

A Glimpse of Happiness

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1st edition

ISBN: 978-989-20-3042-5

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Printed in Portugal

Printed by Bubok

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*To my little sister Chezza for teaching us all
how to love and not be afraid to show it,*

*To my dear friend Raquel for believing and
being my private motivator,*

*To all of you that supported me and pushed
me to do it and to those that would have done
it, if you would have known...*

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I. The Beginning

1.

“Gosh I’m exhausted” – said Rachel throwing herself on the couch – “Who would know vacation could be so tiring?” – she asked in a good mood.

“Was it worth it?” – Dee asked handing her a cold glass of water.

“Absolutely! This was a much needed break. I was already excited to come just so we could hang out, but I never thought it would be like this. It totally blew my expectations.”

Dee smiled – “I told you you’d like it here.”

“You’re very lucky, you know? You’re surrounded by all these amazing people... I mean, it’s not luck I guess. When you’re someone so nice and genuine and just utterly good as you are you’ll attract good people too.”

“Come on...” – she said blushing.

“No, for real. I knew from the first time we met... even under those circumstances I could tell you were special. Oh... You

really can't take a compliment, can you?" – she said tenderly giving her hug.

Dee looked her in eyes – "You're pretty special too, you know that, right?"

Rachel sighed and looked down.

"Rach, look at me" – she grabbed her hand – "I know it's hard to believe sometimes but... you really are. What happened to you... What is happening, it's not fair. You don't deserve it. Sometimes good people get hurt..."

"That's life..."

Rachel's last couple of years hadn't gone exactly how she had planned them. Her dreamy husband had cheated on her and she had to face the public humiliation that no celebrity can escape. Still she didn't like to see herself as a victim – "Well, not everything was bad... if it wasn't for what he did we would have never met" – Rachel smiled.

2.

She was terrified two years ago when Dee had come into her office and showed her that video. They had never met before but somehow Dee had been able to pull some strings to make an arrangement to meet her.

Rachel was quite confused that day when she received that phone call from Tom. He had been one of her favorite actors as a teenager, an A-list star. She didn't even know how he had got her number.

She didn't quite get why he was calling her, he didn't seem to know too many details either but he guaranteed her that Dee was a nice girl, someone that could be trusted and that wasn't just looking for autographs, fame and publicity. He had said that she had claimed she couldn't give him any more details because it was a private matter. Rachel couldn't imagine what it could be since she had never met the girl. However, since Tom insisted that these kind of favors weren't something that she would usually ask for and that she was someone that he knew very well and had completely trust in, she agreed. To be perfectly honest after the whole description she had got from Tom, she was actually pretty excited to meet this person.

They arranged the meeting for a couple days later. Dee was flying from Portugal, especially to meet her. She arrived at the London studio set ten minutes before the time arranged. Rachel was a singer and a guest star on a TV show. She had said she should be done around 7 p.m.

Diana's hands were sweaty, she had been nervous from the beginning but now that she was so close it was becoming unbearable. After she'd seen it she knew right away she had to do something. Even though she had never met Rachel in person she had always liked her on TV. She seemed nice and down to earth, plus Diana couldn't avoid feeling some compassion when she thought how hard it had to be to live through all those breakup details and other rumors in the public eye.

She approached the security guard – “Hello. My name is Diana. I'm here to see Rachel.”

“Can I have an ID please?”

Dee handed it to him. He made a quick phone call, handed her over a «Visitor card» and opened the gate – “Go straight ahead, it's the big building on the right, you can't miss it.”

“Thank you” – she clamped the card in her shirt and kept going. The sky was dark grey and a little rain started to fall.

The building was easy to find, just like the security guard had told her.

She got inside and talked to another security guard. He called a young girl that was down the hall, Holly. Holly was a pretty girl, with long blond hair and green eyes.

“Hello there” - she had a gentle smile and knew Rachel was waiting for her – “We’re running late, everything is a little bit hectic today.”

“It’s okay” – actually she just wanted to get that over with – “I don’t mind waiting.”

Holly took her to a back room office turned into a lounge area, with blue and white walls, a few tables and a full catering service. The place was very appealing.

“Help yourself with whatever you want. I already notified Rachel that you’ve arrived. She’ll meet you here as soon as she’s done.”

Diana smiled.

“I have to get back now. I’ll be two rooms down the hall if you need anything, okay?”

Diana smiled. She wanted to be nicer, but she had butterflies in her stomach and it was getting harder to control.

Holly walked away. She closed the door behind her and the room got completely quiet, too quiet. Diana could hear her own thoughts running through her mind. She sat down and waited for a while. She was really tempted to turn around and runaway.

A couple of times she heard steps close to the door. She waited in anticipation but the door never opened. She couldn't stay still so she went to the back of the room to look out of the window. The place was very busy with actors, cars, and trucks coming and going all the time. She actually managed to distract herself a little bit watching people running around on the block and when the door opened 45 minutes later she was taken by surprise.

Two guys and two women walked in first talking and laughing followed by a few crew members. She spotted Rachel right away. With her brown chocolate hair touching her shoulders, an elegant orange mini dress and her so characteristic smile she didn't even realized someone else was in the room. When she finally noticed Diana was there she waved and started walking towards her. Diana waved back with a nervous smile. There was no turning back now. She took a deep breath. This was not a conversation she wanted to have.

"Hi" – said Rachel hugging her – "I'm Rachel."

She was even prettier in person.

"Hi" – she said smiling. Probably the first genuine smile she had pulled off the whole day.

"Diana, right?" – Rachel asked.

"Actually, it's pronounced *Deanna*" – she corrected her.

Rachel gave her an apologetic look.

“It’s okay, you’re not the first” – she said nicely – “Just call me Dee.”

“Okay Dee. Were you waiting for too long? I never thought this would take so long and we weren’t even able to finish...”

“Oh that’s no problem, really. Thanks for seeing me anyway. I know the whole situation seems a little bit weird.”

“Well, to be honest in the beginning I thought it was an odd request, but after all Tom said about you I’m just curious” – she said excited.

“Oh...” - Dee sighed. Like it wouldn’t be hard enough to give her the news. Now she had good expectations about the meeting.

“Really, he only said good things about you” – Rachel continued – “You have a big fan there. He said I would like you for sure, and I think I will. Don’t know why but there’s something about you.”

Dee looked at her again. Probably the last smile she would get from her. She knew it would be hard, but she was hoping that if Rachel wouldn’t be that nice it wouldn’t be so difficult. Now there she was and she was even sweeter than she imagined.

“I’m afraid you’ll probably change your mind by the time I leave today.” – she said finally.

“Why is that?” – Rachel was now confused.

She could hear the other people in the room.

“Can we go somewhere private?” – Dee asked.

“It’s okay. Everybody is trust worthy here plus they won’t hear us back here anyway...”

“Please” – Dee interrupted – “I insist. I don’t mean to be demanding or anything” – she hurried to clarify – “You’ll get it, I’ll explain everything, but can we please go somewhere else?”

Rachel looked her in the eyes. Her deep, gentle blue eyes. She didn’t seem demanding at all. In fact she looked terrified, like she would rather be anywhere else but there. She kept snapping her fingers and Rachel noticed now that she was biting her lower lip. She looked young, Rachel wondered how old she was. She seemed so vulnerable and yet so determined. She was obviously uncomfortable, but apart from that Rachel couldn’t get anything else out of her.

Rachel grabbed her hand softly – “Okay honey, no problem. Let’s go.”

They moved to a smaller room. It was some kind of an office. It was a messy place, with a desk, a couple of chairs and a bunch of papers spread around everywhere. It couldn’t be

more different from the elegant lounge room where they were just a few seconds before.

“Sorry about the mess, but it’s probably the only room not being used today.”

“This is fine.”

Rachel pulled the chairs closer – “Have a seat.”

“Thank you” – she mumbled.

“I’m sorry but... are you okay?” – Rachel asked worried.

Dee took a second before she answered. This was it, she had reviewed the whole scene in her head a thousand times. She wanted to use the right words. She wanted to be as brief and direct as possible, but now it was all faded in her mind.

“Yes. I’m sorry, yes” – she looked at her. No matter how difficult it would be she had to look at her, these would be hard words to take, and she would need to feel empathy – “Well Rachel, first thing I want to tell you is that even though I’ve thought a lot about this before I even called Tom I’m still not sure I’m doing the right thing.”

“It’s okay, go on.” – Rachel said comprehensively.

“In the end I had to go with what I think I would want if I was to be in the same situation and that’s what brings me here today.”

Rachel nodded.

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