Chapter Thirteen

**Scene: Seymour Estate. West Building. Day.**

The following morning, Zachary meets me at the West Building which is apparently used by the staff.

(I am quite curious what he needs help with.)

Zachary

“Good morning, my lady. Thank you for coming.”

MC

“Good morning, Zachary. What do you need help with?”

Zachary leads me inside the building.

Zachary

“Well, actually I’m in way over my head on this one.”

Zachary

“Our date isn’t exactly going according to plan.”

Zachary opens the door to a room and gestures for me to step inside.

My heart jumps as I find myself standing in a traditional bakery, complete with a brick oven!

Zachary

“I was actually planning on baking pastries and breads and try to replicate the ones in your bakeshop.”

Zachary

“Unfortunately, this is beyond my bread-making skills.”

(Why am I discovering this place just now?)

**Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Give Zachary a hug.*
2. *Play it cool.*

**1.**

I couldn’t contain my excitement that I give Zachary a tight hug.

MC

“Oh, Zachary!”

MC

“Of course, I’m going to help you.”

MC

“I can’t believe we’re doing this.”

Zachary’s face turns red and gives me an awkward smile.

Zachary

“I would have called your grandmother for some lessons, but then again I thought better of it. This is a date after all.”

Zachary

“And it would be weird to have your grandmother on our date.”

I laugh.

MC

“You’re right. That would be totally weird.”

Zachary

“I remember the time we brought you that care package from your grandmother and you said you miss baking.”

Zachary

“So here we are. This is our date.”

(He really does pay attention to every little thing I say.)

(That’s so rare in a guy.)

MC

“Zachary, this is perfect! I love it!”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

Though I can barely contain my excitement, I try to play it cool.

MC

“Zachary, this is nice.”

MC

“Of course, I’ll help you.”

MC

“This is just perfect.”

I haven’t been inside a kitchen for so long. It’s like going back to my happy place.

Zachary

“I’m glad to hear it, my lady.”

Zachary

“I was really worried I might have to seek your grandmother’s help.”

Zachary

“But that would be totally weird to have your grandmother on our date.”

MC

“I’m glad you didn’t call her. That’s going to be totally weird.”

Zachary

“I hope you’ll love our first date.”

MC

“I’m loving it already.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Zachary

“So shall we put those mad baking skills of yours to work?”

I wink at Zachary.

MC

“Prepare to be dazzled.”

I begin to teach Zachary the basics of baking. I teach him how to make a dough.

I hold his hands to guide him how to properly knead a dough. I’ve never been in my element for such a long time.

(I really missed this!)

We made all kinds of breads: focaccia, popovers, croissants and pizza.

In the middle of making the dough for a French bread, Zachary becomes playful and starts smearing my face with flour.

(?!?)

MC

“What the—?”

I do the same thing to his face.

Zachary

“Oh, it is on!”

He runs after me as I run away, trying to avoid getting flour on my face. As he grabs me, we both fall on the floor, laughing.

MC

“Zachary!”

We eventually stop laughing, realizing our position on the floor with Zachary on top of me.

Zachary

“Are you all right?”

MC

“I am.”

(But I’m having a hard time breathing.)

(Is it because he’s on top of me and cutting off my air supply?)

(Or is it because he’s on top me and I can feel his body pressed against mine?)

**Premium Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Kiss him.*
2. *Push him away.*

**1.**

I decide to give Zachary a quick kiss on the lips.

I don’t know what came over me.

Maybe it’s due to the fact that he looks so handsome with his face so close to mine, that I couldn’t help myself.

(I’ve never done anything like that before.)

(I’ve never done the first move with a guy.)

Zachary just stares at me as I wait for him to make his next move.

Then we start to kiss. The kiss is soft and tender at first. But with each moment, the kiss begins to intensify.

Zachary caresses my face with one hand, and the other on my waist.

We both give in to the heat of the moment. Until…

(I smell something burning!)

MC

“Zachary, your pizza!”

We both climb to our feet and Zachary hurries over to the brick oven. He adroitly takes the pizza out using a wooden peel.

I laugh as Zachary, who’s shaking his head, shows me the half-burnt pizza.

Zachary

“I’m sorry. This date is not going as I had hoped.”

Zachary

“I mean, this is not even me.”

Zachary

“I’m supposed to be this perfect gentleman. I want to be the perfect man for you.”

MC

“Oh, Zachary. You don’t have to be a perfect anything to be the man for me.”

MC

“This date already exceeds my expectations. You remind me of the thing I am really passionate about, that’s baking.”

MC

“You have this gift of bringing out the best in people and making them feel that what they do is truly special.”

Zachary

“That’s because you are special, [namae]. And I’ve never doubted that since the day I laid eyes on you.”

MC

“I’m pretty sure your eyes were stuck on your pocket watch the first day we met.”

Zachary laughs.

Zachary

“See, that’s what I’m talking about. You turned my world upside down. You changed my life.”

Zachary

“I’m out of this bubble that I live in. And it takes a special kind of lady to accomplish a feat like that.”

Zachary held my face in his hands.

Zachary

“Before I met you, I’ve never broken any rules. What do you say we continue to break some more rules?”

MC

“I say, shut up and kiss me now.”

Zachary kisses me with renewed hunger, with a more intense passion.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

I push Zachary off of me and we both stand up. I smile at him.

Zachary

“That smile. It gets me every single time.”

Zachary

“Do you even have any idea how special you are to me?”

MC

“I don’t know, Zachary. Tell me.”

Zachary

“Before I met you, I was living in a bubble. I’ve never broken a single rule.”

Zachary

“You made me realize that these rules chained me, it caged me in. You showed me a different world and you set me free.”

Zachary brushes his hand against my cheek.

Zachary

“It takes a very special girl to do something like that.”

He leans in closer, searching my eyes. Trying to determine if it’s okay to kiss me.

(Please do kiss me, Zachary.)

(I don’t mind.)

Zachary is about to go in for the kiss when the alarm on the timer rings.

(Perfect timing.)

Zachary

“Pizza’s ready.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

MC

“I’m hungry. I think we should start eating.”

I pull away from Zachary, but he pulls me back.

Zachary

“[namae], I’m falling for you. Will you—”

Suddenly, the doors burst open as Bullet and Stefan enters.

Stefan

“Sorry interrupt your date, my lady.”

Stefan

“But something happened to your grandmother.”

Bullet

“She had a heart attack.”

(?!?)

MC

“What?”

MC

“Where is she now?”

Stefan

“She’s been taken to the nearest hospital on Baker Street. Hawking Presbyterian.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“I need to be with her!”*
2. *“When did this happen?”*

**1.**

MC

“I need to be with her!”

(This can’t be happening.)

Zachary

“We will take you to her, [namae]. Do you have the chopper on ready, Stefan?”

Stefan

“It’s on standby at the south lawn.”

Zachary

“Let’s go then.”

Zachary takes my hand.

We hurry outside of the west building where a town car is waiting for us, ready to take us to the south lawn.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“When did this happen?”

Stefan

“Just half an hour ago.”

Bullet

“She was going to do some baking at your shop when the helper saw her collapse on the floor.”

Zachary

“We’ll take you to her right now, my lady.”

Zachary

“Stefan, have the chopper ready.”

Stefan

“I’m ahead of you. It’s on standby at the south lawn.”

Zachary

“Then let’s get going.”

Zachary takes my hand, but I wouldn’t budge.

I am rooted in place. I can’t move. I can’t breathe.

(My grandmother had a heart attack.)

(This isn’t happening.)

Zachary holds my face in both hands.

Zachary

“My lady, listen to me. We need to go.”

Zachary pulls me out of my trance-like state.

I nod.

MC

“We need to go.”

Zachary

“Yes, my lady.”

Hand in hand, Zachary and I hurry outside the west building, Bullet and Stefan at our heels.

A town car is waiting for us outside, ready to take us to the south lawn.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: Hawking Presbyterian Hospital. Day.**

Upset by this unfortunate turn of events, I can’t help but be dissolved in tears as I talk to my grandmother’s doctor.

We are standing outside the intensive care unit of the hospital. Sadly, visitors are not allowed at the moment.

Doctor

“As of now, your grandmother is in stable condition but she’s not out of the woods yet.”

Doctor

“She will need surgery as soon as possible.”

MC

“Please do the best you can to help my grandmother. She’s everything to me. I don’t want to lose her.”

Doctor

“Rest assured that we will do everything we can.”

MC

“When can I see her?”

Doctor

“Right now, we need to closely monitor her vitals. We will inform you when you can see her.”

Doctor

“For the time being, what you can do is pray for her.”

MC

“Thank you, Doctor.”

The doctor takes his leave and returns to the ICU.

Bullet moves toward me to give me a consoling hug.

Bullet

“She’ll get through this.”

MC

“I want to be here for her. I need to stay here tonight.”

Stefan

“My lady, we understand that why you would want to do that.”

Stefan

“But as much as we would like you to stay here, we are under strict orders from the Chairman to bring you home tonight.”

Zachary

“Tomorrow is the shareholder’s meeting where they will announce the launch of your new charitable foundation.”

Zachary

“You will also be officially introduced as the future head of S Group.”

MC

“Can’t they postpone the shareholder’s meeting?”

MC

“This is an emergency.”

Bullet

“Unfortunately, they can’t do that.”

Bullet

“My lady, we can’t do anything about what happened to your grandmother right now. All we can do is pray.”

Stefan

“The Chairman has pledged to fly in specialists from around the world to take care of your grandmother.”

Zachary

“She will be in capable hands, my lady.”

MC

“But we have until tonight, right?”

MC

“We can stay through the day. I want to see her when she’s finally allowed visitors.”

Stefan

“Of course, we will stay. And we’ll be here with you.”

MC

“Thank you. All three of you. I’m really grateful for you being here.”

I turn to Zachary.

MC

“I’m sorry we had to cut short our date, Zachary.”  
Zachary

“Don’t worry about it, my lady. I had a really great time.”

MC

“Me, too. Thank you, Zachary.”

Bullet

“Can I get you anything, little miss? Coffee, perhaps?”

MC

“I would like some coffee, Bullet. Thank you.”

Bullet goes to get me coffee, as Stefan gets a call on the phone. After he’s finished with a short conversation, Stefan turns to me.

Stefan

“The private lounge is ready. We can stay there today.”

(?!?)

MC

“What private lounge?”

Zachary

“Your grandfather had donated an entire wing at this hospital many years ago. They offered a private lounge that we can use.”

Stefan

“We should go and wait there. Meanwhile, I’ll call Bullet on his phone to inform him where we’re going.”

**Scene: Hawking Presbyterian Hospital. Private lounge. Day.**

The private lounge is exclusive to me and my butlers.

There’s no one there, except for an attendant that can assist us with our needs.

Bullet has returned some time ago and now sits beside me on a couch.

Stefan is busy on the phone, keeping my grandfather up to date with information.

Zachary is making sure that our lunch for that day is up to Seymour Estate standards.

Bullet

“How are you feeling, little miss?”

MC

“I’ll be fine, Bullet. Thank you for being here.”

Bullet

“It’s my pleasure—”

Nigel

“My lady, I just heard the news. How are you holding up?”

Nigel moves across the lounge toward us.

MC

“Nigel. I’m all right. Thank you for coming. Are you with Kendra?”

Nigel

“No, she’s in a close-door meeting with the board members.”

Nigel

“I believe it’s got to do with the preparations for tomorrow’s shareholders’ meeting.”

Bullet

“So you came here on your own? Are you sure your Mistress won’t go ballistic over this?”

Nigel

“The Mistress have become more lenient with me after that incident with the ring.”

Bullet

“Oh, so she’s gone soft, huh?”

Nigel

“It appears so.”

MC

“In any case, Nigel, I appreciate you coming out here.”

Nigel

“I can imagine how your feeling right now. I’ve gone through the same thing with my grandmother.”

I remember Nigel mentioning his own grandmother back when we were at Grandma Irene’s new house.

MC

“It’s hard, but I’ll get through this.”

Nigel

“Would you like to go for a walk outside the hospital grounds? I think it would be good for you to get some air.”

(Maybe he’s right.)

(Right now, maybe he’s the best person to talk to since he’s gone through this with his own grandmother.)

**Premium Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Go for a walk with Nigel.*
2. *Decline the offer.*

**1.**

MC

“Perhaps that would be a good idea. It will help clear my head.”

Nigel

“Let’s go then, my lady.”

Bullet

“Should I come with you, little miss?”

MC

“It’s okay, Bullet. I’m in good company. I’ll see you later.”

**Scene: Hawking Presbyterian. Hospital grounds. Day.**

Nigel and I are out on the hospital grounds, walking side by side.

(Nigel is right.)

I breathe in the fresh air which is a welcome change from the sterile smell of the hospital interior.

(I’m starting to feel better already.)

MC

“That’s really sweet of you to come here.”

Nigel

“I know how you must feel, my lady. I don’t want you to go through it without someone to commiserate with.”

MC

“Thank you. That means a lot.”

MC

“I just really wish that the doctors would let me see her.”

MC

“I feel really bad that with all the money I have, I am powerless to do anything but wait.”

Nigel

“When my grandmother was sick, I did everything I could to try and help her. I tried to find doctors, tried to raise funds for her.”

Nigel

“I guess that time I didn’t know how to deal with the possibility of losing her that I got caught up in the idea of trying to save her.”

Nigel

“I never got to say good-bye to my grandmother. She passed away without me by my side.”

MC

“That’s sad, Nigel. How did you deal with the loss?”

Nigel

“With the help of my family and friends. It is essential that you have an adequate support system at a time like this.”

Nigel

“That’s why I’m here for you.”

Nigel

“I know I’m not family. But after all that’s happened, I’d like to think that we are friends.”

Nigel looks at me curiously.

Nigel

“We are friends, right?”

MC

“Of course, we are.”

I give his arm a little squeeze, and my hand stays there.

(I’m glad that we’ve become this close after a bad start.)

MC

“I’m happy to put all that bad blood behind us.”

Nigel

“I’m happy for it, too.”

Nigel

“Always remember that you have a friend in me. And don’t you ever forget me when you become the head of S Group.”

MC

“Of course, I won’t.”

We both laugh.

Nigel

“So I heard about the dating with your three butlers.”

Nigel

“What’s up with that?”

MC

“Well, apparently, they all developed some sort of feelings for me.”

MC

“And since we will be saying good-bye to each other before I go to business school, they asked for a date.”

MC

“You know, so we can sort our feelings out for each other.”

Nigel

“And did you?”

MC

“Well, the attraction is there, I’m not going to deny that. But I guess I’m still confused. I still got a lot on my plate.”

MC

“And then this happened.”

MC

“I usually turn to my grandmother whenever I don’t know what to do. I can’t lose her.”

Nigel

“You won’t, my lady.”

In that moment, I hope against hope that Nigel is right.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

(But on second thought, I’d like to be here when they inform us that I can finally visit my grandmother.)

MC

“That’s a lovely idea, Nigel.”

MC

“But I would prefer to stay here and wait for word on my grandmother.”

Nigel

“I understand, my lady.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: Hawking Presbyterian. Private lounge. Day.**

That afternoon, after Nigel had gone back to S Group Tower to pick up Kendra, one of the doctors enter the lounge.

He updates us about my grandmother’s condition. But I’m still not allowed to see her.

Stefan

“Don’t be sad, my lady. At least we know that they’re doing everything they can to take care of your grandmother.”

Zachary

“She’ll be all right soon.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“I don’t understand why I’m still not allowed to see her.”*
2. *“I’m just glad to know she’s stable.”*

**1.**

MC

“I don’t get it.”

MC

“I don’t understand why I’m still not allowed to see her.”

MC

“Isn’t there something we can do?”

Zachary

“I’m afraid not, my lady.”

MC

“If I donate an entire wing to this hospital, will they let me see my grandmother?”

Stefan

“I don’t think that’s how it works, my lady.”

Stefan

“Just think that it’s for her own good.”

MC

“I know. I just don’t like the feeling of being helpless.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“I’m just glad to know she’s stable.”

MC

“But I’d still do anything right now just to see her.”

MC

“Maybe if I donate an entire wing to this hospital they’d let me see her.”

Stefan

“I don’t think it works that way, my lady.”

I smiled mirthlessly.

MC

“I know. I just don’t know what else to do.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Bullet enters the private lounge. He’s been gone since Nigel left.

(I wonder where he’s been.)

Bullet

“My lady.”

MC

“Yes, Bullet?”

Bullet

“I have some good news for you.”

(What could it be?)

*Read more to find out…*