit it but he camps outside our building every once in a while whenever we agreed to have a date.

Thinking about those times made me smile a bit.

And then I heard the sound of my phone beeping.

"Oooh, he responded. Let's get it!" Tokyo exclaimed loudly and I grunted. Tokyo, as much as I love her, she can be a real pain in the ass sometimes.

"Shut it, Tokyo. What do you even eat? You think so weirdly," I chuckled before reaching out for my phone, the name I saved for Storm appearing before me.

"I'm sorry. It was sudden. I'm on my way back. See you soon, Boo bear,"

"Tsk," I can't help but snicker. I sent more than six messages and this is all I get.

One thing I can say though, Storm is consistent. He's been like this before, and he's still the same.

And you still love him the same. My mind tells me and I wanted to scold myself for it.

Swiftly, my hands started typing telling him to take care and be safe.

"How about you go to sleep?" I stuck my tongue out before standing up, leaving a laughing Tokyo behind.

"Whoever he is, tell him I won't approve unless he buys me a Timberlands!" Tokyo screamed and I shake my head before closing my door.

"That little shit," I laughed to myself.

Moving forward, I placed my phone on my bedside table before letting my body be comforted by the warmth of my soft bed.

My hand reached for the stuffed toy Storm had given me in our first month.

"Your Dad is being mean to me..." I whispered, my hand stroking his head as if I'm petting it.

So many thoughts started crossing my mind.

Storm...

Me...

Our members...

It hasn't been so long after both our groups were a mess mainly because Zanaya and Seth got involved with a huge drama along with Sally. Thankfully, the two were fine now and we can't be any happier. I can't bear to see Zanaya suffering like that.

With all these thoughts in mind, my consciousness started dripping off my control.

And it wasn't long until I felt myself getting drawn into a deep slumber.

But before I can even do so, I heard the sound of my phone beeping.

Eyes still closed, I lifted my hands to reach for my phone.

Not even bothering to check who' s calling, I hit the answer button.

"Hello?" I answered, my voice hoarse a little.

"I love you..." My eyes immediately opened when I heard Storm's voice, my body bolting upwards.

It was just three words but I felt my energy surging up maximum, the rapid beating of my heart becoming dangerous.

"Storm..." My lips quiver, just hearing his voice makes my heart go weak.

"Have you eaten?" he asked and I moved a little so my back is resting on my bed's headboard.

I bit my lower lip at his question, quite guilty. I was pretty upset earlier I forgot to eat.

"Just, open the door. I'll be there in ten minutes," he stated and my eyes widened. The moment the call got cut off, I bolted out of my bed to check the living room especially Tokyo.

Zanaya and Max were out for God knows what reason but Tokyo being here is a different thing.

Once I was out, I went to check if Tokyo was in her room but to my surprise, she isn't. I wonder where she is.

It wasn't long until he came. The next moment, we were both in my room as he watches me digging on the food he brought.

"I told you not to starve yourself, didn't I?" He smiled while stroking my hair, his eyes almost dropping as if he hasn't slept a wink.

Stopping myself, I look at him and my heartache after remembering the words I sent to him over text.

Storm, he won't do anything that will hurt me, not deliberately at least.

I bite my lip as I felt my chest feeling quite heavy. I put down my spoon as I stare at the plate before me.

Stupid.

You're stupid, California.

You must have hurt him.

With that in thought, a tear suddenly escaped in my eyes and it hit me.

I always think about myself, my pain, what I am feeling. And all he does is the opposite.

I am a bad woman.

"Hey..." he moved forward, his hand lifting my face as he carefully cupped my face.

"Why are you crying?" he cooed and it broke me, even more, to see him being in pain because of me.

"I'm sorry," I told him.

He should have been at home resting but he went to see me because I was upset.

"I'm sorry for not thinking about how you feel. I'm sorry for only caring about what I feel," I sniffed as my tears kept pouring.

I felt him pulling me until his arms wrapped around my waist, his sweet smell lingering over my senses.

"I love you, my Chu. You will never be a burden to me, always remember that..." He whispered.

My arms wrapped around his as I cherish every moment he is with me.

Be happy, Cali. Be happy because his heart is yours.

Always...

Chapter 11

Cali's POV

"Let's meet later, okay? I have something to give you,"

A smile tucked on the corner of my lips as I type my message for Storm. We are both attending the same festival and I may or may have not forgotten to inform my members about it.

"We're on again," I heard Max stated so I dropped my phone on my bag which will be left with our managers.

"You know, at this rate, not only the whole Korea will know that you two are dating, but most probably the whole world." Tokyo giggled as she nudges Zanaya by the shoulder.

I tried to stop myself from giggling at the sight of it.

There he is, Seth Devon, staring openly on Zanaya's direction, his arms on his hips and he looks like he just caught his daughter sneaking outside to meet some other boys.

He looks so funny actually.

"You won't melt due to sunlight Zanaya, but because he was staring at you too much. And openly, if I may add." Max smirked and I couldn't agree more.

Somehow, I get a little jealous because Storm isn't like that. He was never showy openly, a habit he adapted from his father.

But like how he is with his members, he does the same for me. And I know he was trying his best to make up for the year that we missed. He was doing his best to be attentive to me.

Seth was very protective of Zanaya and even though sometimes, he was overly protective even at the clothes she wears, there are moments when I wish Storm will be like that too.

But then again, it was something I don't really wish. Storm loving me is more than enough.

Even though we can't tell it to the world.

Even though it's just between the two of us.

What I'm actually worried about now is Red Velvet being present in the same festival.

The drama between Seth, Zanaya, and Sally was such a huge mess that almost break our ties as two groups who were known to be friends.

I hope nothing bad happens again.

I smile as I heard the cheers of our fans. It was just rehearsal but we still have a few fans cheering for us and we can't be any more thankful.

We were on our way off the stage when SHADOW decided it will fun to mess up with us.

They ended up taking the same pathway that we were taking and once we meet from the opposite direction, Seth's hand landed on the top of Zanaya's head, messing her hair a little.

Of course, that didn't get past off the eyes of the few fans around us which probably had caught everything on camera.

But then, I was startled when Storm suddenly patted my head as if telling me I did a good job. The loud cheering from the crowd didn't get past my ears.

And then just like that, he walked away.

What was that?

My cheeks blushed red and I noticed Zanaya giving me a meaningful smile.

"What?" I asked her, my eyebrow raised and she did the same.

"What?" she answered back and I just shake my head as we all head back to our dressing room.

We were being playful with each other; I didn't even notice Zanaya missing.

She must be with her boyfriend.

I was startled when Tokyo started pointing outside like a cute little kitten. She was shaking her body giddily until she leaned her ears on the door, listening outside.

"What?" Max mouthed and she mouthed back 'Sally'.

Max, being the protective that she is started to stand up but I stopped her.

"It's Zanaya's battle. She'll call us if she needs us," I told her and she looked a little hesitant but let go otherwise.

One of Max's bad habits is that she gets overly protective of her members but gets very secluded with herself.

She rarely tells us what's bothering her because she feels like we already had a lot to handle and she doesn't want to add to that.

Sometimes I hate myself for letting her think that way especially since I am the oldest.

I should talk with her one of these days. I whispered to myself.

Tokyo, on the other hand, had turned into a weird mess, smiling and furrowing her eyebrows and then back to smiling.

Our makeup artist had started dolling us up and I can't help but laugh a few times at Tokyo and Zanaya's bickering.

I was first to get myself ready. After checking on my phone, I saw Storm's message.

"Same old, be safe,"

Short, not sweet but to me, it actually meant a whole lot more. He's Storm after all.

After sneaking out, I headed straight to the nearest fire exit. And it wasn't long until I find him.

After all these years, we've kinda developed a code on what floor or direction we would meet. It's funny actually but it works.

"Chu," the moment he saw me, he reached for my hands and pulled me for a hug, my face automatically beaming in a wide grin.

"You didn't have to do that earlier, you know," I teased him knowing he's not the kind to openly show his affection to people.

"I can't help myself. My baby was so amazing, plus, you look so fucking adorable I almost pulled you and squished you for a hug," he stated and if that isn't enough to make my heart melt, I don't know.

After turning a little, his arms wrapped around my waist, my back leaning on his chest as his chin rested on my shoulder.

"Can we meet later?" he asked and I turned my head a little so I can see his face. However, the moment I did, my lips almost brushed on his cheeks due to the close proximity.

I stopped moving, caught a little off guard. But what shocked me, even more, is how he immediately leaned forward giving me a peck on the lips.

"Ah, yah!" my cheeks blushed immediately while he just laughed, his gummy smile showing.

"Why? We have done more than that..." he teased and I released his hands on my waist before turning around, hitting him on his shoulder, his laughter echoing in the enclosed space, the image of him being naked ringing back into my memories.

Of course, we had done it. We were in love back then too, careless and daring.

"I was just kidding, baby. Come here," he pulled me back for a quick peck before cupping my cheeks.

"I love you, you know that right?" he whispered, his eyes focused only on mine.

And I felt it, the sound of my heart beating rapidly. And then there's this feeling of warmth and contentment lingering inside me, like hearing those words are more than enough.

A smile edged at the corner of my lips.

"I know Gi-chi. I know," I leaned forward until or forehead grazes with each other, "And I love you the same," I added.

Soft chuckles escaped his lips, "You need to go Boo bear before both of our team realizes we're missing," he told and I bit my lower lip.

This is always what I am dreading being away from him.

But I have to.

"Go, before I decided to grab you so we can ditch this festival altogether," he chuckled giving me pecks of kisses which earn giggles from me until he pushes me forward, gently if I may add.

"I'll go out in a minute. Be careful, Chu," he smiled and my heart melted once again.

Turning, I slowly made my way out of the fire exit, a smile still showing on my lips, only to falter once again when a pair of dark eyes greeted before me just right outside of the door.

My manager.

Shit.

Chapter 12

Storm's POV

"Hey, Storm, are you even listening?" I grunted internally after hearing Raze's voice, my brows furrowing at the sight of him.

"What are you even doing? Go with the younger members and play with them," I snickered before turning my body around, lying on the bed, my back now facing him.

"Hey! Storm!"

I turned immediately after hearing him call my name.

"And can you please stop calling me that? Good Lord, what are you, a kid?" I said a little pissed.

Only Cali can call me that. But of course, I can't tell that to him.

"Yes, I'm a kid. And you're my father. I swear you're being a lot grumpier these days Storm. You should start dating,"

I snickered, "I'm dating, stupid..." I whispered to myself.

"What did you say?" he asked and I just raised my hand after turning once again.

"Nothing. Just go to Sky. I saw an article about you being Worldwide handsome you can now brag to Sky that you still have it even with his title," I told him and my ears almost bleed at the sound of his shrieking.

"Ge'ez!"

And then he went for it, turning the doorknob screaming for Sky's name.

"Sky! Where are you?!"

I shake my head in laughter.

"When will he grow up?" I thought to myself. However, deep inside, I knew Raze was just acting like that for our sake. Since I'm a lot stricter than him, I know he acts like that to make everyone feel comfortable.

We all know how most groups are scared with their oldest but luckily, Raze being like that makes our relationship a little lighter. It makes it easier for us to share our thoughts.

Honestly, I feel like he's letting me do the oldest member's job. Not that I mind actually because he knows when he needs to act the oldest and not. And looking back, he mostly acts as the older around me. And I know that it was mainly for my sake. Because I don't have anyone to rely on as an older brother within the group but him.

Most importantly, he was there when I was at my lowest point which happened last year after I broke up with Cali.

Of course, he didn't know. He never asked and I wasn't sure I was ready to share that part of me but he knows something is wrong. He knows I was hurting and broken. So he let me. He never lets the group bother me when I am alone.

The boys didn't question us. They thought I was busy writing music which I did but not after three long months of pure sorrow.

I was lost.

And I lost her.

Cali, she was that girl, the bubbly lady I met on the fire exit. She was adorable, continuously rambling on her own and before I knew, I found myself getting hooked with her.

Until we fell in love.

And until we broke each other.

I broke her. I messed up.

And I left. Or forced to leave. Even though I know we'll get ourselves in trouble for this, I am willing to risk it all. Because now, all I see is her smile, how happy she was because of me.

For the past year, I have always watched her from afar. She didn't know. But it breaks my heart whenever I see her eyes. They lost their spark, the glint of playfulness that was used to be there.

And I know that it's all because of me.

My eyes closed as I read Cali's messages when she was mad about me going home and not telling her.

Believe me, I would love to bring her home. My parents love her. But I can't... If I want this to work.

My heart clenched at the memory of her being away from me, the memory of her resenting me for my decisions she didn't know I made for her sake.

It was wrong for me to decide for her, I know. But that's my only resort. That's my only card for the assurance that she'll get better, that she'll be fine.

My hands reached for my phone which I put down earlier to type a message. My members knew me as a man of few words but with Cali, I get lost to myself. Sometimes I question who I really am, the Storm with her or the Storm with my members. Or maybe I am just the same person.

I don't usually show what I feel to the people I love but I know she craves attention from me. She never asks but I feel it.

I see the envy in her eyes whenever she sees Seth being sweet with Zanaya. Heck, sometimes I see her smiling adorably at the sight of Sky following Max around.

"I miss you, Chu..."

Sometimes I want to wack my head with a hammer or something. Because no matter how much I try, I can't seem to be better for her.

She deserves the world. She deserves more than I am giving.

And yet she settles with me.

After hitting send, I put down my phone just beside my pillow and close my eyes. But it wasn't even two minutes when I heard the sound of knocking from the door.

I lifted my upper body for a moment. It wasn't Raze because he'd come in without knocking. And it certainly isn't any of my other members because they don't normally call me out when I'm in the room because they know how much I hate it. Unless it's really important.

After a few moments, the door opened and I saw my manager awkwardly searching, my body automatically moved and I sat on my bed, confused.

"Yes?" I asked and his attention landed on my direction.

He doesn't normally call for me personally because our schedules are being set and given a day ahead.

"Storm," he stated, his eyes scanned the room as if checking if someone is with me. My brows furrowed even more.

"Hey, is there something wrong?" I asked alarm at his actions.

And what he did next even confused me more.

He made a step or two and closed the door before turning towards me.

"Storm," he started again, I saw the slight movement of his Adam's apple letting me know how nervous he actually is.

"You're being called..." he added.

I tilted my head in confusion but I as I was about to ask, he spoke once again.

"To BP Entertainment, NOW,"

And it was just three words but I felt like my world stopped.

We were caught.

Her boss knew.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

I knew I won't be able to hide it that long anyway.

What did you expect Storm? You broke your promise.

It was like I was having an internal battle with myself.

But I don't regret it.

I fucking don't.

Chapter 13

Cali's POV

My eyes caught my manager's strange behavior. I am currently doing a shoot and is in the waiting room while our makeup artists do some finishing touches on my face. The pictorial was almost finished and I only had to make a few more shots and I can go home and take a rest.

But since earlier, I've noticed how my manager seemed to be out of focus. He'd paced back and forth, then stop as if in deep thought, and then he's back into doing that again.

Sometimes, he'd checked his phone and bite his fingernails, a habit I knew he does whenever something is bothering him.

Was he in trouble?

For the entire shoot, I tried to distract myself by focusing on what the cameraman was instructing me to do. Until the shoot had come to an end and both my manager and I were already inside our van.

But even so, he was still restless, I can't help but get worried. He had been my manager even when I was still a trainee. I needed one sometimes because I was given gigs like commercials and pictorials.

"Okay, that's it!" I exclaimed, getting his attention. I can no longer take this. "What happened?" I pouted, looking at his direction.

"Hey, you have been acting so weird since earlier. What - did you and your girlfriend had a quarrel?" I teased and even though his cheeks blushed, I still saw the movement of his Adam's apple at the mention of the word 'girlfriend'. So I must have hit a nerve.

"What? Did you two really broke up?" I asked confused and he still didn't speak which made me worry.

Our manager doesn't hide anything from me. Even those times he and his girlfriend had a quarrel. He basically asks me for some advice, that's how close we are.

"Actually, it wasn't me...." His voice was low but I heard it, and for some reason, I felt a dreading sensation enveloping my body.

"Then who?" Suddenly, my stomach is churning as if something bad is happening right now.

Why did I suddenly felt so nervous?

And then it happened, my eyes locked with his on the rearview mirror, I knew the answer to my question.

"Where is he?" my voice started shaking, a dreading fear eating my system.

I should have known that this is coming. After our manager caught me on that fire exit the last time, I knew in no time, our agency will know I am sneaking out once again.

And they knew it was him.

"California," my manager called for my name but I reached for my bag to check on my phone.

"Storm..." I whispered. He's not going to break up with me, right? Not again.

I checked my phone and all I see was one message from him telling me he misses me. But why can't I feel glad reading this?

My gaze went back to my manager, my lips quivering as I look at him and worry is evident in his eyes.

"Please, where is he?" I asked, tears already streaming down my face.

If it's Storm, I always lose my control.

And I knew, I have this feeling it's going to be like how it was from back then.

I can't...

I can't lose myself at this point. We've already debuted. A lot is already at stake. It's either I have him or I don't but I live like a zombie for some time. Because I can't simply mope around when I also have responsibilities to attend to.

"Cali, just give up. This is for the better," my manager whispered and I cried harder. I feel like my chest is about to burst. My hands started fiddling with my phone trying to dial his number.

Please...

"I can't lose him again. You know..." I look at him in the eyes. I don't care if I look like a mess right now. "You know what I went through the last time. I can't, not again," my voice cracked at the end and my hands covered my face when I heard the operator from the other line.

He's not answering.

"Okay, okay, he's at the office. Our boss called for him. But he probably left already," he stated and my eyes shot towards his direction.

"Take me there, please," my manager didn't have a choice but to follow. Whether because he pities me or what, I don't wanna think anything about it but I need to see Storm now.

This isn't the first time this had happened. My body is shaking and I continuously bit my fingernails thinking about the things that might happen. My manager was on the phone and I didn't even try to listen nor bother to know who he was talking with.

I was startled when the van stopped not too far from our agency. My eyes scanned the area and I was confused when my manager opened his door and hop off the van.

"Manager !" I called and just when I tried to reach for the door handle beside me, it sprung open revealing an exhausted-looking Storm. Behind him was his own manager, the same one who was with us the last time.

And the expression on their face says it all.

"Chu..." he whispered, I watched as he steps inside the van and occupied the space beside me, closing the door after.

My eyes left him and I gaze in my lap before. Storm, he's always that person who has a strong conviction. If he has decided, there's nothing, even me that could change it.

And I fucking hate it.

"Sorry..." he whispered and that's all it took for me to know that his conversation with my boss didn't end up well like what I anticipated.

Why?

Why do I have to be hurt like every time?

Chapter 14

Storm's POV

"Do I have to beg?" my insides clenched at her words, the sound of her voice shaking almost eating my heart alive.

Why do I always have to bring her pain?

Why do I always have to be the person to hurt her?

I wanted to move, forward, close to her, and pull her close in my arms. But I can't. We both know we can't.

Not anymore.

Yesterday, I was summoned at her office, due to me breaking something I promised I won't way back. Back when she was still a trainee.

I knew when I heard my manager telling me about the meeting, right then, I knew it's game over.

I can't win this battle. Not at this time.

But what hurts to me the most is to see her breaking like this.

She was stubborn. She found a way to make me go out of my dorm to meet her. With the help of both of our managers.

Though afraid, I knew her manager was worried for her, probably why he agreed to help her.

"Chu, we both know we have to stop this," I told her, "for now..." I added.

I want to ask her to wait but I can't give her time. There's no way I won't have her back.

"Storm..." she was at it again, crying her eyes out.

Fuck. "Cali, please. Let's not make this any harder than it is. We both know we can't do this right now," she looked at me, pain evident in her eyes.

"I don't give a shit about everything Storm. You know I'd do everything just to be with you. But that doesn't seem to be the case for you," she snarled and I am not oblivious to the questioning tone on her voice.

If it was that simple, I don't even care that we're idols. But it wasn't...

But I can't tell you.

My eyes avoided her gaze. We were inside their van. "I'll get you home so you can rest,"

I saw her staring at the view before her, no words leaving on her lips.

I knew I messed up. But it was for her.

Everything was for her.

The entire journey back to her dorm, she didn't utter a word.

When she hops outside the van, I bowed to her manager to ask for permission to send her to her room and he agreed.

He knew this will be the last.

Still, Cali didn't utter a word. The silence inside the elevator is almost killing me.

And when we reached her dorm, she straight opened it and went inside as if she's all alone.

"Storm, what are you doing here?" I heard Zanaya asking the moment her eyes landed on our form, she was sitting on the couch looking at us confused. "Hey, is there a problem?" she added, her eyes following Cali. I knew she was in a bad mood so I let her even after I noticed her giving Zanaya a glare before heading straight to her room.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"Cali…" I heard Zanaya called for her, Tokyo and Max quickly following her.

She's really upset.

I gave Zanaya an apologetic smile.

"Don't stress yourself, Zanaya. She isn't mad at you." I told her.

"She glared at me. Why?" she asked, her voice low and I was sure she was more like talking to herself than asking me a question

Knowing Zanaya, she must be thinking that she did something wrong making me scratched the back of my head in shame.

"Ahh, BP found out that we are dating..." I stated, slowly, I walked towards her direction occupying the empty space on the couch.

The night has been exhausting, my body drained from energy, and my heart almost feeling empty. I'm not even sure how I can make it tomorrow.

Forget tomorrow, I don't even know if I can make it tonight.

"You two are dating?!" she exclaimed, her eyes had gotten bigger. And then she looked ecstatic and it broke my heart a little to wreck that little imagination she's started in her head.

Zanaya had always been like a little sister to me. After all of the struggles she had with Seth, she had more became like a girl best friend I never thought I will ever have.

"That's why she's always flustered whenever you are near." she laughs, turning her head towards my direction, she smiled shyly.

"Wait, did you said our Boss found out?"

I sigh before nodding.

"Are you telling me that you two just came back after talking with our boss?" she asked while biting my nails.

I nodded. Well, technically it was last night but I don't need to tell her that. I don't want her to know that Cali had been sneaking out.

She was looking at me expectantly and I knew she was waiting for me to say something.

"We broke up," I whispered.

Somehow, that truth still not fully sinking in.

In my head, I feel like Cali will be there to suddenly pull me for a hug and kiss my cheeks in surprise when someone isn't looking.

To me, we are always together.

"Hey..." I heard her voice cracking which made me chuckled, a laugh that isn't even close to how I usually do.

"Don't worry about me. Just-" I stopped my words feeling my throat tightening as I try to stop myself from having a breakdown.

Fuck Storm. Man it up.

"Storm… " I heard her whisper but my gaze fell on the ground.

I can't do this.

"Why did you break up?" she asked and for a moment, I thought about telling her everything. All the things that are bottled up inside me. But even the boys don't know.

A painful laugh escaped my lips. I heard my heart-shattering.

"Don't worry about us." I tried to smile but I know she noticed my eyes getting a little teary.

I know I can trust Zanaya.

"Just please, always check on her for me, Zanaya, okay?" I pleaded. At least it will make me feel at ease if I know Cali is doing fine. She can't be alone again like before.

She nodded and I realized that Zanaya was already crying.

"But why can't you two be together?"

I slowly stood up from his seat and I watch as she runs towards me to give me a comforting hug.

And I let her. Coz I need it. My knees are starting to shake and I'm afraid any minute I'd march on Cali's room and ask her to be with me.

"Make sure she always eats. Make her smile and don't let her cry all night." I whispered.

"Oh God..." Zanaya stifled a cry and it's making me realize how after this, I won't be any close to Cali like before.

Slowly, I released myself from the hug and headed towards the door.

With heavy steps, I made my way to the door, away from her, away from Cali.

And it killed me.

Chapter 15

Cali's POV

My eyes focused on the view before me, the fast movement of the car making me feel a little more at ease somehow.

These days, I find it hard to get some sleep. The image of Storm telling me things are over between us is eating my sanity. And I can't even tell what I feel to my members. I don't wanna burden them with this. Besides, I wasn't entirely truthful to them, not sharing them the relationship that we have.

The members and I are off to another university festival and we're on the car on our way to the place. My eyes caught our member's movements.

Max was tapping on her phone as well as Tokyo.

My stomach churned a little, not really minding the fact that my phone got confiscated a few days ago so I can refrain from contacting Storm.

It's not like he's going to respond anyway.

Just then, the sound of Zanaya's ringtone blasting inside the car caught my attention, my eyes immediately landing on her direction.

I noticed her fidgeted a little and somehow, I felt a pang of guilt eating through my system after remembering how I lashed on her the other night. I haven't even apologized.

I noticed how she's trying not to communicate with Seth when I am around. And somehow, I feel thankful. I very well know that it isn't her fault but I can't hide the bitterness within me.

Selfish, I know I am being like a total bitch for being envy about her happiness.

I glanced back on the window when the ringing stopped.

Soon enough, our van halted inside the venue and we quickly moved over to where the dressing room is.

After a few minutes, we're already up for the rehearsal.

"Are you okay?" I heard our stylist asking me as I fix my shirt.

I smiled at her forcefully.

Get yourself together, Cali.

"Yes. I'm just a little tired. I watched something last night and I fell asleep really late," I reasoned and she shakes her head while tapping my back.

The girls and I were almost at the stage when I stopped on my tracks, my eyes landing Storm.

Why are they here? My knees wobbling a little, I tried moving forward.

Storm...

And then his eyes landed on my direction.

Fuck.

I feel like my world just shattered when I saw him avoid my gaze.

Why are you doing this to me?

They were moving towards our direction, a few of his members waving towards us, but not him.

Why Storm?

And just when he gets past us, before realizing what I did, my hand reached for his, stopping him from his tracks.

The contact made my heart race, my stomach flipping inside, our gaze meeting with each other, both our members seeing us and a few of our fans don't matter to me at this point.

I'm not even sure of what's happening in our surroundings anymore.

I don't want to let go.

We just stood there, in silence, until he released his arm from my grip. My world shattered, even more, when he just turned his back.

My lips quivered, emotions building up inside me and I feel like my heart is gonna explode.

Why are you doing this to me, Storm?

"Storm... " my voice cracked and I felt an arm on my shoulder until I was gently pulled away from the crowd.

My eyes landed on the person beside me, Zanaya.

Unable to handle the emotion I'm feeling, I rushed to the restroom and locked myself, tears now streaming down my cheeks.

My hands were on the sink as I try to calm myself.

"Cali, you can't let this break you. They can't see that you're vulnerable,"

With a determined look, I washed my face and tried to fix my already disheveled hair.

I released a long sigh.

My members must have been worried.

Coming out of the restroom, my eyes landed on Zanaya. Without even thinking, I pulled her away from the rest of the girls, my heart melting when she pulled me for a hug.

"Cali," she whispered and somehow, I thought about forgetting what I was about to tell her.

At this time, I didn't care about anything else but forgetting and moving on. So without thinking much, I look at her panicked expression and spoke.

"I know this might be too much to ask, but can you please avoid doing or saying anything about Seth or anything that will relate to SHADOW from now on?" I asked her and I wanted to curse when I realized that my voice was shaking.

But I need to do this.

"I won't ask you to break up with him. But can you at least lie low for some moment until I get better? Stop seeing or texting him in the meantime so I won't think about you guys all the time? This might be selfish but I need your help, Zanaya." I pleaded, and I felt bad when I saw the confused look in her eyes.

"Are you asking me to avoid Seth Devon or any of the SHADOW?" she asked, confused and I nodded.

"Just give me enough time, Zanaya. I don't want to keep on remembering him. Please, just do this for me. If I'm ever important to you. Please...." I whispered, I felt tears falling on my cheeks.

"Cali..." she whispered.

I know this is too much to ask and I know I am being unreasonable but this is my last resort of getting better.

"I'm begging you, Zanaya..." I started crying as I feel both of our pains.

She was silent. For a moment, I wish she'll decline because I know myself that I am being unreasonable but I was startled when I heard her voice.

"I will. I will stop seeing him in the meantime."

At that moment, I knew Zanaya cared for me genuinely, even though what I asked will break her heart.

I'm sorry Zanaya...

I pulled her for a hug.

I will be better, and after that, I won't let your relationship get in my way. Just give me time.

I'm sorry...

Chapter 16

Storm's POV

With my right hand covering my eyes, my body rested on the couch inside our hotel room. My breathing a little unstable, something I have been suffering lately after Cali and I had broken up. And of course, I knew why.

Anxiety, it's starting to succumb within me. And none of my members noticed. At least for now.

This isn't new to me anyway. Ever since I am someone who had suffered from depression and anxiety and has been vocal about it. And in my whole existence, the only times I pretended I was okay were the times when she's no longer mine.

The first time, I thought it broke me. I thought I lost myself. The days were suffocating. Everything felt so dull and black.

If not for the boys, my family, and our fans, I'm not even sure how I was able to survive each day without breaking down.

But just when I thought the first time was the hardest, the second time hit me more like a load of truck.

It's a fucking slap in the face, with a fucking hammer and a surfboard.

It's killing me. If I'm actually still alive.

It's been what, days, weeks, months... I don't know. I stopped counting after the first two weeks. We're currently out of the country for our concert.

My heart ached at the memory of her face. The last time I saw her was at the University festival when I deliberately broke her heart.

Fuck.

I did it. It was me. Of all people. It was me who made her cry.

"Who were you texting? Ahuh, Grey!" I heard Sky chuckle, him, and Grey bickering with each other.

"Tsk, as if you aren't texting someone. It's Max, isn't it?" the younger one teased and I removed the hand covering my eyes to see the two.

Sky's cheeks were red as he playfully hit Grey. "Yah! We're not texting. I should tell Tokyo to pester you again. She's gone mellow lately," he added and I can't help but smile a little.

If it wasn't for them, I don't know how I can survive this day.

My brothers, they were a breath of fresh air.

"Raze! What are you cooking?" Mono yelled and not long after, Raze answered.

"Something edible!"

Demo laughed at Raze's response.

"And he's the eldest," Demo muttered.

Soon enough, the boys started talking about things, and again, I casually spaced out.

They thought I was sleeping most times but the truth is, I was only thinking.

Thinking about "what ifs". If things weren't as complicated as it is, will it make a difference if I made a different decision?

But everything is for her.

Everything...

"Are you sure you're okay?" I heard Demo ask Seth once again and I can't help but listen.

I didn't hear his response but I was sure he nodded. Like what he had been doing for the nth time.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

From where I was, I stare at the young man before me. It was obvious that he looked so stressed despite his continuous denial that he's not okay.

A long sigh escaped Seth's lips. I shake my head in frustration.

Nobody knew from our members but I do. I knew Seth and Zanaya's secret.

"I trust her. She would tell me if she need help. And if ever I think there is a need to intervene, I would. But now, I chose to trust her." he muttered while staring at his phone.

Somehow, I feel so bad because I haven't check on him and Zanaya lately. Caught up with my own loneliness and sorrow, I forgot that Seth can't really share his problems with the others now since they don't know what's happening.

"Do you wanna go and check on her?" I offered and he looked startled for a moment. I can't blame him. Like me knowing of his secret, only he and Zanaya knew about my relationship with Cali.

He looked conflicted for a moment but decided otherwise.

"Zanaya and I agreed not to see each other in the meantime. She doesn't even send me messages," he whispered and that's more than enough for me to get up from my slumber.

"Why?" I asked, my voice stern. Somehow, I feel like there is something he is hiding from us. And I'm sure I wouldn't like it.

I watch as he scratches the back of his head, nervousness visible on his state. I don't care if I sounded harsh.

By this time, I knew we've caught everyone's attention.

"Ah, just..." his eyes were anywhere but mine. And right then I knew he's hiding something.

"Seth Devon!" I growled.

"Storm," Mono interjected, probably sensing the danger on my voice.

"If this is what I think it is, I think we need to go back to Korea. I didn't sacrifice this much so you two would end up like this." I spat before I moved towards my room.

My chest is weaving in anger.

I kicked my luggage in full force before sitting rather forcefully on my bed.

Seth...

Zanaya...

Cali...

Everything is a mess.

And I can't do anything about it.

Chapter 17

Cali's POV

There he is, in pure bliss, his face the very same when I last saw him, except that he seemed to have lost a lot of weight.

And here he is, in front of me. Like nothing had happened.

Like he didn't leave...

Like he didn't stop caring...

Like he didn't turn his back on me twice...

Like he didn't act like he stopped loving me...

Here he is, all in flesh. But that's more than enough for my knees to start shaking, my heart about to burst.

"Storm..."

Just mentioning of his name made my insides churn.

Even with all the pain, even after I cried for so many nights, even though it killed me a thousand times, I'd still welcome Storm back in my arms.

My eyes locked with his, and I know, I always know he loves me. His eyes would always tell.

And like the first time, I know he left because he needs to. I guess our love for each other isn't enough for both of us to stay together.

Why is the world so fucking cruel?

But then again, I fucking miss him so much.

I had to close my eyes for a moment, then open them again to make sure I wasn't hallucinating.

But he's still here, standing outside our door.

So I did what I have been doing these past few nights.

I started crying.

"Storm..." two steps is what it took me to engulf him in an embrace. And I cried louder when I felt his arms wrapped around my body.

I didn't mind the confused looks of his members as they wait outside our dorm.

I didn't care. As long as I have Storm in my arms.

"Ahmm, I don't really know what's happening but we're passing through okay? I'm thirsty," I heard Raze muttered.

"Me too... What's with you two?" Demo asked buy went past the two of us, and the other guys did the same.

"I'm sorry, Chu..." he whispered, his hand brushing the back of my head soothing me and calming me down. But that made me weep even louder.

"Ssshhhh, stop crying Boo bear..." I felt him kiss the top of my head and my eyes closed and my heart leap out of my chest.

Why is this breaking me?

"Stop crying, I'll try to do something. I'll try to work things out, Chu, just please..." I heard his voice cracked and I lifted my gaze so I could meet his, "Please be patient... Please wait for me..." he added and I bit my lower lip as I felt my insides melting.

He is hurting... He's hurting too.

It's not always me.

"Have you had your dinner?" he asked and I shake my head in response, a long sigh escaping his lips.

Soon enough, he was pulling me gently to the direction of the kitchen, settling me on an empty chair.

My eyes watch as he rolls the sleeves of his jumper and started checking the stocks that we have settling for something he can easily prepare.

He's here...

My hand reached for my chest, the loud beating could be heard.

Calm down Cali. He's here. He's back.

I breathe in and out slowly to calm my nerves and wiped the tears slowly streaming down my cheeks.

I saw Demo looking at me weirdly. I must have scared the guys.

In no time, Storm was able to serve a plate of pasta.

"Eat. You lost a lot of weight," he pouted before occupying the chair in front of mine. His hand was shaking so I avoided my gaze on it. Storm never wanted me to see his weakness even before.

It broke me to see him feeling like this.

My hand reached for the spoon and started eating the pasta he cooked for me.

"Hmmm," I can't help but moan. As always, Storm's cooking is the best. I smiled at him and he brushed my hair behind my ears.

"We're you crying the whole time?" He asked and I pouted.

"What did you think? I'd go around and be happy with us being like this?" I whispered, slowly losing my appetite. "You always make a decision without consulting me. This is about "us", Gi-chi. I know you're used to making decisions for me but this is a different case," I looked down and stare at the food in front of me. Honestly speaking, I don't really like having arguments with him. What's the point when he won't talk?

Like what he's doing now. Like always, he'll let this pass and I'm tired so I won't push it.

I'd cried too much these past few days and right now, I just want to savor this moment that he's with me.

Our relationship, has turned upside down and this isn't even half of what we will go through. I know, I can feel it. Our relationship is this messed up and our members aren't even aware except for Seth and Zanaya.

"Chu...." he whispered. The longing in his voice is more than enough for me to let go of this argument.

I love him too much.

"Fine, but promise me you'll figure things out," I told him and he sigh.

I don't want to be selfish but I am just trying to live too. And living for me is having him in my life.

We've suffered enough.

I stared at his beautiful face, my hands longing to feel the warmth of his skin, the comfort it brings to my being. "Storm..." I called for his name and he lifted his gaze, his attention only towards me. "Hmmm?"

"Tell me, is there anything that you want to tell me, anything that concerns us that I should know?" I asked and again, I felt like he started to feel uncomfortable. After releasing a long sigh, he opened his mouth to speak but before he can do so, our attention was turned elsewhere when we heard the sound of the doorbell ringing.

"Huh? I thought I heard Seth and Zanaya coming back earlier?" I whispered, both Storm and I standing from our seats to check what's going on.

The mess between Storm and me, we were just about to patch things up and try to figure things out. But then again, who would have thought that one simple ringing of a doorbell would make things more complicated.

Why does our relationship always seem to be tragic?

Chapter 18

Cali's POV

Two weeks, three? It took me that long to recover. Recover from the pain of being betrayed. I stopped spacing out, stopped crying myself to sleep.

I stopped thinking that the world will stop if he wasn't with me.

Relatively speaking, that was the shortest recovery span that I had with anything related to Storm.

The last one took me forever. I can't say I'm finally okay but I can say that I'm at least able to pull myself together.

And then fast forward, it's now more than a year after the whole fiasco inside our dorm, of us, suddenly learning that one of our members are secretly married for roughly two years, of finding out that Storm knew all that but he didn't bother telling me... Of him meeting my boss only for the end result to be bad as we both expected, of him telling me that we simply give in...

Everything...

I just felt like, everything just fell apart. I almost died when a car almost hit me after that time he went to our agency to talk to our boss.

It took me long agonizing weeks to finally adjust and accept the truth that Zanaya had been married to Seth for God knows how long.

To say that it was a shock for us was an understatement. Their relationship had been a whole lot of merry-go-round, but the rides are not all fun though.

In all honesty, I wasn't mad that she was married. God, even I know that I don't have the right to question their decision. It's a family matter and I respect that.

It's just that, for two years, we were clueless. She had been through a lot.

We could have been there to help her when she's struggling. We were always here but it's different if we knew they were actually married.

I could have broken Seth's limbs after that Sally incident.

I could have broken every bone in Seth's body every time he made our Zanaya cried.

Above all that, I asked Zanaya a very impossible request and she still complied even though it's basically absurd.

But the fact that only Storm knows hurt me the most.

And I understood. After realizing that Storm knew their relationship, it was easy for me to put two and two together.

Storm's decisions could have been affected by their relationship too. It's no problem. He cares for Seth like how I care for Zanaya. But then again, I asked him. I asked him if there is something that I need to know but he didn't falter.

If he just told me there is something but he can't disclose, for now, I'd understand. But he didn't.

Is it wrong for me to feel hurt after all that has happened?

Am I not entitled to know even just a quarter of what's happening?

Truth be told, it wasn't just about Zanaya's relationship. It's about everything. He always chose to let things go his way.

I love my members and I love Storm but all these that are happening, it's draining me. The hurt I'm feeling inside is starting to consume me.

There's nothing left to Cali. All the happiness, the hope that I have within me, they're slowly getting off my grasp.

I'm starting to lose myself.

Until I get my shit together.

Seeing how crazy Zanaya's year had been, it knocked the sense out of me.

She had been through a lot. The Zanaya of Twice incident, and even that MC. It was exhausting and I admire Zanaya for being able to get through all that.

It could have killed me if it was me.

After all that has happened, my view over things turned into a hundred eighty degrees.

I started to see other things in an even more positive light. That there are a lot of things that I should be thankful for. That my world shouldn't simply revolve around him.

The downside of this is that I still get to see him from time to time which makes it so hard for me to move on.

Things between us had been so awkward. We stopped talking. We stopped associating ourselves with each other.

We stopped loving.

Or maybe he did.

Because I would be lying if I say I'm over him. I won't be over Storm.

Heck, I don't even think it's possible for me to see myself with someone else except with him.

And here we are, with another obstacle before us that involves the married couple.

"Zanaya..." I called for her name, her gaze shifting on my direction immediately.

"Yes?" she answered and I frown.

"You're binge-watching again. You will hurt your eyes, silly," I muttered before plopping my body just beside where she was seated. I grab a handful of popcorn from the bowl that was on her side before popping a few in my mouth.

Even without me looking, I was sure she raised her eyebrows in my direction, even pausing what she was watching.

"What?" I muttered, a little awkward to have this kind of conversation with her. My eyes snapped towards our side, her phone beeping.

Storm ☺

My heart ached a little at the sight of the name who texted her.

I don't even remember the last time we exchanged messages. I know him and Zanaya are almost the best of friends.

And who am I? His ex.

Just his ex.

My eyes closed for a moment, all the pain I had kept for so long suddenly coming back to me.

No, Cali. Keep calm.

I let out a breath to calm my nerves.

Storm, I'm sure he's being protective of Zanaya. After the outburst Zanaya had with Seth, I understood why Storm kept contact. He had been the closest Zanaya ever had with SHADOW.

I tilted my head a little to keep my focus.

"You do realize that you'll need to talk with Seth eventually right?" I told her. I knew she needed time but at her condition, she needs to be calm and focus too.

"Says the girl who keeps on avoiding his ex, huh?" a smirked emerged on her beautiful face and I ended up grinning.

Bull's eye.

My eyes landed on her. I can't help but think about her future, her future with us.

"If Storm asked you to be with him right this instant, will you leave us WHISTLE behind?"

I was taken aback for a moment. The question she suddenly asked slowly sinking into my mind. In an instant, my gaze landed back to the television.

And we were both left with silence.

Will I leave them?

Will I let go of the dreams I never knew I wanted until I've learned to love it?

"It hurts." her voice cracked.

I know she's trying not to cry, trying to be strong.

"I know," I responded.

I know.

"When Storm decided to drop me like I was nothing, I felt my world crumbling down before me," I started, the indifference in my voice can be heard.

"He left me like I was nothing."

"Cali," she grabbed my hands, worry laced on her voice.

"So yeah, I guess Storm did the same to me." I tried to laugh but my throat feels like hurting. I know any moment, I will breakdown, yet again.

"The truth is, I felt apologetic towards you," I added and the tears I had been keeping now streaming down my cheeks.

"I never really apologized for what I did in the past, how I asked you to stop communicating with Seth. I was selfish and even though you can say No to me, you still followed because you cared."

I wipe the tears on my cheeks.

"We were never there when you were having a hard time alone. We, your friends didn't even notice how you were struggling by yourself. And even now, you're still about to face a greater obstacle in your life." I told her and she let out a sigh. "You are a strong woman Zanaya. Remember, the girls and your family will always be with you. And regardless of what your decision

or how you face this phase of your life, don't forget the WHISTLE got your back." I smiled at her and she did the same.

"But are you ready to live your life without Seth?" I asked.

I know she's confused and a lot of thoughts are clouding in her mind.

"I don't know." she whispered. "I mean; would that even matter now if he actually can live without me?"

I pouted. "You know Seth loves you, right?"

"I know. But I think he doesn't love me enough for him to stay with me right now." she said, and I felt the pain she's been keeping.

"So are you telling me that you're ready to let Seth go?" I asked her, my eyes bearing hers.

Her mouth mummed in silence unable to answer my question.

We were silent for a good five minutes and I can't help but laugh a little.

"Just look at how ironic things can be. I broke up with Storm and there's this possibility of you breaking up with Seth. But then, there's Max who has Sky on her tails while Tokyo is out there to God knows where pestering the life out of SHADOW's youngest member." I stated and even Zanaya smiled.

"It seems like our group is constantly being drawn towards them, huh?" I added.

"I don't even know if that's funny or what but you're actually right." she agreed.

And then I saw the light on her phone flicker, another message coming in.

This time, it was not the same person, but the name of the person I know she's dying to see.

And I'm dying just the same.

Chapter 19

Cali's POV

A long sigh escaped my lips. Seeing what Grey just did after they came back just confirmed my suspicion that the two may be had something going on.

I watch as Seth carefully sat down beside Zanaya while the other still not uttering a word.

Shrugging my shoulders, I put my attention back to my phone when I felt the vibration. From my peripheral vision, I can feel someone staring in my direction.

Storm

I gulped.

It's been what? I can't even remember the last time we really talked. I nibbled my lower lip as I focus my attention back on my phone.

Don't mind him, Cali.

A small smile escaped my lips at what Donny had said. He was telling us a cute incident on their group's concert abroad. Me, Jino, and Donny had this group chat and we tend to message each other whenever there was something fun that had happened within our day.

Jino would always tell us how Jackson was being clingy and jealous over us which we just laughed off.

My body stiffened a little when Storm suddenly sat beside me. I moved away a little to make sure our skin won't touch. Regardless of how much I try to hide my awkwardness towards our breakup, it's still not easy for me to simply act as nothing has happened to the two of us.

Plus, lately, I'm not sure how my body would react now at his touch. I can't breakdown now.

"Who are you chatting with?" I was startled when I heard his voice. It was low and almost a whisper, just enough for me to hear.

I turned to his direction and raised my eyebrow.

"Not you, obviously," I hissed before turning my attention back on my phone.

I heard him snicker but I didn't pay any attention. The more I let myself be used to his presence, the easier it will be for me to move one. Coz that's just it, Seth being married to Zanaya means I'll have to deal with Storm forever.

Or maybe I'll get used to him, not if we're not together.

Sometimes I wonder if it's true that there is that one-person God had given for you. Coz at this time of my life, I wanna know where he is.

He's taking too much of his time.

"You do realize you're still not allowed to date, right?" he sassed, his arms crossed over his chest. My eyebrow raised at his words.

I know. That's the reason why we broke up, didn't we? I wanted to add but I changed my mind.

But he doesn't have to remind me that because my heart kept reminding me every time.

He doesn't have to double the hurt, does he?

"Says who?" I rolled my eyes on him. We're practically whispering with each other as the others might see us.

"Says your boss. And me," he added and I scoffed.

"You don't have a say on what I can and cannot do,"

"Watch your suitors back off then once they see me," he said with finality and I wanted to explode in anger.

I look at him with disdain and hatred. "Stop talking to me,"

My body almost bolted straight up when I felt his head suddenly resting on my lap, a habit he's used too when we're still together.

I nibbled my lower lip, unsure if I should be annoyed or what.

"What are you doing?" I asked, my voice stern.

My insides were in a frenzy. I want to get mad. I want to shout at him.

What does he think he is doing? Who does he think he is?

"Trying to get some sleep," he uttered and I released a long sigh, my eyes starting to sting ad I try to stop my tears.

He can't break up with me when things get hard then act like nothing happened if he sees me trying to get on with my life.

"Move Storm," I told him, trying to keep my emotion at bay.

But he didn't budge.

"Please..." I whispered, I close my eyes for a moment. I don't want to have another breakdown when everyone is here with us.

I don't want to be that Cali again, the Cali who almost lost herself because of a love that is forbidden, a love that seemed not strong enough to risk for a fight.

I opened my eyes and our gaze locked.

No Cali, look away.

His eyes, my weakness. Or maybe it's simply him. Everything about him is my weakness. Even the mention of his name, depending on my mood can be a trigger to let myself lose.

He was looking at me intently as if searching my very soul and now I can't look away.

And I felt it, my walls slowly crashing in front of me. The walls I tried so hard to build for the past few months now useless all because of just one conversation.

My lips quiver in helplessness.

"Why did you let me go when you're going to do all this?" I whispered, my head bow hung low as I try to avoid his gaze.

I can feel my heart thumping. Once again, I am that woman who is slowly feeling like there is still some hope between the two of us.

I am slowly getting back to that Cali who doesn't care if she gets hurt all because of her love for one guy.

I am that woman again, Storm's Cali.

When can I just be me?

The sound of someone moaning caught my attention. Even Storm looked somewhere but my eyes are starting to water that I did not bother checking what's happening.

Stop showing you're affected Cali.

Just then, the sound of the door opening caught everyone's attention.

My heart almost dropped on the floor at the sight of two people who just came in.

I groan internally.

What again?

Chapter 20

Cali's POV

"You're not being serious, are you? You're insane," I shake my head in utter disappointment and disgust.

I look at him with disdain and I wanted to turn around and leave.

But I can't. As much as I hate him right now, I can't simply turn my back and leave. Not when this is basically the first time we've talked in private after all that happened.

"My God, you just can't fucking keep your mouth with you," I whispered, my hand brushing my long hair in frustration. And he was just there, staring at me with his arms crossed over his chest.

Not a sign of remorse can be seen on his expression. In fact, I'd say he was proud of what he's done.

"I told you that you're not allowed to entertain suitors. I was specific. Too specific Chu," his voice was stern and if this was a different occasion, I would have swoon over what he has done but no. Not this time.

"You almost punched him! He was just telling me to take care. What is wrong with you?" I wanted to scream. We were at our dorm and I was surprised our manager wasn't around.

Even the other girls were not here.

"Yeah, and he was sliding his number in front of me. Did you even consider how I would feel?" he sounded so hurt and I felt my chest tightening.

My lips quivering, the surge of emotion, hurt in particular overflowing within me.

I knew by this time, just one more word and my tears would literally start spilling right before him.

"You're so unfair," I whispered. My voice barely audible but I he can hear me. He always listens to my voice. He always does.

"Why are you so selfish?" I added.

He moved closer and I felt his wrap his arms around me. I didn't move. I didn't hug him back.

"You're so adamant into not letting people come close to me yet all you do is push me away. Why does your happiness come first before mine? Why does your decision matter more than my own? Just why?" I can't help it. My voice broke just right after the last word.

These emotions within me is starting to overpower my sense of control. I have worked so hard to keep myself at bay. For months, I tried my best to stay away from him, to not get affected by his presence. It was fucking hard when even the slightest movement of his fingers, the sound of his breath, the smell of him from afar keep my senses going wild.

Damn it.

Why is he so unfair?

"I can't let you go..." he whispered.

I knew we're both breaking. Just how many times do I actually have to experience getting my heart shattered into pieces for us to eventually have a happy ending?

"But you already did Storm? Not just once but so fucking many times. I don't know until when my heart would last..." he pulled me even closer, his natural smell that I miss so much defying all of my senses.

"Everything has a reason, Chu. You can't expect me to let other people get close to you when we both know it should be me, only me. I am the only person worth your time, your stares. I can't let other people experience the love only the two of us should be sharing. Call me selfish but I'm willing to hide you to the world if needed. Because you're mine, Chu. Only mine,"

"Fuck you, Storm...." I am breaking down.

He says he owns me but he can't fight for me.

Why can't he tell me why I need to wait?

Why do I have to listen and follow to his words without me knowing everything that I need to know? Just why?

WHISTLE will soon fly to Australia and here I am getting myself tangled with Storm again.

Just fucking great.

"I'll leave," I told him. I lifted my gaze and met his. "I won't text you. I won't call. I won't do anything that will remind me of you. This relationship is too stressful. You ask me to wait but I don't fucking know until when and why I even have to do it. Is this still worth it? Are these tears and heartache still worth it?"

His hands reach for my cheeks, cupping them. His eyes were moist with tears threatening to flow down.

"Please, just trust me on this. I tried, Chu. God knows I tried to do. Something but circumstances isn't allowing us right now. But believe me, I'll do anything to make everything work. Maybe not now but I know things will work out eventually, just trust me, huh?"

He leaned closer, my eyes closing immediately.

The moment his lips grazes on mind, I felt the goddamn electricity going wild on my system. As always, his touch, his smell, his kiss is more than enough for me to lose it.

His lips started moving, it started slow until I felt his hunger, his passion, his love.

And I gave in.

I kissed back.

I felt his other hand at the back of my neck and I followed his movement, a groan escaping my lips.

"I love you, Boo bear," he whispered between kisses.

I'd love to tell him the same but something inside me is holding me back.

His kiss, it was too hot I felt my insides burning.

I didn't know how long we savor each other's mouth but when our lips parted, I gasped for air.

He pulled me closer, my face resting on his chest and I felt his lips giving me pecks of kisses at the top of my head.

So fucking sweet but I know it's a gesture that will hunt me for months.

Stupid Cali. You just have to concede every time....

He was caressing the top of my head as he hugs me tighter.

God, I'll miss him. I'll miss him so much.

"I know I kept on telling you the same thing over and over but I'll say them otherwise. Wait for me, Chu. I'll find a way. And as long as I know that you love me, I won't give up. I won't give us up,"

My eyes closed as I listen to his every word.

I love you Storm, but I don't know until when I can wait.

Chapter 21

Cali's POV

"Chu..."

I turned my back the moment he called for my name. The loud beating of my heart tells me he's not in any sort of apparition nor a product of my imagination.

He's really here, in flesh.

A bitter smile escaped my lips. Chu, my ass. He really has the nerve to call me Chu at this point.

After almost six months, here he was, standing in front of me, calling for my name like nothing ever happened.

And I hate him.

I hate how he treated me these past few months. The last time we saw each other, he told me to wait for him. He even made sure no other idols can get a hold of me. How selfish.

Now, since Zanaya is about to give birth and the whole world has known of the two's marriage, I thought that it will be easier for us but that doesn't seem to be the case. For one, I think we have to be extra careful as we don't want fans to think SHADOW and WHISTLE are all entangled in a relationship.

He was looking at me intently like he did nothing wrong. Like he didn't make the past few months extra hard for me.

Bastard.

All he does is break my heart. At this point, I don't even know why I kept on trying. I don't even know why I kept on hanging over his words when all of them are lies.

Fucking lies.

Without even bothering to check if our members will notice, I march my way inside my room. I didn't even bother looking back to Storm even after I heard him call my name.

I threw my phone on my bed, the sound of the bouncing it made not making me feel any better as well.

"Tss,"

Damn that Storm.

In the past few months, he'll message me only because he wants to know if something's wrong with Zanaya.

My mind wandered to the memory of her getting blood-stained in our bed after that one V-live. it was so scary and I honestly don't know what to do. One thing though, Zanaya definitely got her knack in fainting from her Mom.

Seth's probably going nuts over there that time but Zanaya doesn't want her husband to worry.

It was after our livestream that Zanaya got so stressed and a large incident had happened. Seth can't reach Zanaya so I understood why Storm was trying to reach out and check for any updates.

It wasn't a problem for me. Actually, I'll be more than happy to tell them about Zanaya's current state but it was her decision to let her tell everything to Seth directly.

What irks me the most is that Storm told me he'll figure something out. Now what? He messages me twice a month? Is that it?

The last time he called was two months before that incident with Zanaya and I feel so deprived. Now he's tried reaching out all because of his best friend.

I know he cares about Zanaya like she was his little sister. I've realized that a few months back already and though I got jealous at first, I know they're like best of friends now. Zanaya looks for Storm whenever she needs a little pep talk.

But what about me?

And then I heard, the sound of my phone beeping once again.

Out of frustration, I reached for my phone and typed a response to him.

"I don't want to see you,"

I sounded like a brat, I know but he's pissing me off.

When will I be his priority? Not priority-priority but at least show me I am important. I'm not just a friend. Heck, or is that who I am to him right now?

Not a minute has passed when I heard my phone beeping again. This time, it was an incoming call - Storm.

I hissed. So now he's being persistent.

I threw my phone back on my bed.

No. Not today Storm.

Just then, I heard the sound of knocking outside my door. A long sigh escaped my lips.

I pulled my pillow and hugged it tighter. Why can't they leave me in peace?

I tried closing my eyes but to no avail, the person outside seemed too determined.

Lazily, I dragged my feet to the door's direction, and just right after I opened the door, Storm's exhausted expression greeted me. Not letting me utter a word, he walked past me and closed the door before I can even protest.

My shoulders slumped in defeat. As always, all he thinks was himself.

I turned to him and crossed my arms.

"What do you need? I'm sleepy, I need to rest," I told him. I wanted to laugh at myself at how bitter I sounded.

He looked dejected and as much as I want to stop myself from caring, my heart still clenched at the sight of him having a hard time.

He moved forward, his hands landing on my shoulders. I shiver at his touch and I had to remind myself to stop caring. But damn, it was so fucking hard.

I heard him sigh, his eyes closed and I watch as he does a quick breathing exercise. For a moment, I got scared of him. I know Storm had anxiety from time to time.

He bit his lower lip and I had to fight the urge to lunge over him and kiss him instead.

Calm your nerves, Cali. Not the time, okay...

"I give up," he whispered. His words so clear I felt like every piece of me shattered.

Fuck.

I give up.

Three words but I felt like my whole world started crashing in front of me.

He's giving up.

I knew things will be hard but I didn't know I'll actually hear him say those words.

Without a warning, tears started streaming down my cheeks.

Why? Just why can't I be happy?

I lifted my gaze and once he realized I was crying, confusion filled his orbs and his eyes widened.

"Of fuck, Chu. It's not what you think Boo bear... Shit shit shit!" he started cursing before pulling me for a hug. I cried even more.

Is this really the end of us?

I felt his hands cupping my cheeks as he whispered me sweet words that don't even sink in. I was too lost in despair I don't even think any sense that was left in me would function normally.

"Boo bear, that's not what I meant okay? Stop crying..." he pulled me closer and gave me a hug, his other hand behind my back as he tries to calm me down while the other was at the back of my head.

He pulled away from me a little and gave me a quick peck on the lips. My heart skipped a beat and somehow, it got me distracted which he noticed.

"Baby, listen to me first, okay?" he whispered and I found myself nodding.

"I meant giving up on avoiding you - avoiding us. I can't stand the thought of you getting mad at me, of you crying. So I giving up. It's killing me. God knows I tried every possible way I know to make this work but there are things that I can't control. I'm done giving you reasons to hate me. From now on it's just us. We'll try to work this out together. I don't give a fuck if we hide this relationship again or whatever you like as long as we're back together, I don't care. Coz God knows it's starting to kill me too. I love you Boo bear, okay? I will never give you up. Never,"

He pulled me closer once again and hugged me tighter. The words he uttered slowly sinking in.

Slowly, my breathing started getting back to normal and my hands moved on its own and clung over his waist.

He's compromising, I know.

I buried my face on his chest, the sound of his fast heartbeat rings through my ears.

Is this even real? Does this even mean I have my Storm-chi back?

Chapter 22

Cali's POV

"Why do we still have to act like these even with the guys?" I pouted. My arms crossed in front of my chest as I slowly raised an eyebrow towards his direction.

He just came inside my room and the situation we are currently in is not something I like.

It's been almost a year since Zanaya gave birth and we're all back in Korea. A lot had happened and we had to stay low for some time to let our management do the damage control. Seth had confirmed their marriage to the public and of course, the whole industry went nuts.

The press conference happened, Seth almost left the thing but stayed for the boys - a lot. It wasn't rainbows and sunshine.

Our only consolation was Baby Ashton bringing us so much joy and happiness. He's literally just a pill, a medicine that keeps us going.

Storm and I, we literally act like we're not together with everyone. But there are moments that I feel like it's useless. Like that one time, Zanaya and Tokyo literally saw all the hickeys Storm left all over me. Thank God we don't have a schedule during that time and it got healed just in time before our other schedules.

He moved forward and gave me a hug. And me being the soft one, melted immediately at his touch.

Soft chuckles escaped his lips.

"Don't mind them. As long as we're both happy, that's all that matter," he whispered and I smiled bitterly.

I wouldn't tell him but there were days when I feel so envious of Zanaya. Not only that she's legally allowed to have someone, but she also has the right to show her affection to someone she loves.

I know I'm not the only one who feels pressured. All idols are basically prisoned under the public's eyes. We can't date. We can't show people who we love. And it's unfair.

"I love you..." he whispered and that's it. Game over.

Storm is my weakness; it will always be.

"I love you too..." I whispered back. We both had our schedules for the day and somehow I felt bad because he had to sneak into Seth's house because of me.

The girls and I have been staying here for the time being to lessen the travel time. We have a pretty tough schedule and we were trying not to worn out Zanaya that much. Everyone knows she's doing hands-on mom duties even with our schedules. Even Seth does the same which makes it understandably exhausting.

Unlike SHADOW who ended up getting the house next to Seth's, WHISTLE is still staying in our dorms. We're just thankful Seth bought a huge house that can accommodate all of us.

"Hey, I've got Dalgom something," Storm whispered while getting a paper bag I didn't even notice he has.

The moment I opened it, I found a cute little shirt for Dalgom.

I squeal at the sight of it.

"I bought Holly another. Dalgom and Holly can wear them once they meet," he smiled and we sat at the edge of the bed.

I turned to him, my heart softened at the sight of his expression.

He looks so tired.

SHADOW has full schedules and they barely sleep.

I dropped the gift he gave and cupped his cheeks.

"Storm-chi..." I cooed. I saw the corner of his lips tucking. "Chichu-yah misses you..." I baby talked acting all cute on him and he chuckled.

He pulled me until I was already on top of him while he lay down on the bed, his hands wrapped around my waist to support my body from falling off.

He was shaking his head and I had to laugh a little. Storm isn't used to me acting cute. It's cringey and basically not my style nor his.

"Just because you're acting all cute and adorable doesn't mean you can get away with what happened the other day," he raised his eyebrow and my eyes furrowed.

"I didn't do anything," I acted all innocent even though I partly have an idea what he was talking about. I avoided his gaze and acted all innocent.

He looked at me intently and I hissed when he pinched the tip of my nose.

"Awwww, Storm!" I whined swatting his hand away. I yelp when I almost fell off of him but his hands were quick enough to assist me.

"Stop acting all innocent. I heard some idol confessed to you the other day after your Music Show performance," he hissed but he pulled me closer to him anyways leaving a kiss on my forehead.

Storm and I had been together for years, on and off but he still gives me that butterflies and the weird heart rate that gets me in a daze every time.

"It's not like I entertained him," my voice muffled as my face is now buried on his chest.

"Well, not that I would let you anyways. The moment I saw them trying to talk with you, I'm going to pull you away and create some Seth-drama, you know," he teased and I laughed. I pulled away from him a little just so I can see his beautiful face. He was looking at me the same.

His eyes, always make me feel warm whenever he looks at me like this.

"Yeah, Mr. Storm is so intimidating, their knees would probably shake in fear," I bantered and he just raised his eyebrow.

He pulled me upwards so our face would level even more. Now, our face is so close to each other. Unable to resist, I leaned a little and snatched a quick kiss on his lips before hiding my face at the crook of his neck.

His chest started moving as his laughter echoed the room.

"We're not so brave, are we?" when I pulled away to see his face, I saw him biting his lower lip.

My cheeks blushed a little and it wasn't after at least ten seconds when I heard him whisper.

"Oh, fuck it. Come here, boo bear," his hoarse voice filled my ears and the next thing I knew was his lips hungrily claiming mine, his other hand supporting my back while the other was at the back of my head.

He was kissing me like there was no tomorrow and I am the same.

These moments, I feel like everything that had happened to us was all worth it. I just hope everything goes smoothly because I've had too much of us breaking up, getting back together, only to break up again.

Please Storm, just be with me forever...

Chapter 23

Cali's POV

"You really are so stubborn, Cali," I laughed as I heard Max's voice over the phone.

I went out to buy a few stuff and I didn't tell the girls about it nor have anyone to accompany me.

Now Max realizes it probably after seeing my manager at the office. I almost forgot Max is recording and our individual managers stay at the office when we don't have a schedule.

Tokyo had a photoshoot and Zanaya was probably already home after her tv show recording.

The girls had been so busy and it was my time to get a rest after my schedule got so full the past week.

And then I decided to be a daredevil and go out.

I was simply wearing just a pair of denim shorts paired with a blue shirt that I tucked in, white sneakers, and a mask covering my face. A large spectacle was on my eyes and I didn't bother wearing a cap.

After years of being an idol, I realized you attract even more attention when you wear pure black clothes. I mean, yeah, black clothes from top to bottom, a cap, and a face mask, with your hair in purple, right. That doesn't really automatically scream idol but people check you out.

"Don't even think about telling the girls about this. I don't wanna stress Zanaya," I mouthed. Max is such a nagger. She's like our mom, basically one of the reasons why her and Tae initially broke up. It was all because of her over-protectiveness towards us. People think it was me but it's Max all along. She'll probably stress herself about the fact that I am out alone.

I shouldn't have answered her call until I get home. But then again, I knew she'd be even more worried if I didn't. Also, I don't wanna stress Zanaya even more as the whole drama of people finding out about Ashton recently happened and it hasn't been months since they formally introduced their child to the public.

"I didn't okay, at least not to them," she answered and my brows furrowed, my free hand immediately leaving the coat I was inspecting from the racks. I was inside a clothing store when Max called.

"What do you mean, 'at least not to them'?" I asked though a lot of things started coming off my mind.

"Well..." she hesitated and I had a hunch on what she was talking about.

"You didn't..." I whispered. My eyes started wandering around me, scared at the possibility of what I was thinking maybe is true nor possible.

"You didn't answer on my first call! What do you expect me to do?" she panicked and I sigh.

"Sometimes I wonder if both our groups have solid loyalty," I chuckled.

It's true though. We basically had been together for so many years, now we can't classify loyalties of each other.

Storm will always be loyal to his friendship with Zanaya and Tokyo is loyal to Demo. I mean, we were groupmates but if it's for the sake of any of us, we rattle at the right moment. And I think this was the moment when Max proves her loyalty to Storm rather than to me.

I heard her chuckle on the other line. "Good luck on getting scolded," she managed to tease before ending the call.

No matter how much Storm and I deny our relationship, by this time, everyone knew not to trust our words.

According to Seth, our words are all bullshit denying our relationship when each of them had caught us once or twice sneaking from each other's room, which I can't deny.

Plus, the last time Storm and I broke up, Storm had to beg on his knees so I would take him back, and that's in front of both our members.

Imagine how hard it was for everyone. The boys were shocked and they can't believe Storm would beg on both his knees. Well, neither can I.

It was a long fight. I was hurt. The fact that Storm always keeps the troubles concerning both of us to himself bothered me and I broke up with him, yet again.

And even after he begged, I didn't take him back, just not that time.

I'm already used to the fact of us breaking up and getting back together. It's tiring but whenever something happens, I find myself engulfed in a hug, on his arms.

I just love and though it's painful at most times, I'd rather live with the pain than slowly kill myself for it.

It's not healthy and I know there are still things that Storm doesn't share with me.

Lately, I been having nightmares. I wasn't sure what they were but it always starts with the two of us being happy and ends with me making him leave. It was always as if I was the one hurting him and he would always beg on his knees.

It feels so weird and when I told him that one time, he suddenly looked so pale and hugged me. He told me to stop thinking about it.

Just then, I felt my phone vibrating and like what my gut had told me earlier, it wasn't even five minutes and Storm is calling me.

I hate Max.

"You do realize what you're doing now is dangerous and you can get yourself into trouble, right?" he voiced out the moment I answered the call. I didn't know if I should laugh or what in the end, I giggled. I can clearly picture him pouting.

I knew he'd call and will scold me. Then he'd ask me to go home.

"I know. But don't worry, I'll go home really soon," I told him and I heard him sigh.

"I love you..." I whispered, in hopes to calm him down.

I bit my lower lip.

Did I make him smile?

"Gi-chi?" I whispered when I didn't hear him respond. What is he doing? I'm hearing footsteps and his slow breathing.

Just then, I was startled when I felt a hand wrapped around my waist, I almost scream in surprise only to stop myself when I smell his all too familiar perfume. He seldom uses one but when he does, he uses the one I gave him as a gift.

I dropped the call and turned around.

"Yah! What are you doing here?" I whisper shouted. My eyes caught his attire and I almost cursed upfront. He's basically screaming idol. "And how the hell did you find me?" I asked but it didn't take long until I realized that Storm had probably changed my phone's setting long before so he knows my whereabouts.

Like every day, he looks so exhausted. I knew that had a shoot.

"Why are you here? Don't you have a schedule or something?" I asked as I pull him out of the clothing store. Our hands clasped together and I can't help but get nervous. There aren't a lot of people in this place but it not a guarantee that no one will recognize us.

"It's done. We just have a recording," he mumbled and I stopped from my tracks and turned towards him.

"And you still went here?" I scolded him and he raised his eyebrow.

"Says someone who just went put without a bodyguard or a manager with her. I'd say that's very brave of you but that's a suicide," he hissed and I pouted. Thank God I still have my face mask on so he can't see.

"Fine. I'll go home," I whispered. I was about to turn my heels and leave when he grabbed my wrist pulling me back and engulfing me in a hug. My heart almost leaps out of my chest in surprise.

"Yah, what are you doing? Someone might see us," I told him but he just hummed. My heart was hammering inside my chest as he rested his face at the crook of my neck, our body slowly swaying sideways.

"I love you too," he whispered and I remember uttering the words earlier when we were on the phone.

His breathing was calm but mine wasn't. What we are doing right now is so dangerous.

"Storm, we need to go..." I whisper but he didn't budge.

Shit.

"You know; I haven't taken you out on a date for so long. Don't you miss the food we use to have?" he suddenly asks and I watch as he pulled away from me a little, our eyes meeting along the process.

I can't believe this. Is he really telling me that we'll go on a date?

"You're joking," I whispered. It's not possible. It's been years since we last went out on a date. He was always careful so I never thought we'd actually have a chance like this ever.

I saw his eyes formed a smile and I jumped on him in excitement.

His laughter echoed while his hands were wrapped around me for support.

"I'm not Boo bear. We're going to have a date and we'll go anywhere you want us to go. Do you like that?" he asked and I nodded vigorously.

He smiled once again before pulling me for a hug.

"Anything to make the love of my life happy," he whispered.

I fucking love my Storm.

Chapter 24

Cali's POV

"Oh, God..." I pulled Storm by the hair as I arched my body, the sensation filling my system more than enough for me to lose my shit.

The sound of us catching our breaths filling the room is music to my ears. Every moan, every growl Storm does sends my libido up so high I don't know how long I can keep up.

We were both lost in ecstasy, a wonderful feeling deliciously wilding up my consciousness over and over.

With a few more thrusts, I felt my insides getting filled, my hands gripping his hair as I reach my own climax and shake from orgasm myself. I felt him collapse on top of me, both catching our breath.

A smile came across my lips as I felt him kiss the top of my head.

"I love you..." he whispered and that lifted me past the cloud nine. I didn't bother cleaning myself as I'd probably take a bath in a few minutes.

"I love you more..." I answered back and I felt him rolled on my side, pulling me closer to him until my body was already leaning on his chest. It didn't matter that we're still naked. The warmth coming from him was more than enough to keep me satisfied.

He pulled the blanket to cover both our bodies and I buried my face on his chest.

We were both sweating despite the max air-conditioning inside the room.

Seth will definitely go ballistic if he realizes that Storm and I had sneaked into this room again. Well, I usually use this room whenever I stay with them anyways but Seth was very adamant that we don't do sex inside their house but hey, nobody can stop us. Not when Storm had sent me a video of him playing a newly composed song over his piano.

The veins on Storm's hands are my weakness. And the fucker knows it so when I told him to come home, he did. And the rest was history.

He was brushing my hair and I felt him moved a little until he's already facing me.

It's been what? I honestly lost count how many years we have been together. We were on and off so I stopped counting. As long as I have him now and I know I will always have in at the end, I stopped bothering.

I felt his lips grazing the top of my head, my stomach churning along the process.

It's funny how it's been years but his effect on me is still the same. I thought they say feelings changes eventually? In my end, it did but it has gotten even stronger.

"At this rate, Seth might end up suing us for doing this in his house," I giggle and I felt his shoulder vibrate from laughing.

"It's not like Sky doesn't do the same? I'm pretty sure our youngest members do too..." he answered and I chuckled.

Fair point.

Unlike us, the other's relationship had been better. Even Demo and Mara had been back together.

A long sigh escaped my lips. Storm must have heard so he pulled away from me a little and study my expression.

"Why?" he asked, concerned.

I bit my lower lip at his question. A lot of things coming off my mind.

"I wonder how Mono was holding up. I mean, he was going to propose to Zan, Storm..." I whispered. Remembering the tragic love story of our friends always brings me to tears.

My lips quiver and Storm pulled me even closer.

We all knew how the incident had greatly affected Mono. He'd been so quiet. It's almost a year but Mono is still the same. He doesn't talk that much and he prefers to be alone.

Storm brushed a few strands of my hair and our eyes met.

Suddenly, a weird thought came into my mind. I hope it doesn't happen but what if it does? Will he live like how Mono is doing right now?

He probably realized that something was bothering me and his brows furrowed.

"What?" he asked concerned.

I bit my lower lip. Just thinking about it sends me chills all over.

"Will you promise me something?" I asked, his hooded eyes never leaving mine.

"Whatever you are thinking Cali, I don't like it," he answered. As expected, Storm can easily read my thoughts. An awkward smile escaped through me.

"Just promise me, okay? That if what happened to Kaizan happens to me too, you won't stop living like how Mono does today..." I stared at him and he avoided my gaze.

"Storm..." I called for his name. The fucker is being so stubborn and even closed his eyes.

"You're asking too much, Chu. I understand why Mono is acting the way he is now. And God forbid, if that happens to you too, I can't promise I won't act the same as he does..." he stated and I grimaced.

I reached for his face and slowly run my hand on his perfect features.

I only hoped for him to love again in case I'm gone.

But knowing Storm, I know how much he means what he just said right now. I'm not even sure if I must be flattered but his words gave me hope that he will do everything to keep us together.

A smile tucked on the corner of my lips and before I knew it, I already leaned forward and gave him a lingering kiss. I felt his hands tightening on my waist.

The moment I pulled away, I smiled at him lovingly.

"I guess I have no choice then but to live longer for my Storm-chi, huh?" I teased and I shrieked when he pulled me again until he was already on top of me.

I gulped when I felt his member poking one of my legs.

"How about a round two then?" he smirked and who I am to say no?

Chapter 25

Storm's POV

"You didn't have to do this," my heart skipped at the sight of her heart-shape smile. Her eyes were glowing and even after the obvious expression of being exhausted, she is nothing but a fresh breeze to me.

She was on a shoot and she was sending me photos earlier keeping me posted about everything.

We were so busy we barely have a moment to spend time with each other. And then there's Seth who's planning to marry Zanaya again.

So everything has been hectic.

Before I knew it, I found myself standing inside the building's fire exit asking her to meet me even for just a few minutes.

And she did. Even though we both knew how she might get in trouble for this.

"I miss my little Chu..." I whispered before pulling her in a warm hug. She smells so fucking good. If she wasn't wearing sponsored clothes for her shoot, I'd do her right now.

My eyes closed as I feel her wrap her arms around my waist. The way her face was buried perfectly on my chest, I know she was just my perfect Cali.

"You know what, you're starting to get too clingy these days," soft chuckles escaped her lips. She sounded so happy and I felt really good to be one of the reasons why she can laugh like this. "But I'm not complaining," she added which made me grin.

"At least I'm not Seth-clingy," I answered and her giggles filled the place.

Zanaya had been whining to me the past few days because Seth literally follows her everywhere she goes. And me being closest to Zanaya, I had to listen to her whining about her husband. I knew she was telling me that so I can say something to Seth which I won't because I want them to work on it together.

Plus, it's not like Seth doesn't trust her. The guy was just worried about her safety. The industry isn't as safe people thought it was.

I backed away a little and pulled her closer until I am sitting on one of the steps on the stairs. I guided her until she's sitting on my legs. We don't wanna crumple her outfit or get it soiled or something.

"How's your day?" I asked her. She's been here for roughly five hours and I am on my rest today. I brushed the strands of hair falling on her cheeks while looking at her.

I keep getting distracted by her lips. She was pouting. Yet she still looks breathtaking I'm not even sure how it's possible

She leaned forward and rested her head on my shoulder, just like how she usually does when I'm working at home and she wants to cuddle.

"I'm tired. I'm so jealous you have a three-day vacation. But then I'd remember how busy and hectic your schedules are then, I felt bad for my attitude," she whined. I chuckled at the sound of her voice.

So adorable.

Their boss sent everyone home. Apparently, he got tired of us camping on the company lately and gave us a three days of rest. Especially the rap line since we do most of the producing.

"That's why I'm visiting. I can stay here at the fire exit and wait for you every time you're on break you know," I told her and I heard her sigh.

"I'm not that bad to ask you to do that. Plus, I might end up staying five more hours here. The man I was paired with was a jerk," she added and I raised an eyebrow. I pulled away from her a little, my hands cupping her cheeks.

"What did he do to you?" I'm surprised to hear how calm I am sounding. I had this trauma with that actor hitting Zanaya back then. And it didn't do us any good. All the boys had been so anxious. What if that happens again? But then again I know Cali can handle guys like that

So If there's one thing I am sure of, Cali is more than capable to handle those kinds of situations. But I swear one wrong move and I'll step in.

"He keeps on asking for my number and that I should go out with him. He said it's better to date a model like him rather than an idol. Less mess, less heartache. I don't even know how he got that idea," she answered and I scoffed.

Dating an idol may be hard but how does dating a model isn't?

Whoever Cali dates, whatever profession, the media will follow up with her. I mean, she's Cali. Cameras will follow her wherever she goes.

"Can you still handle him?" I asked concerned and she just nodded though I can see how exhausted she looks.

"Just stay for a while and it's more than enough," she whispered before burying her face back on my chest. My hands pulled her tighter, the serenity of our situation calming the both of us.

I love how we can enjoy these moments right now. I remember how we used to hide everything. Yeah, we may not be too open about our relationship right now but we both know everybody understood.

Even our managers, whom a few already know since most of them did their fair share of separating us in compliance with our agencies' requests but right now, they don't say a word.

There are days when I feel so scared. What if her boss calls me again?

I'm not sure I can still live without Cali in my life. I tried, but being away with her doesn't really work. It was depressing and it didn't do both of us good.

And seeing Cali hurting in front of me wrecks my heart into pieces.

After the last time, when I kneel down and begged for her, I knew that little string of hope she has for me will soon snap. So that was the last straw.

I will come clean. The promise I made a few years ago with her boss, I'm going to find a way to settle it.

My hand gently massages the back of her head and I heard her moan which made me smile.

I love this girl so much.

My body started swaying a little as I feel her relaxing even more on my touch.

"I love you..." I whispered, my voice so low I'm not even sure she understood what I said.

I love you, Chu.

Chapter 26

Cali's POV

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" I heard Storm's voice. My brows furrowed. He'd been acting so weird lately. It's been so long since he last went to our house and today is my father's birthday. We agreed that he'll drop by our house for dinner.

Actually, I forced him into it. This was not the first time he'd visit our house but this will be the first time after I debut.

Come to think of it, ever since we got back together, he never went to our house like he used to.

Storm was close to my family. My Mom love him so much and my father adored him the same way. Even after we broke up then, I never heard my family saying anything bad about him.

"We've talked about this Storm. It's my father's birthday," I told him in a stern voice. I felt his hand on mine tightening a little.

Why is he so tense?

He looked at me nervously. We were on the van together.

"Did you tell them I'm coming?" he asked again and I raised an eyebrow at him.

"It was meant to be a surprise? Or do you want me to give them a heads up?" I asked him and I saw him gulped. My brows furrowed even more.

Okay, that's it.

"Seriously, what's wrong with you Storm? You're acting so strange right now and it's starting to scare me," I told him. "Don't you want to visit my parents?"

It wasn't my intention but every second that passes makes my heart feel heavier.

My parents and Storm doesn't have a problem, do they?

A forced smile escaped his lips. "Nothing. I was just so nervous. It's been so long,"

Force - yes. Because I knew Storm at the back of my head. Even the slightest movement of his lips, I can translate.

Surely, I know when he is forcing his smile and not. He's that transparent to me. And somehow, it makes my heart ache.

I'm not stupid to buy his 'I'm-just-nervous' act. He was never nervous even to my parents. The first time he met them, he was the one who was so excited about it even though I was nervous as fuck.

He was so optimistic and impressed my father even.

I didn't bother responding to him. Whatever it is, I'd find out eventually. But then again, it boils down to the same problem that we always have - he keeps things from me.

And whenever he does, it always costs us something that always breaks both of our hearts.

Sometimes I feel like it's easier if I stop loving him. If only I can kill this love.

But I can't.

Just then, the van stopped and the gate was opened. We still try to be careful. There are times when people such as reporters' camps outside our house and them seeing Storm with me isn't the best time actually.

Both our groups had suffered great losses when the whole world found out about the Devon family. A lot of supporters - yes, but the negativity still took a blow in our careers. We are just glad there are so many people who decided to stay.

The door swung open as my manager us to come out but Storm stopped me.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"What is it again?" I asked. My eyes saw the uncertainty on his eyes and for a moment, I stopped and stared at him.

The glint on his eyes tells me he's not just simply nervous. There was something else.

"Nothing. Let me hold that for you," he smiled then reached for the box of cake that was on my hand. I was at a loss for words.

So I didn't move. A long sigh escaped my lips.

I stared at him for a moment and that's when I saw how he was sweating. Storm doesn't just sweat like that. Not when the climate was cold and not when he isn't performing nor or practice.

So something must be terribly wrong.

"Look, Storm, I know something's going on. If you're not ready to meet my parents again, okay, I get it. But please, tell me when something is bothering you, okay? I care about what you have to say..." I whispered and I saw the sincere smile showing on his face.

My heart skipped a beat.

I just fucking love this man. When will our problems be over? I just wanna hold his hand proudly and tell the world that this guy is mine and I cannot be any happier with him by my side.

"I'm okay and I'm sorry for worrying you. Let's go? Your parents must be waiting," he stated and I saw him relaxed a little. He was smiling from ear to ear, his gummy smile ready to rip off my heart as a whole.

He can literally kill me in every way that is possible and he doesn't even have to try.

In no time, we were already standing in front of my parents, Storm's other hand hanging on mine for his dear life. And I'm freakin' wanna know why especially after I saw how wide both my parent's eyes were.

"Storm, son..." my father greeted him and Storm bowed on both of my parents. My mom was not looking at him though I swear I saw him tear up.

"Mom..." Storm called my mom and I was scared for a moment. Is my mom angry at him?

"Mom..." I called for her. Storm's hand tightens around mine and I can feel how sweaty his palm was getting.

Just when my mom finally looked at us, I was startled to see her crying. She started moving forward and pulled Storm for a hug.

"Son..." she whispered.

They used to call Storm that at it melts my heart to hear them call him like that again.

Storm's hand released mine as he hugged my mother back.

"Mom," I whispered, tearing up as well. Seeing my family warming up with Storm him being called as their son, I couldn't ask for anything more.

Storm gave the cake that we brought and had our dinner. My parents asked him a lot of questions, mainly asking how he had been.

I was about to come back after coming from the restroom when I stopped from my tracks after I heard what my Mom just said.

"I'm happy to see that you two are back together. I'm just so sorry about what happened in the past,"

My heart started beating rapidly. Storm had hidden a lot of things from me. A lot. But all of them were for my sake too - I know. But this time, I feel like it's not just him.

"Sorry son, I know how much you suffered because of me," my father stated and it broke my heart to hear him say those words.

But more importantly, why?

Why did he say that?

My heart started beating rapidly. Something's wrong.

If I had the slightest idea of how this event would turn everything a mess, I shouldn't have brought Storm home.

I shouldn't have...

Chapter 27

Cali's POV

"Sorry son, I know how much you suffered because of me," my father stated and it broke my heart to hear him say those words.

I felt the air feeling like it was being taken out of my lungs.

Why? Why did Storm suffer because of him? Did he do something to Storm?

Curious, I stay glued hiding behind the wall.

"It's all my fault and I will forever repent on my sins. If I didn't gamble, if that reporter didn't see you helping me, then BP Enterntainment wouldn't have to do something about it. You wouldn't have to sacrifice your love for her. You did a lot just so she can reach her dreams," my father added and I felt my world started crumbling in front of me.

My knees weaken and it was as if my soul was being extracted from my body.

What did I just hear?

No. Storm didn't deliberately leave me a few years ago. He did it for me.

Gambling is illegal in Korea and I can't believe my father actually even do that.

"I'd do it again if I have to," my lips quiver at Storm's words.

Why? My chest tightened and I feel like it was so hard to breathe. It was like all the air in this place decided to betray me and leave me breathless.

It fucking hurts. Just the thought of Storm sacrificing so much for me kills me.

I had been going around hating him for no reason. And it was all because of my parents.

Before I knew it, I was already walking towards them and my presence didn't go unnoticed to him. His eyes immediately widened at the sight of my tear-stained face.

He stood up immediately and tried reaching out to me but I stopped him.

"I'm done," I choked, words unable to leave my mouth.

His eyes softened. It's breaking him. It broke me. This broke the two of us and I have no one to blame.

My eyes landed on my parents who stood up and were both looking worried.

"I'm so done with all of you lying to me. Once and for all, stop deciding what's good for me. I want to know everything, every part of the deal, every detail," I stated, my voice stern, my gaze changing.

My father choked as he sat back on his seat.

"It was all my fault," he started, his face glued on the ground. "I'm sorry. Storm caught a man harassing me in front of our house because of my gambling. He paid for them. But we didn't know there was a reporter. He saw him..." I can see it. I can see the shame written all over his face.

Slowly, my head is starting to grasp everything that had happened.

Storm already debuted as SHADOW. That will blow up his career. A trainee girlfriend with a gambler of a father. Just what he really needed.

"You weren't exactly unknown to the public then. You already appeared on commercials and had some appearances on mvs and photoshoots. Your boss heard about your relationship from the reporter. And you know what happens when a trainee starts to date," my mom added. My hands balled into a fist.

Fuck. Fuck.

So Storm broke up with me just so I won't be kicked out?

My eyes landed on him and he knew, he knew what I was thinking. This time, he was even more serious.

"BP was dropping you so I had to do something. It was my decision, Chu. My career is important but so was yours. You worked hard for it. A few years of sacrifice, everything, I can always wait. Though I've broken my promise to your boss a few times," he added and I broke down even more.

I hated him. I hated him for a year when he first broke up with me. I was wrecked and was barely living until I debut and I'm learning these now?

After all those tears, the pain, the loneliness I succumb myself with? After all those years?

My eyes landed on his. This is a slap to my face.

All this time, it was all for me...so I can debut...I can achieve my dreams...

He sacrificed his happiness, our happiness, our time, all for me?

"Cali, whatever it is that you are thinking, please stop. This isn't your fault. It was my decision. I love you. I'd do anything, anything Cali, if it's for you," his voice, it was as if he was begging.

Why would he beg when he'd done so much for me?

At this point, I am starting to question myself if I still deserve him. He deserves so much more.

"What if I had given up on you? What if I fell out of love after your sacrifice? This is unfair. You have done so much for me. If I knew about it, I would have understood,"

"No. If you knew about it, you'd give up your dreams," he looked so desperate. "Cali, it's fine. I can talk to your boss again. It's been years..."

My eyes closed, everything I've learned now, can I simply accept them and go with the flow?

I've taken too much from Storm.

I don't deserve him.

"I'm sorry but I need to think about these," I whispered before turning on my heels leaving them off-guard.

In a rush, I was able to get out of the house, our managers left confused.

I was brisk walking, tears still streaming down my cheeks.

I feel like I was floating. My system is still confused.

Everything, it's still confusing me but at the same time, all I remember was Storm's suffering.

All of these, all the tears, the pain, I didn't have the right to feel those.

"Chu!" I heard him calling my name and I turned around for a moment. He was running, rushing towards me, worry spread over his handsome face.

My chest tightened and I feel like I can't breathe. My eyes starting to blur and I can no longer make out of my surroundings.

And then it came to me, he'd done so much for me bet here he is, still running to where I am. In the end, he'd still come for me.

So I didn't move. I waited for him.

I didn't care that we're outside. I didn't care that I wasn't wearing anything to hide my identity.

I was lost. And I'm don't exactly know how to deal with everything.

"Oh God," the moment our body collide, he pulled me for a hug and I can hear the sound of his heartbeat violently hammering inside his chest.

He buried his face at the crook of my neck and I swear I can feel his tears on my skin.

I'm hurting him.

"Stay away!"

"No! Back off," we were startled when we heard our managers screaming, then flashes of cameras and the sound of its shutter can be heard.

"Storm! California! Look here! Storm, so you're back together, right?"

And that's when I noticed a man carrying a big camera who was being pushed by our manager as they try to cover us.

"Shit," I heard Storm cursing. Does he know that man?

Storm's manager grabs us by the arm and rushes us back to the house.

Storm covered my head with his jacket, his other arms protectively wrapped around my body.

It was chaos.

Thank God there weren't so many people and I'm not sure they even recognized us since Storm was able to quickly hide our faces now. Plus, most of the people on the street are older ones.

I didn't know what happened next but Storm stayed with me while all our managers were on the phone.

"Cali, listen to me, okay?" he was cupping my cheeks while we are inside the house, sitting on one of the couch. My parents were talking with our managers.

"Everything will get better, I promise, okay?" he whispered before kissing the top of my head.

Will it?

Chapter 28

Cali's POV

"Cali..." the girls spread their arms and engulfing me in a hug. My lips quiver and I felt them brushing my hair and rubbing my back.

It has been three days after the incident in which Storm had to leave the house after our managers decided it's best that we part ways after what happened.

Everybody was frantic and I was so out of it that Storm had to call me every now and then to make sure everything was okay. His focus was all on me, how I was doing, if I've already eaten. He was so selfless I feel like I don't deserve him.

Our boss didn't talk to me. I was never called to the seventh floor. Instead, a lot of meetings had happened and Storm told me they're trying to figure things out. What it is or their plans, I don't have any idea until we saw the articles on the internet about Sky and Max's relationship.

Photos of their dates were shown. I was surprised to see multiple photos taken on multiple occasions too. So now I wonder if Boss had a lot of instances in which reporters are sending photos of them and he just works his ways just so it wouldn't be revealed to the public.

Besides, the two had been careless in the past few months. It's like they didn't care if they get caught.

They've created a diversion. However, I wasn't sure if that's actually a good idea since Grey and Tokyo accidentally outed themselves a week ago after Ashton got lost. I mean, three WHISTLE members in a relationship with three of SHADOW's? Wouldn't it raise more suspicions over mine?

The internet exploded. Their ships are actually the most popular ones so fans realizing that they were indeed in a relationship went nuts. Not everyone will accept it but all of us knew that from the start and somehow had ready ourselves.

Besides, idols have a lot of international fans now which has a broader view in terms of idols being in a relationship. It wasn't as bad now compared to when Zanaya and Seth announced theirs.

My parents finally told me everything and it was even harder for me to accept it since the more I know, the more I realized how greatly Storm had sacrificed for me.

My mom begged to him all because of my dreams when in reality, his dreams were at stake too.

I took away a lot of things from him. The right to be in pain, the right to feel. All I did was blame him for all of mine when I was actually the one who caused his.

"Hey," we all turned around when we heard Seth spoke. He was walking along with Ashton who's on a piggyback ride with his father.

He smiled at the sight of me though I am pretty sure he was worried as well.

"The boys are coming. I guess it's time we all have this talk," he started and we all sat on the couch.

"Aunt Chu!" Ashton shrieked coming straight to me after his father put him down. I smiled as I engulfed him in a hug.

Ashton is almost my baby. He treats Storm as his second father mainly because he was his mother's best friend and his father's too.

"You little mochi. How's my favorite nephew?" I teased him and he just snorted.

"I'm your only nephew, aunt Chu," he chuckles. Ashton is already five and he speaks well for his age though sometimes he still stutters.

He sat on my lap and started pinching my cheeks.

"Do you love Storm Dad?" he innocently asked and my lips parted at his question. I wasn't surprised that he calls Storm Dad because he's been calling him that since a year ago. But what surprises me was his question. Does he understand what he was asking? Like the whole context of it?

Before I can even answer, we heard some people talking and the next thing I know was the whole SHADOW coming in from the kitchen where the back door was located.

"Mochiiiii!" Demo exclaimed and the kid jumped from my lap and headed to his uncles.

Storm's eyes locked with mine and I didn't think twice. I stood up from my seat and spread my arms wide until he reaches for me and pulled me for a hug.

And right then I started crying.

"I'm scared Storm..." I whispered and he gently caresses the back of my head.

"I got you, Chu," he whispered back and we heard Ashton crying. The kid must have thought something was wrong.

"Come here baby," Zanaya reached for her child and directed him to his playing area.

Storm and I sat beside each other.

"So, what's this all about?" Mono asked. Zanaya was already sitting beside his husband who occasionally checks their son from afar.

Storm intertwined our hands. My eyes avoided their gaze.

"Somebody has to say something. All these years, we never meddle in your relationship," Raze started. He raised his eyebrows at us. "But they said something about you two getting in trouble because of something from the past. I mean, how far back are we talking about?"

Storm sighed. The boys never knew of our past. It was our little secret; a secret relationship we have kept to ourselves. And even after we broke up before, we never told them about it.

"Eight years?" Storm answered causing everyone to gasp. Even Grey sat properly and Sky's mouth was parted.

"Wait. I don't understand," Zanaya muttered, Seth's arms wrapped around her waist. "It wasn't even seven years since my marriage, what do you mean eight years?"

"Is it hard to understand that we started dating even before you two met?" Storm stated and I bit my lower lip at how casual he sounded and everyone gave different reactions.

"How is that even possible, they haven't even debuted that time," Sky stated.

"Didn't stop Seth from marrying a trainee, did he?" I am surprised at how calm Storm is.

"Okay, look, Cali started before most of us. She had gigs, modeling jobs, and even starred on some mvs, it's not entirely impossible that they've met," Max answered. She was eyeing for me to speak up.

"Yah!" Demo exclaimed. His eyes wide as if he just remembered something even clapping his hand along the process, "What is it? Our seniors, Imagine High, when they were filming something and we were on the same location. Hey, didn't you appear on that mv?"

Their eyes widened at the realization.

"I can't believe you kept this a secret for so long" Tokyo stated and I raised an eyebrow.

"You do realize I never said a word about your secret relationship with Grey, or even Max's with Sky before,"

"But you did with us," Seth grinned and I rolled my eyes.

"Because at that time, Storm kept breaking my heart. I thought he did because of you two, how the two of you are allowed to date and not us. I didn't know you guys were married,"

"Okay, so what now?" we all turned to Zanaya who's still keeping a worried face.

"A reporter saw us two when we went to our house so if both our companies weren't able to stop it, we might be plastered in front of all social media sites any minute," I told them and we all went silent.

Until now, we still have fears... Fears of not being accepted... Fears of being left behind...

We aren't as strong as what people thought us to be.

I felt Storm's hand tightening over mine.

And Storm, everything, do I really deserve someone like him?

Should I kill this love once and for all?

Chapter 29

Cali's POV

"What's happening? I thought everything was settled?" I paced back and forth as the girls try to pacify me.

It hadn't been two weeks after Max and Sky revealed their relationship to the public and here we getting the biggest downfall on our careers after my relationship with Storm had been revealed.

"Cali..." Zanaya was looking at me in worry while Tokyo and Max checks on the articles online. They were using Tokyo's laptop.

It was there, on every social media platform, photos of me and Storm, from our dates when I was a trainee, those days when we got back together, and even those days when we already broke up.

Everything was there and it scares me. I just woke up and everyone was in panic.

I thought it has been taken cared of?

Storm was not here and was still in their company. Our managers had gotten our phones because everybody has been contacting us.

Fans are possessive. Imagine finding out Zanaya's marriage with Seth. That was more than enough to shake our careers. Then here's the revelation of the other two members.

In Korea, it's impossible to have a girl group with all members dating. That's like a suicide.

So now that people know that all of WHISTLE are in a relationship, it's like the end for us. This is the last straw. I know we said that we're ready to lose everything after revealing Zanaya's relationship but it's not that easy.

"Why is nobody telling us what's happening?" Max hissed before standing up probably to find any manager who can enlighten us.

We don't even know what's happening.

"This is a big mess," Tokyo bite her lower lip in worry.

It is because now, people already found out that Storm and I had been dating since my trainee days. You know people are so easy to build judgment by these facts. I saw one article earlier insinuating that everything might have started because of us, the relationship by other members. Heck, they don't even know that all of these relationships were kept as a secret to one another.

My eyes were glued on the door in front of us when it suddenly burst open. A few of our staffs came rushing in. One took Tokyo's laptop.

"What's happening?" Zanaya exclaimed after we realized how even our make-up artists are all coming in. It was as if we are on a tour or something.

This is too much. What exactly is going on?

Was the situation really that messy?

Worry filled my system even more.

What about him? Is he okay? Is he doing fine?

"Manager, what's happening? And where's Storm?" I asked in worry, biting my lower lip along the process.

This situation is so bad. Storm had always been elusive and doesn't really want his personal space to be invaded. But everything, it was all because of me. I know he'd be willing to throw his personal space for me. Because that's just how he is. That's how much he is willing to sacrifice for me.

Just how much can Storm take? Just how much more does he need to sacrifice for me?

One of our managers came in and all of us, except for Max who's out gathered in front of her.

"A press conference will be happening two hours from now. You guys will be briefed about it but for now, you have to prepare," one of our managers exclaimed.

My heart started to beat faster.

Is this it? Do we announce our disbandment?

Or do I have to deny Storm to the whole world?

Who do I save now? Which one?

My dream?

My team?

Myself?

Storm?

My eyes started to moist as my chest tightened. Five years... I'm not even sure if I am counting the years correctly but it feels like it has been forever. It's been so fucking long but the closest we have to happiness is by being with each other.

I just want one thing - be with him. But why does it feel like everybody was against us? Why do we always have to fall apart? Why do we end up breaking each other apart?

Why can't the two of us be happy?

Why can't they let us be and be happy?

These years have been stressful. We always have to hide. We always have to comply with what our company wants.

Why can't we simply be happy? Is it so hard to love these days?

Everything used to be easy even with complications. We love, we fight, we break up, get together, we hide and love again. I stopped whining about it as long as I have him. But why is it always us against the whole world?

"Cali?" I heard my manager calls me and I look at her still lost in my own thoughts. She looks at me in worry. I feel so bad for causing her a lot of trouble. She's one of those managers that had helped me before over my crazy antics and midnight escapades with Storm.

She walked straight to me and I can recognize how she is trying to empathize with my situation.

"You know I always wish you happiness, right?" she smiled at me and my stomach started churning. It must have been the stress and overthinking but I keep on feeling so weird lately. " You need to prepare, Cali..." she stated again and it's like her words kept floating on my ears.

Is this it? Will this be the end of Storm and I?

Just then, Storm's sweet gummy smile filled my eyes, his mere images making my heart flutter, it's indescribable. How he has that impact in my life, I don't know.

All I know is that I can't let this happen.

Storm had given up so much. He's given too much. It was as if I took every inch of him without me knowing and I can't afford to take up to the last drop of whatever that's keeping him altogether.

I can't fail him. Not this time. Not ever.

So at this moment, I know I have to do my part. I have to do this. For him. For me. For the both of us.

With that in mind, I quickly turn on my heels and headed straight outside, my manager following.

"Cali!"

Everybody kept on calling me but I didn't care.

Storm, this time I want to think about him. Only him.

I didn't know how far I have gotten but the moment I got into the lobby, I felt a hand on my shoulder turning me autopilot.

"California!" I was startled when I saw how worried my manager looked.

I bit my lower lip in frustration.

"I'm sorry manager but I have to do this. I need to see our boss," I told her, and confusion filled her eyes but that didn't make me waver even a bit.

For him.

I saw her sigh.

Somehow, I was hoping that she'll understand. She saw it, how everything began.

"Okay, you didn't think of going back to the office riding a cab, do you? Coz that's offending on my part Cali," she smiled and I had to jump and hug her in happiness.

In no time, we were already inside the van heading towards the company.

I was fidgeting, shaking, and basically restless at this point.

What do I say to him?

A lot of things filled my thoughts and I didn't even realize that we've already reached the company.

We had to move faster ad there are a lot of reporters camping outside rather than the usual.

I saw a few employees getting startled when they saw me. I was in a rush and didn't bother thinking why until I reached his office.

I was about to knock when the door suddenly burst open revealing Jano. The moment our eyes locked, his eyes widened.

"Hey, Cali! What are you doing here?"

I bowed to him in greeting and smiled. "Sorry but I need to see our boss. You just talked to him, right?"

"Yeah but, aren't you su-"

"Sorry, but I really need to talk to him right now. Catch up with you later," I smiled to him and headed straight to the door. After knocking three times and hearing his words allowing me to come in, I twisted the door handle without any regret.

I didn't know that doing so would make me wish I headed to the conference instead.

I shouldn't have gone here.

Chapter 30

Storm's POV

"I can't believe you're doing this," I turned around and saw Raze, struggling as he ties down the ribbons. I just passed him another set to finish.

I was about to speak when we were startled after one balloon popped.

"Yahhhh!!!" I glared at Sky and Grey who's playing. Seth was giving out a v-sign while grinning. To think that he's already married with a kid, he sure still acts a lot like Grey and Sky still. Well, he's almost of the same age after all.

"Yah! Why do I have to do this when you're the boyfriend?" Raze snickered but continued tying the ribbons.

"Right. I haven't slept since last night. Can't you like, get an organizer for this stuff or something?" Demo asked and I threw him my slippers.

"You just woke up! So much for being my friend," I scowled and he laughed adorably.

", are you sure about this? I mean, this is something else. You're gonna have to live like how Seth and Zaya used to," Mono asked and I saw how all the boys focus where on me.

My eyes shifted to the letter I was trying to finish.

Two days ago, Cali's boss had called me back to his office. I can't even count how many times I've been called in secret because of our relationship. Half of it, Cali didn't have the slightest idea.

Half of the time, I go out so lost and heartbroken.

BP knew since then of our relationship. It's impossible to hide since Cali and I go to each other's home and had met both families. That's how serious we were at that time.

And that moment after her father got into trouble, I didn't twice and acted rashly. It was too late when I realized that Cali's career will be compromised.

Gambling is illegal in Korea. Her father will be in so much trouble for it. I was able to take care of it but not the reporter who saw me with her father. If things get out, if my relationship with her gets out, the media will have a field day and there's this fat chance that people might know about her father's gambling.

BP was good enough to accept Cali even after knowing that she was dating me. But if the incident with her father, it'll be hard for her to start her career if it gets out.

So BP had to pay the reporter to stop my relationship with her being blown off. And that means I have to break up with her in the meantime.

It was our relationship versus her dreams. And I know how much she practiced, how much she sacrificed for this. So I had to let go.

I didn't care if I had to sacrifice being with her. I didn't care if I had to watch her from afar.

But after a year, seeing her debut and witnessing her having a breakdown, I can no longer take it. She'd been through a lot and I know how much I broke her. She thought I stopped loving her.

But I didn't. Like hell will I ever.

After all these years, we've hurt each other a lot. I've disappointed her a thousand times and had given her up a lot of times only to find myself begging on my knees just so she can take me back.

"Do whatever you want,"

Four words...

Those are the words uttered by her boss. The words that gave me so much courage to finally make my girl happy.

And I will.

The articles coming out online, those were from BP. After he allowed our relationship, he told me about finally letting the public know about it. We know the risk but I gotta admire the man. He had given up.

"Just finish those and we'll go after this. I'm pretty sure they were already preparing for the said conference at this time," I uttered and they all started whining.

Sky's phone started blaring and a huge smile emerges on his face. We don't have to ask who it was.

"And why does Max have her phone but the others don't?" Grey started whining.

"Shut up kid. It hasn't been a whole day and you're whining about not being able to talk with Tokyo?" Demo scowled and we all laughed at how Grey pouted.

This surprise that we are preparing, I made sure these boys don't tell a word to their girls.

"Yes, my GUCCI," Tae adorably answered his phone and we all exclaimed whining about it.

"Can you two stop with the GUCCI?"

"Yahhhhh!"

"Sky!"

I shake my head as I continue writing. Every word that I write is the words I failed to tell her. I'm a man with few words and sometimes, I regret not telling her everything I feel.

I bit my lower lip as I think about her possible reaction after this.

Cali thinks that she'll be attending a conference but the truth is, I asked her manager's help so I can surprise her.

"She what?"

We all turned towards Tae after he exclaimed.

"Storm, Cali wasn't preparing for the conference. She went to BP building to talk with her boss,"

My head snapped towards his direction, a groan coming out of my mouth.

Of course. What did I expect?

Cali probably thought that her boss would ask us to break up yet again.

I stood up from my seat and grab my jacket.

"Mono, I know this is too much to ask but I really need everyone's help. My girl is quite a handful if you haven't notice and I just can't lose this chance," I told him. I look around and saw everyone smiling at me.

Everything has been set. These balloons and the ribbons are just final touches. I look around the place and a smile emerged on my lips.

All for my Chu...

Chapter 31

Cali's POV

"Cali, why are you here? You are supposed to be preparing for your press conference..." my boss asked and I bowed in greeting as I moved forward. He was sipping his coffee while reviewing a few documents he has in front of him.

I can't remember how many times I've come here in this office, all because of my relationship with Storm. And every time I go out, it's either me crying or me being on my loneliest state.

This specific office had never given me a good memory. The news about my debut anything good was all delivered on a conference hall downstairs. Sometimes, I dread coming in here.

"Boss..." I started. There's this fifty percent chance that this talk wouldn't bring me any good like the past ones but I gotta try.

"I know I've been pushing my luck a lot of times already but again, I want to ask for your permission," I started. He wasn't looking at me but that didn't stop me from speaking my thoughts.

"I promise; I will work harder. I will make sure this relationship won't interfere with my work and the girls. I will do everything," I bit my lower lip. Just thinking about losing Storm makes my knees go weak. The situation now is different. Our pictures are now plastered all over the media. If both our companies denied it, it might really end us this time.

"Storm, what was it with him that made you break the rules a lot of times?" he asked. He lifted his gaze and met mine. I must admit, I got really scared for a second.

"Is he worth it? Cali, you've worked so hard, even harder than most trainees because you recognized the things you lack so you worked more to improve. That's why I gave you a chance despite having a lot more trainees who are as equally capable as you are. But Storm, he came and the tower you were into suddenly collapsed. The unbreakable Cali started breaking the rules. The model trainee, the one who never gave up, now, the one who's willing to give up everything for a guy. Tell me, is he worth it?"

My hands balled into a fist. His words, I understood them. Even when I was a trainee, nobody can make me give up. This was my dream. I don't have so much to offer.

I don't, but this is what I wanted. Until Storm came. But I don't see it as a negative thing.

"He is," I answered. I can't tell him everything, nor do I need to build Storm's image on him. As long as I know that he is worth it, to me that's enough.

"Our love, it was unplanned. Nobody asked me to love him. It just came. It hit me like a truck and God knows how I tried but every day, my feelings keep getting stronger, that no matter how many times we get broken, or how many times we unintentionally hurt each other, I can't simply give him up," my eyes started to moist. Whatever happens now, I will stand by my decision.

"Even if you lose everything?" he tested and my eyes closed a bit, remembering how Storm was willing to lose everything for me too.

"Even if I lose myself...." I answered and I saw him smirked. Not even sure if that's a good thing.

"Then why are you still here then? You were supposed to be at a conference. It was your conference. It was for you. Tell those people what you want to say and I guess we'll go from there," he stated and I got confused for a second.

"I thought we will be briefed on what to say?"

Before he can even answer, we heard the sound of knockings on the door and just when Boss allowed the person to come in, I almost screamed in shock when I saw Storm walking right straight at me.

"Good. Can you drag her with you? I swear these girls had done enough to give me a headache for a lifetime. One married, and now the rest were officially in a relationship. Where do you find a girl group like that?"

My lips parted at what he stated. And moreover, the fact that Storm was here in BP like it's the most natural thing in the world confuses me. Why is he here?

I felt him grab my hand before bowing to my boss.

"Sorry to bother you, sir. We're going to leave,"

"Huh? Yah!"

I tried protesting but he was already dragging me outside.

What's happening?

We were already at the corridor when I saw Jano again. He was leaning on the wall as if he was really waiting for us.

"There are too many reporters outside. And news about you coming here spread like wildfire. One reporter was able to get your photo," he told Storm and I raised an eyebrow. Since when did they start talking casually? Scratch that, since when did they start going in speaking terms?

Jano's gaze then shifted to my direction before shaking his head. My hands tightened over Storm. Everything that's happening is too much I'm starting to feel really dizzy.

"Cali, you should have followed your manager and headed to your schedule. Now you've put Storm in a lot more trouble," he snickered and I scowled.

"Yah!" I exclaimed and he just started laughing.

Storm and him high-fived each other and I was never this confused my entire life.

How the hell was Storm acquainted with Jano? I never heard them about them talking or having any interaction.

"You guys can't even use the back entrance. Bobby said there are reporters there too," he added and I bit my lower lip. Did I make a mistake about coming here?

Did I make a bigger mess because of my rash decision?

I watch as Storm started typing on his phone.

"It's okay. We'll use the front. Thanks!" he smiled before turning his attention towards me.

"Storm..." I whispered. He doesn't look like he's mad or anything.

My heart melted when he smiled. He leaned a little and cupped my cheeks.

"Stop worrying Chu. I got you," he whispered before kissing the tip of my nose.

"Yah! There are cameras here. Go! It's like seeing my sister making out," Jano gagged and I almost gave him a finger but relaxed when I saw his happy expression. The guy was almost a brother to me.

"Thank you," I mouthed and the next thing I knew was Storm and I struggling to get passed the reporters outside. The guards made a barricade and the van which I was assuming from Storm's company was waiting right in front of us. He was covering me.

Chapter 32

Cali's POV

"How long have you've been dating?"

"Storm! Do your members know about your relationship from the beginning?"

"What are your next plans?"

"California! What do you think about your fans' reaction? Now that all of WHISTLE is in a relationship, your fans are organizing a boycott! Are you going to disband?!"

"Storm! What can you say about the rumors that it was Cali who probably gave motive-"?

The reporter wasn't even able to finish as Storm stopped midway after letting me in first, even covering my head for support. He faced the reporters particularly the last one who seemed taken aback at Storm's actions.

He can be very intimidating.

"First of all, it was me who made a move first," he started and all of the reporters kept their mouth shut.

The power that he holds.

"Second, when she first met me, I was merely Storm and she doesn't have the slightest idea that someone with a stage name of SHADOW's Storm exists. And even so, Cali isn't the type of person who clings into someone for popularity. I wasn't someone back then and she doesn't need to do that. She'd made a name of her own. She worked hard for it and I am so proud," he stated before leaving a playful smirk towards them.

My mouth went agape and I wasn't sure how we were able to get passed all of those people.

All I know is that he was sitting here with me, his hands wrapped around my waist with my face buried on his chest.

I can hear the loud beating of his heart. Was it because of me? Or maybe because of what just happened.

"Why did you do that? You didn't have to come and fetch me. Now I've put you in so much trouble," I whispered, my hand desperately clings on his sweatshirt.

I didn't know how I had the courage to talk to my boss earlier because now, I can feel my knees shaking. To think that I didn't even got a definite answer from him. Not that I would simply accept it if he says No though coz I'll probably come begging on my knees for it.

"I'll do anything for you Chu," he whispered and my eyes closed as I felt him caressing the top of my head.

Right this moment, I felt my heart warmed. It was as if I was finally at peace. The world being aware of our relationship, it gives me a sense of pride. That everything that we've experienced so far was worth it...that even after all those heartaches, as long as we're still together, that's all that matters.

"You know you still have a press conference to attend to, right?" he pulled away from me a little and our eyes met. My brows furrowed a little.

Why does he look a little tense? Was it because of what happened earlier?

I snorted.

"I don't want to go. I'm not sure what they want me to say," I grunted and I heard him sigh.

"I have no choice then," he mumbled and I simply buried my face back on his chest again.

He brings me comfort. For once, I wasn't afraid. Not anymore.

I didn't know how long we were in that position but I suddenly woke up when I heard the sound of people arguing.

"It wasn't me! Sky was the one who was running around!"

"Hey! You were running after me!"

"Mono broke the frames though,"

"It was because Demo was trying to mess up with me, sorry ,"

"Nobody dared to listen to me. Even Seth was busy talking on his phone,"

"Hey, I was trying to sing for my child. Do you want Zanaya to kill us?"

"Hey!"

Then I heard it, Zanaya's voice and my members.

"Sorry , Ashton wants to hear his Dada's voice,"

"I can't believe you guys left us in the dark with this. So now what? Everything's a mess,"

"Wow! This is so sweet.."

"Ahm, excuse me Tokyo? I'm actually here you know?"

"Whatever, Grey,"

My senses can barely keep up with all the noise. And where am I?

The last thing I remember was me hugging Storm inside the van but now I can feel the softness caressing my back. And I am pretty sure this is a blanket covering my body.

Slowly, my eyes opened and my eyes were greeted by the cutest child that I adore, Ashton. He was seated on the floor just right in front of what seemed to be a couch that I was in. On his hands were some toys I was sure I saw on Mono's collection.

Seth will hear an earful from him.

And then my eyes checked my surroundings. There were balloons everywhere, ribbons tied on long thin colorful yarns situated from corner to corner. On the walls were several photos. Some were pinned on the yarns while some are on frames.

Wait, are those me and Storm?

I saw one photo I was sure I took using Storm's phone back when I was still a trainee. Even then, I always took photos of us together using his phone.

My lips parted and slowly, I tried sitting on the couch.

There were snowballs scattered around the place but I noticed a few of them broken on one part of the place. And then there's this weird tarpaulin of Storm grinning on the corner.

What the hell was this?

My brows furrowed even more.

What is this place?

Is something going on?

One side of the place was trashed. It was as if someone went berserk and borderline broke everything.

"I'll do it. I'll explain to her,"

My eyes snapped towards the very front of the place. Storm was standing there, both hands on his hips, his face tilted upwards as if he was trying to control his anger. I gulped. He kinda looked hot looking like that.

When didn't he ever?

What's funny though is how Grey and Sky was kneeling with their hands raised. Demo and Mono standing on the corner while Raze was standing like how Storm is except that he was looking at the four. Seth was hiding behind Zanaya who was smiling apologetically to Storm. Tokyo and Max were hugging each other.

Now I'm even more confused.

Chapter 33

Cali's POV

I was literally lost about everything that was happening. Just then, the sound of Ashton's voice filled the room.

"Aunt Chu!" my eyes turned towards Ashton the same moment their eyes snapped towards mine. Ashton stood up and walked towards me.

"Aunt Chu, this yours?" he asked innocently and my eyes widened when he gave me a ring, a diamond one.

Max and Tokyo's gasped filled the room while Zanaya was squealing.

What the hell? Why were they acting like that?

"Yah!" Storm's voice echoed the room and he looked so pissed off. Now, even Seth immediately kneeled beside the two.

"I swear I just put it on top of the table. I didn't know Ashton will take the ring," he pleaded and my jaw almost dropped on the floor.

So, this ring was Storm's?

I saw how the girls were all acting giddy and excited.

The place...

The balloons and ribbons...

The snowballs...

The photos...

Is this what I think it is?

Slowly, my hands covered my lips as I started to shake.

"Oh my God..." I whispered, the ring now on my palm.

Storm walked towards my direction. He was frowning yet I find him so adorable.

He sat in front of me and took the ring from my hand.

"Uncle Storm, that yours?" Ashton asked and I know, if it's Ashton, Storm's rage will go on meltdown.

And it did because he faced the kid and smiled before messing up his hair.

The two of them, Storm is almost Ashton's second father. The kid treats his uncle just like that. Sometimes even Seth and the boys gets jealous.

Storm stared right back at me and I'm still in awe. He looks so disappointed but he still looks drop-dead gorgeous to me nonetheless.

Is he?

A long sigh escaped his lips.

"I guess you already realized what's about to happen. You see, we've prepared this for you. I even talked with your boss and had this fake press conference so I can lure you here, but look at what happened,"

"We said we're sorry," I heard Sky whining which Storm just returned with a scoff.

"And this ring, I can't believe this little kid get to give this to you first instead of me," soft chuckles escaped his lips and we saw Ashton looking at us confused.

"Oh my God," my body started shaking and the tears I've been trying to keep from falling started streaming down my cheeks.

I started crying. I was crying so loud Storm had to pull me closer to him and engulfed me in a warm hug.

"Chu..." he whispered. I felt his body shaking.

Is he crying as well?

I pulled away a little and stared at his face. And there I saw tears beautifully streaming down his cheeks.

My Storm...

"You've suffered so much and you've cried enough. I'm starting to hate myself for always being the reason for your tears. And even now, I'm still making you cry," he started and I shake my head violently.

"No... Half of my tears are out of happiness you've brought into me, Chi. You're half of the reason why I keep going..." I told him. I cupped his cheeks and brushed the tears off his cheeks.

Storm, the man everybody thought was cold, was crying in front of me. I always make him cry.

"I love you California. I love you much that the first time I saw on that fire exit I knew I had to stand up from my slumber and make my presence known. Our love story, it was unbidden.

Nobody asked us to love each other. Nobody planned for us to meet. It started weirdly and a lot has happened within those years. I never told you but I knew since then that you're the person I wanna wake up in the morning with. Call me selfish but no matter how many times they try to push me away from you, I'll keep coming back because I knew I can't live without you," he was all out sobbing and I don't even know who it was but I can hear someone sobbing from afar too. Even Ashton was crying probably scared because of Storm and I's tears.

I saw Zanaya crouching and taking her son with him.

Just then, Storm pushed me gently so he can kneel properly and that made me cry even louder.

I can't believe that he's doing this right now.

"I know this may sound unoriginal but I just want this to be official. I want to be able to stop your tears from falling because I want to see you smile," he lifted his other hand, the diamond ring I was holding earlier glistening at the ray of light hitting on it. "Cali, will you marry me?"

I didn't have to think twice. I started nodding in response and just when he was able to put the ring on my finger, I clung into his shoulder as I cry louder.

"Fuck Cali, I love you so much I am so happy right now," he whispered and we were both crying.

We didn't care about what's happening around us but the next thing I know was both our members congratulating both of us.

They were also crying and I can't help but laugh at how funny Sky and Max looked like. They were a mess.

"Calieee!" Tokyo started whining and I smiled at her. Just when she was about to move forward and pull me for a hug, my nose scrunch a little at the smell of her perfume making me take one step backward away from me.

"Tokyo, what perfume are you using? Oh God, it smells awful," even with my senses a little messed up due to crying, I can still smell her weird perfume.

Tokyo's brow furrowed. "What perfume, this was my old one. You bought this with me. Here, smell," she took a quick step towards me, and even before she can move another step, my stomach started churning. My head felt lighter and it was as if something inside me wants to violently escape inside. My hand reached to cover my mouth.

I feel like I am about to vomit.

My eyes started to get teary once again and I felt another kick on my stomach.

Did I eat something bad?

"What's wrong?" Zanaya asked and my stomach was going so violent.

"Restroom," I stated and Max quickly pointed out a door on our right so I quickly made a dash towards it. I felt them following.

It was chaos all over and the girls were so worried. Just after I did my business in the restroom, I was greeted with silence as all of them gawk at me.

My brows furrowed. Even Storm looked so lost.

But what Zanaya asked next shook my whole system.

"Cali, are you pregnant?"

My lips parted and my heart started beating like crazy.

They all looked so tensed.

Soft chuckles escaped my lips. What are they even blabbering about?

Before I can even respond, I felt my head getting dizzy and my knees wobble a little. Storm was quick enough to wrap his hands around my waist but before I can even tell him I was fine, my sight started getting blurry and the next thing I saw was a total blackout.

I wasn't aware of what happened next.

I wasn't aware of how an ambulance came for me.

I wasn't aware of how the media had a field day after the news of me being brought to the hospital spread like wildfire.

But it was okay. Because the very same day, the best news was delivered to both Storm and I.

Our love, it wasn't all sunshine and happiness but at least I can be proud and tell our future kids how everything was worth it.

Our love, it was unbidden yet true and unconditional. That's all that matters.

Chapter 34 Final

Cali's POV

"Okay, this is so upsetting. Why are you able to go around like this when I was close to going crazy after I just gave birth to Ashton?" Zanaya scowled as we sat on the couch, on her hands were a bowl of nachos that we've been munching since she arrived.

"We married two different men, Zanaya. They think and act the exact opposite like each other," I chuckled as Zanaya pouted. It's cute how she'd start whining about it.

"But it's unfair! You always have this time to chitchat with us not worrying that your baby will cry," I saw Storm shaking his head from afar. He was seated while he watches Ashton stare at our baby who was sleeping on the crib. Ashton was simply standing and staring at her in awe.

He can hear our conversation as well as Seth.

Storm takes care of our child. He likes to be hands-on and is always insisting that I take a rest.

"Zanaya, our case was different. You kinda have a postpartum then which I don't. Plus, Storm may have gotten quite a few notes seeing Seth and you taking care of Ashton. So I think we actually owe you guys one," I smiled and it calmed her down a bit.

Every day, her family will come over to visit. Storm had bought our own house after our marriage which happened one month after his proposal.

A lot has happened in a span of one year.

Storm and I had decided to be all out with our fans.

A day after his proposal, both our companies released an official statement about our relationship and our upcoming wedding. But we decided not to tell them about me being pregnant. Like what happened with Ashton, Storm and I would like our child to live a little normal than most celebrity children.

At least that, we want for ourselves.

It was a field day for the media. A few of our fans were devastated but surprisingly, more than half of them supported our relationship especially Storm's fans. We realized that he has a lot more fanboys rather than girls and most of them were okay with him being in a relationship.

Our wedding was held in secret.

It was a small wedding which we celebrated only with our families and friends. It was very private and was held in Storm's hometown.

We only told our fans two months after by making handwritten letters for them. And as much as we would like to share this wonderful occasion, it's a sacred event that we wish to keep to ourselves.

I took a break from promotions due to my pregnancy. Thank God we don't have any tour scheduled. Now, our individual promotions were prioritized. Zanaya just had hers so it's Tokyo's turn now.

Zanaya also took a break after her promotions and decided to accompany me from time to time.

Max and Tokyo, however, were busy. With their individual promotions, as well as the preparation for their own weddings, we rarely spend time with them these days. They drop their asses here occasionally though to see my child.

A month before I gave birth, Storm also took a break from promotions. By this time, it's Grey and Sky's turn to release their solos. Mono was on break too but does produce for a few artists and everyone was quite worried for him. He's not the same after the incident and we just hope he'll get better in no time.

"Storm is so sweet. He never lets you lift a finger and stays up all night attending to your child just so you can sleep," she squealed and we heard someone clearing his throat, and both Zanaya and I laugh. Her husband is such a jealous guy. He gets jealous that Zanaya is best friends with Storm and Ashton adored my husband the same way. What's even funny is that Ashton treats our child like his little sister.

Every morning, Ashton would literally hop across the backyard towards our house to see Zamara.

It's fascinating how we can see the bond between the two. Once, Storm and I got surprised when we saw how Zamara stopped crying after Ashton started cooing her. He started talking to her in his cute little voice. The kid even vowed to his uncle Storm that he will protect our child no matter what and he'll be his big brother too.

"Ashton, our baby Zamara is pretty, right?" Seth asked messing up his son's hair.

Ashton lifted his gaze to his father and smile.

"Dada, uncle Storm said I will be Ji's bodyguard once I am big. I will protect her," he proudly exclaimed. We all chuckled at how determined he sounded.

"I will trust your words, Ash," Storm smiled and my heart literally skipped out of my chest.

I don't think Storm's effect on me will ever change.

Storm stood up from his seat and headed straight to me.

"Yah, you're not going to kiss in front of me again, will you?" Zanaya looked like she's gagging but Storm just smirked. Once he reached our direction, he leaned forward and gave me a quick peck on my lips before heading to the kitchen.

Storm does that. He just shows me affection a lot more these days and the presence of any of our members wouldn't stop him.

I told him off once about it and all I got was his sassy response.

"They are welcome to leave my house if they want. I will kiss my wife whenever I want and nobody will stop me. They can try but I assure you, I'm forcefully going to kick them out,"

A smile automatically formed on my lips.

As always, Storm would never stop making me feel love.

I turned my head towards Zanaya who's just smirking at me.

"I can't believe we are married now and have some kids,'" she whispered and I nodded, agreeing with her thoughts.

Storm and Zamara, what more can I ask for?

Oh, right, Mono. I kinda wish Mono will soon find the right girl for her. Because he had gotten the wrong fan, I hope he gets the right person who can bring back his old self.

That's all I can ask for now. But then again I'm just so glad.

I have my family my friends, my members...

I'm happy...