

Lana

It's been a few weeks since Shawn and I have been seeing each other. Actually, it's been a few weeks since I even left his house. I'm still paying on the room a month at a time with the money I'm making at the club, but I haven't set foot in there. Shawn has bought me a whole new wardrobe and things for the house. I told him I have stuff, but he said any lady of his will have the best and the newest things. Well, I guess I'm his lady now! Unfortunately, his lady still has to work.

He did buy me a couple of new outfits for work and I'll be debuting one of them tonight. I'm packing my bag with my clothes and shoes and getting myself ready to leave. Shawn is standing in the doorway watching me.

"You know, I can take care of you," he says, his eyes following me around the room as I pick up thongs and heels.

"One thing my mom always taught me is to not depend on no man," I say. "No offense, but you may not always be around and I need to be able to take care of myself."

"Fair enough," he says. "But if you ever get tired of dancing, say the word. You can be a kept woman."

I stop and look at him, then walk over and give him a kiss. He puts his hands on my waist and kisses me back passionately. "I don't know what I did to deserve all this or even why you chose me, but I do appreciate it."

"Lana, I was drawn to you from the moment I met you in the club," he says. "Any man would be crazy to not want to take care of you."

I think back to Leo. He sure didn't want to take care of me.

Shawn starts to kiss my neck. He knows that's my spot.

"You better stop before you make me late to work," I say.

"Maybe I should so you can be fired and I don't have to share you anymore," he says.

I laugh. "Don't do that! One day I'll get a better job and then you'll only have to share me with a desk."

"I don't want to share you at all. I want you all to myself."

I smile and put my arms around his neck. He is so cute when he pouts. "You knew what you were signing up for when you got with me," I say. "Besides, don't you have to work tonight? I have to share you, too."

"Yes, but no one is watching me dance. They just want to know their paycheck won't bounce."

I sigh. "Well, one day you won't have to drive me to work anymore. But for now, I'm going to be late, so let's go."

Shawn grabs his keys and we get into his Benz. It's already dark out and it's cool. The car blocks out the crisp air, and you can see some of the barren trees as we drive through the streets to the club.

"So, why haven't I seen where you live, Lana?"

Shit, I was hoping he didn't notice that. I sigh. Might as well come clean. "Well, to be honest, I live in a shithole motel near downtown. I was too embarrassed to tell you."

"Why would you be embarrassed? You don't have to live there. You shouldn't be there by yourself anyway working these crazy hours!" He is almost frantic. "Tell me which motel and we will go get your things right now. No woman of mine will stay in a motel."

I'm stunned but recover quickly enough to tell him where I'm staying. "But, you don't have to get my stuff now," I say.

"Yes, we are getting it right now. How many days did you pay for?"

"I paid for the month."

"That is the last you are paying on that room." He looks at me. "I know you don't want me to take care of you, but at least move the rest of your things into my house. Please, Lana. It would make me very happy and I would make you happy in return."

I take a deep breath. "Why are you doing all of this for me?"

He pulls in front of the motel and stops. "Because you are beautiful and you have a great personality, and I love every minute we spend together," he says. He licks his lips and looks at me. "I want to be with you, Lana. I want you to know what it's like to live in luxury. You deserve it."

"But you don't really know me. I've done some bad things."

"Have you killed someone?"

"What? No!"

"Then I don't care. We all have a past. I care about what and who you are now."

I am staring at him with my mouth wide open. I have never had anyone treat me the way that he does. I would think this is too good to be true if it wasn't happening to me right now.

"Okay, I'll go get my things," I say, stepping out of the car. I quickly run to the room and pack up my few belongings. I walk out and leave my key at the front desk.

"I won't be needing this anymore," I say and walk out before the owner can say anything to me. I don't even go back to get the money I'm owed because Shawn has more than enough.

I put my bag in Shawn's backseat and get in the car. He grabs my face and kisses me.

"You won't regret it," he says. He pulls into the street and drives me to work.

We pull up in front of the club and I see Lotus and La Reina standing in the doorway smoking cigarettes. They are huddled together to stay warm in the cool air and both notice the black Benz as we pull up.

"Alright, there are my girls. I'll see you later, honey." I lean in and kiss him on the lips. I know Lotus is raising her eyebrows as they both openly stare at me climbing out of a Benz.

"Knock 'em dead, beautiful," he says. I grab my bag out of the backseat and walk over to the girls as Shawn drives off.

"Girl," Lotus says. Her eyes never waver from Shawn's car as we watch his taillights disappear into the dark. "Who is this fly motherfucker you pulled?"

I smile. "My new man," I say. I lean in close. "You got a joint?"

"You know it," Lotus says. "Let me finish this and then we'll go get ready."

Travis

Lauren walks into the office and drops a huge stack of papers in front of me. I look up from what I'm doing and she smiles at me. I started working with the team today and we're already looking into different tips that have been coming in to us.

"Guess what you get to help me do?" she asks. She's lucky that she's sexy as hell or else I would probably laugh in her face and go back to my work.

“I don’t know, but I imagine it has something to do with all this damn paper.”

“Ding ding ding!” She sits down next to me. “These are all the known associates of Big P. We get to go through them and, hopefully, find a connection somewhere.”

I look at the stack and it’s pretty overwhelming. “What the hell is this, the family history of every person ever arrested?”

“Not the family history, but associates of his we arrested. I figure this is a good place to start in our research.”

“We’re going to need more people to help,” I say, leafing through the papers. “This will take us forever.”

She grabs papers off the top and picks up a highlighter. “Well, you can recruit others if you want to, but I’m going to get started.”

I sigh and grab a folder from the top of the stack. Guess I better go ahead and try to make a dent.

“Damn, this reminds me of filing all those police reports,” I say. “I was trying to get away from them when I came back, remember?”

“Oh, stop whining,” Lauren says. “You know working a task force isn’t always fun and games. There’s boring paperwork involved sometimes.”

We’re silent for a few minutes as we read through the records. I make a few notes of names that sound familiar from my previous work and the connections in the gang.

“Where is everyone else?” I ask.

“A couple of the guys are following leads on businesses in the area,” Lauren says. “I have no idea where Q is. He wasn’t in his office.”

“Oh wonderful, so we’re the only ones here to deal with this shit?”

Lauren gives me a look. “You sure are being a baby today,” she says. “What crawled up your ass?”

I laugh. “Sorry, it’s just been pretty rough at home and here. I can’t stand the job that I’m doing now and me and Val are always arguing.”

Lauren laughs. “Yeah, I always felt like I was going crazy when I was pregnant.” She stares at the wall with a small smile on her face. I’m staring at her, immersed in how beautiful she is, even with her hair pulled back in a ponytail and dressed down in jeans, sneakers and a T-shirt. I’m not paying any attention to anything she’s saying and don’t realize I’m still staring and she catches me.

“Travis? Earth to Travis!” She’s waving her hands in my face. I blink a couple of times and realize I zoned out.

“I’m here, my bad. I got lost in thought.”

She rests her head on her hand. “About what?”

Should I say something? It’s not like I haven’t been attracted to her since we first met. Besides, we’re adults. We can still work together, right? I mean, I believe I have conducted myself professionally besides all the wet dreams I have had about her. Maybe if I get it out in the open, I can move on.

“I feel I need to say this.” I take a deep breath. “But you are just so beautiful and it distracts me sometimes.” I laugh and shake my head. Suddenly, Lauren leans over and kisses me. I have to admit, her lips feel exactly as I imagined they would. They’re buttery soft and smooth.

She suddenly pulls back. “I shouldn’t have done that,” she says. “Oh God, I’m sorry. It’s just that you’ve always backed me up and you’re really cute and—“

I grab her arm and pull her to standing. I shouldn't do this, but I can't help it. My body has wanted her for a long time and now is my chance. I pull her in to me, wrap my hands around her waist and plant a deep kiss on her lips. I can feel her whole body melt into mine and she puts her hands around my neck. I'm really glad this room doesn't have windows because nobody needs to see what is going on in here right now.

I pick her up with my good arm and put her on the table and start unbuttoning her jeans, but her hands are already down there and she's got them open. We both pull down her jeans and underwear. She leans back on her elbows and I go down on her. She's moaning and grabbing the back of my head as my tongue finds her spot. I can tell she's trying to stay quiet but it's getting good to her. She tastes so damn good and I'm just getting started.

After a minute of that, I come up for air and pull my pants down. I put my hand on her back to brace myself and push myself inside of her. She grabs my back and makes a loud "Oh!" I smile at her and she smiles back.

"Give it to me, Travis," she says. "I've been wanting this for a while."

That's my cue. I give it to her hard and she moans and groans until I feel warm wetness below. She came already. Good job, Trav.

This time, I don't have to imagine her face on Val's. Her legs are tightly wound around my waist and she keeps me close so I can only do short thrusts as she finishes her climax. Being so close to her, hearing her sounds of pleasure and feeling her all over me is really turning me on and I finish not too long after her.

I sit down on the chair I was in and she sits up straight on the table. "Wow," she says breathlessly. "That was amazing."

I smile. "Hopefully we weren't too loud."

"Nobody looked in here, so I guess we're good." She's flustered and starts to pull up her pants and walks toward the door. "I better go clean up and get back to work before we're in deep shit." She hurries out the door like she's embarrassed. Shit, did things just get awkward between us?

I pull my pants back up and notice my phone lying on the floor. It apparently fell out of my back pocket. I pick it up and see that I missed a call from Val. My heart sinks to the bottom of my feet. What the fuck have I just done?