Chapter 15

**Scene: Seymour Estate. Grand Auditorium. Day.**

We made it back to the Seymour Estate and hurried for the auditorium of the south mansion.

In our haste, we burst into the doors of the auditorium.

(The meeting has already begun!)

All eyes are on me and my butler.

Bullet

“Oh, no, this is not good.”

Kendra and Nigel are on stage.

Grandfather stands behind a podium, anger is evident in his eyes, though he remained calm.

MC

“Here goes nothing.”

We joined them onstage. Kendra flashes me a triumphant smile.

Kendra

“Nice of you to join us.”

One of the shareholders sitting in front shouts.

Shareholder

“This is a closed-door meeting. Are you even supposed to be here?”

I smile awkwardly as I approached my grandfather, who covers the microphone with one hand.

Grandfather

“Once again, you have deliberately disobeyed me, [namae].”

MC

“I’m sorry, Grandfather.”

Grandfather

“Is that all you have to say for yourself?”

I smile at him softly.

MC

“Grandfather, there are things in this life that are beyond your control.

MC

“You can’t keep taking responsibility for everything and then blaming yourself.”

MC

“I know that deep inside, you blame yourself for my father’s death. But you have to let that go. It wasn’t your fault.”

MC

“Sometimes you just have to accept that the people around you will have to make choices on their own.”

MC

“Just like I’m going to make my own choice right now.”

I step up to the podium.

I am about to speak into the microphone, and tell the whole world of what I want to do, when I suddenly hear a voice.

**Premium Choice: Which voice do I hear?**

1. *Stefan*
2. *Zachary*
3. *Bullet*
4. *Nigel*
5. *Ignore the voice*

**1.**

Stefan

“[namae], I only want you to be happy. Follow your heart.”

I give him a smile and in that moment, I am certain that I am making the right choice.

(You always did believe in me, Stefan.)

I glance at my grandfather and see the tears in his eyes. Perhaps he already has an inkling of what I’m about to do.

MC

“Ladies and gentlemen, you are all gathered here because we are about to announce the successor for S Group.”

MC

“That person is not me.”

MC

“Kendra is the right person to run this company and stir it in the right direction in the future.”

MC

“She’s sacrificed so much for this company and I believe that she will make a great leader for S Group.”

I turn to my grandfather.

MC

“I’m sorry I can’t be your heiress. This isn’t the life for me.”

Brandon

“You’re making a grave mistake, [namae].”

MC

“You might see it that way now. But in the long run, I know I’m going to be happy with my decision.”

Grandfather remains silent for a long moment, contemplating what I just said.

Brandon

“I don’t want to make the same mistake I did with my son. I’m not going to get in the way of your own happiness.”

MC

“This is who I am. But I’m still your granddaughter.”

MC

“Please do continue with my foundation. And always remember that I’m just a helicopter ride away.”

Brandon

“[namae].”

Grandfather embraces me.

Brandon

“I am going to miss you.”

MC

“I’m going to miss you too. Thanks for everything.”

I kiss him good-bye.

Kendra

“Well, I guess I can’t say I’m going to miss you. But good luck.”

I smile at Kendra. Then I turn to my butlers, including Nigel who joins them.

I look at their faces plastered with unconvincing smiles. The sadness is evident in their eyes.

(This is going to be hard.)

MC

“Well, this is it. Thank you for everything.”

I give each of them a hug.

Zachary

“Don’t forget to write. I have e-mail now.”

Bullet

“I’m going to miss teasing you.”

Nigel

“Please do come and visit.”

MC

“I won’t ever forget you guys.”

But there’s one person it’s difficult to say good-bye to.

I step in front of Stefan.

MC

“I’m no longer your lady. I’m just an ordinary baker girl from Baker Street.”

MC

“I guess you know where to find me.”

**Scene: Breadmaker on Baker Street. Day.**

I returned to running our bakery on Baker Street.

MC

“What a beautiful day! I just love the smell of bread in the morning.”

Grandma Irene

“I smell something burning.”

(Oh!)

Grandma Irene

“Did you forget to turn the timer on again?”

Grandma Irene

“I’ll get it!”

My grandmother has now recovered and everything is at it should be.

(There’s just one thing missing in my life right now.)

I am rummaging underneath the counter when I hear the sound of the bell hanging on the door.

I pop out of the counter to greet the customer.

MC

“Hello! Welcome to—?”

I trail off as I realize who it is.

(Oh, my god.)

I feel as if my heart stopped beating for a second.

Stefan, dressed in civilian clothes, is standing in the middle of our bakery.

(He’s handsome as ever.)

MC

“Why, hello there, handsome.”

Stefan

“I’m here now.”

MC

“What took you so long?”

Stefan takes my hand in his and brush his other hand against my cheek.

Stefan

“Up until now, I’ve only cared about other people’s happiness.”

Stefan leans in closer.

MC

“So what changed?”

I get lost in his eyes. My voice is a murmur.

Stefan

“Now I realized that it’s time to search for my own happiness.”

Stefan presses his lips against mine. I kiss him back, welcoming the familiar taste of his lips.

Stefan stops and I find myself out of breath. He stares at me like he’s seeing me for the first time.

Stefan

“Found you.”

Stefan

“I love you, [namae].”

MC

“And I love you, Stefan. I always will.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

Zachary

“You’ve shown me that there is a world outside this estate. I don’t want to live in a world where you are not happy.”

Zachary

“So do whatever it is that will make you happy.”

Upon hearing Zachary’s voice, I knew exactly that what I’m about to do is the right thing.

I look at my grandfather with a smile on my lips, and turn to speak into the microphone.

MC

“Ladies and gentlemen, my grandfather is about to announce today my succession as the future leader of S Group.”

MC

“But I would like all of you to know that I am turning down this position. Because I don’t want to lie to myself anymore.”

MC

“I’m not cut out to run this company. Even if I go to business school, I won’t be able to run it the way I managed our bakery.”

MC

“You know why, because my heart is not in it.”

One glance at my grandfather shows the disappointment in his eyes.

MC

“Kendra on the other hand has so much passion for running this company. I believe she deserves the position.”

Kendra smiles at me as I turn to my grandfather.

MC

“Thank you for allowing me to experience this kind of life.”

MC

“But this is not me.”

MC

“I can’t run your company because that’s not what I want to do.”

Brandon

“[namae].”

MC

“I want to run the charitable foundation and run our bakery at the same time. Kendra can run the company.”

Brandon

“Are you sure about this decision?”

MC

“I’ve never been this sure of anything in my entire life. This is what I want, Grandfather.”

Grandfather considers this for a long moment. He slowly nods and heaves a sigh.

Brandon

“If you think that will make you happy, then I’ll allow it. I’m not getting in the way of that.”

MC

“Thank you, Grandfather.”

Brandon

“I am going to miss you though.”

MC

“You can always come and visit me at the bakery. Don’t have, like, a fleet of helicopters?”

Grandfather laughs and kiss me on the cheek. We hug each other tightly.

Kendra

“That’s the best decision you’ve ever made since you got here. Good luck to you, cousin.”

I give Kendra a smile in response.

MC

“Thank you, cousin.”

I turn to Nigel and my butlers.

(Now comes the hardest part.)

They are all smiles but the sadness is evident in their eyes.

MC

“Be happy for me. This is the start a very good beginning.”

I give each one of them a hug.

Bullet

“Of course, I’m happy for you, little miss.”

Stefan

“I sure am going to miss you.”

Nigel

“I’m glad you finally chose what makes you happy.”

MC

“Thank you, all of you. This has been one hell of a ride and it wouldn’t as much fun with you in it.”

I bid my butlers farewell. The hardest part of it is probably saying good-bye to Zachary.

MC

“I know that you only want nothing but the best for me. And this is it. This is the path that I choose to follow.”

MC

“And you should do the same, Zachary.”

MC

“You don’t have to follow in your father’s footsteps. You have to choose your own path and make a life for yourself.

MC

“And maybe that life you’re going to choose will have me in it. Maybe not right now. But in the future, perhaps?”

**Scene: Breadmaker on Baker Street. Night.**

I never regret my decision two years ago.

I return to running our bakery and I go to the foundation once a month to oversee things.

Grandma Irene

“[namae], are the doughs done proofing? I’ll put them in the oven now.”

MC

“Yes, Grandma.”

(My grandmother has fully recovered. And everything is right as rain.)

As I arrange the pastries in the cold display, the bell hanging on the door tinkles.

MC

“Good morning!”

(?!?)

My heart jumps as I realize who it is.

Zachary, wearing a leather jacket, is standing in the middle of our bakery.

He’s changed so much since I last saw him.

(He’s definitely become more handsome!)

MC

“Why, hello there, stranger.”

Zachary

“[namae].”

MC

“Zachary. Last time I heard you left the estate on a motorcycle.”

Zachary

“I took your words to heart. I travelled around the world.”

MC

“I can see the world has been good to you. You look good.”

Zachary saunters over to me. My heart begins to beat faster.

Zachary

“Indeed the world has been good to me.”

He takes my hand. The touch his skin is electrifying.

Zachary

“Learned a lot about the world outside and more importantly learned a lot about myself.”

Zachary

“I’ve taken different paths, but they all led me to you.”

MC

“And here you are.”

Zachary’s face is so close to mine that I can feel his breath in my face.

Zachary

“And here I am, asking you to choose a life a with me in it.”

Our lips almost touch.

MC

“I thought you’d never ask.”

Our lips lock in a passionate kiss. The fire of yearning for being apart for a long time suddenly reignited.

Zachary

“Thank you for waiting for me.”

MC

“Thanks for coming back.”

Zachary

“I love you, [namae].”

MC

“I love you, Zachary.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**3.**

Bullet

“All I want is to see your smile everyday, [namae]. Whatever your decision, I will support you, as always.”

I know what I have to do.

MC

“We are all gathered here not just for the annual shareholders’ meeting but also to talk about the future leadership of S Group.”

MC

“A lot of you don’t know me, but I am the daughter of the late Errol Seymour.”

MC

“It’s a complicated story. But I started on this journey because I wanted to help my grandmother.”

MC

“But now I realize that I will be able to help a lot more people if I’m to become the head of this company in the future.”

There are murmurs among the shareholders’ sitting in the audience. But I didn’t care.

MC

“As next in line to the succession of the S Group leader, I have a lot to prove.”

MC

“But it is time to steer this company in another direction. One that is philanthropic, humanitarian and full of heart.”

MC

“Rest assured that I will be doing my best to become the greatest leader this company has ever seen.”

A round of applause fills the entire auditorium.

I turn to my grandfather who’s beaming with pride.

Brandon

“Are you sure you want to be the future head of this company?”

Brandon

“Your life will be turned upside down and you can never go back to the normal lifestyle you’re used to.”

Brandon

“It won’t be easy.”

I smile confidently at my grandfather.

MC

“Just like you said, it is my birthright. I am ready.”

Brandon

“That’s a very wise decision, [namae]. I am proud of the lady you’ve become.”

Brandon

“I will support you in your every endeavor to help those in need.”

Brandon

“Your father will be proud of you.”

MC

“Thank you, Grandfather.”

I turn to Kendra after giving my grandfather a hug.

Kendra

“I guess you won, cousin. I will respect that. Please take care of my company.”

MC

“I will.”

I move towards my butlers, including Nigel who joins them.

(I guess now’s my only chance to say good-bye to my butlers.)

(After this, it’s straight to business school.)

One by one, I give them a hug, trying to fight tears.

Stefan

“Congratulations, my lady. Your father would be very proud.”

Zachary

“I always knew you’re meant for great things.”

Nigel

“You’re truly a wonderful woman, my lady.”

MC

“Thank you, guys. I wouldn’t have done it without you. I am going to miss you all.”

I bid all of them farewell. But I had to say good-bye to one special person.

And that’s Bullet.

MC

“So I guess this is it, huh?”

Bullet

“Yeah. Can’t say I’m thrilled that we will be apart. But I’m happy that you chose the very thing that will make you happy.”

MC

“This whole experience would have been pretty dull if it wasn’t for you.”

MC

“You never fail to make me smile. I just hope that someday you get to make me smile everyday.”

Bullet

“Well, I don’t think I have the patience to wait for that to come. Because I want to make you smile everyday starting today.”

Bullet steps up to my grandfather.

Bullet

“Sir, you’ve been good to me all these years and I am very grateful for the opportunity.”

Bullet

“But consider this my formal resignation as butler for the Seymour family.”

Bullet

“And I also want to have your permission to date your granddaughter.”

Grandfather looks quite surprise. But given his soft spot for Bullet, he accepts.

Brandon

“I accept your resignation, Bullet. And you have my blessing to date my granddaughter.”

I shake my head. I can’t believe what he just did.

MC

“Bullet, you never fail to surprise me.”

Bullet

“Well, since I have your grandfather’s blessing to date you, I guess that also means I have permission to kiss you in front of all these people.”

MC

“Less talking, more kissing.”

Bullet puts my arm over his shoulders, with a supporting hand on my back, he dips me backward and kisses me on the lips.

Bullet

“I love you, [namae].”

MC

“I love you.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**4.**

Nigel

“My lady, you don’t have to prove anything to the world. You can choose whatever makes you happy. I’m here for you.”

In that moment, I know I’m making the right choice. My grandfather looks at me as if he’s about to cry.

MC

“Ladies and gentlemen, I’m sure you are aware that today we will also announce the future successor of S Group.”

MC

“That person is supposed to be me.”

Whispers arise from the shareholders.

MC

“But that would be a mistake. Because I know someone who can better run this company in the future.”

MC

“And that’s Kendra Seymour, my cousin.”

Kendra is surprised by my pronouncement.

MC

“She’s devoted so much of her time to this company. She’s sacrificed so much.”

MC

“And she’s the only one capable of running it with as much passion as my grandfather.”

MC

“Rest assured, that this company will be left in the good capable hands of Kendra.”

I turn to my grandfather as the crowd’s applause fills the auditorium.

MC

“For a long time, I lost sight of who I really am.”

MC

“Being an heiress, it’s not me.”

MC

“I was born a baker. That’s where my passion lies.”

I take both of my grandfather’s hands.

MC

“I’ve always dreamed of studying pastry arts in France. That’s my childhood dream.”

MC

“And maybe that’s what I need right now to get back the real me, before any of this.”

Brandon

“Are you sure about your decision?”

MC

“Yes, grandfather. I know now that this is the right path for me.”

There’s a long pause before my grandfather speaks again.

Brandon

“I’m not going to make the same mistake I did with my son. If that’s what makes you happy, then pursue it.”

I put my arms around my grandfather.

MC

“Thank you for understanding, Grandfather. Please don’t forget about my charitable foundation.”

Brandon

“We will move forward with it. For you, my granddaughter.”

I kiss my grandfather good-bye.

Kendra

“Well, I don’t usually say this but—thank you. Good luck with being a baker.”

I smile at Kendra in response.

I turn to my butlers with tears in my eyes.

MC

“Thank you, everyone. I hope you will support me in my decision. This path I’ve chosen will make me happy.”

MC

“I hope you do the same.”

Stefan

“I’m going to miss you, [namae].”

Zachary

“I’ll be sure to follow your advice.”

Bullet

“I guess this is really good-bye.”

Nigel

“Good luck to you, my lady.”

I give each of them a hug. Each hug lingering a moment longer, like it’s hard to let go.

(But I have to.)

MC

“Good-bye.”

**Scene: The Breadmaker on Baker Street. Day.**

Saying good-bye to my butlers was probably one of the most difficult decisions I ever had to make.

But it remains to be the proudest moment of my life. I made the right choice, and I grew from that decision.

One year later, I return to my grandmother’s bakery.

(I just love the smell of fresh bread in the morning.)

(I missed this.)

Grandma Irene

“[namae]! Welcome back, my child!”

MC

“Grandma, I’ve missed you so much.”

Grandma Irene

“How was France?”

MC

“France has been wonderful, but nothing compares to home.”

Grandma Irene

“Well, I’m glad you’re finally home.”

The door to the kitchen suddenly swings open, and I see a familiar face.

MC

“Nigel?!”

MC

“What are you doing here?”

Nigel

“[namae], oh, hello there!”

MC

“Why are you here?”

Grandma Irene

“He works here, [namae]. And a good one at that.”

Grandma Irene

“I guess you two have a lot to talk about. I’ll leave you alone.”

Grandma Irene goes back inside the kitchen.

I look at Nigel inquiringly.

MC

“Well?”

Nigel

“I quit my job as a butler and started working here to help your grandmother, waiting for you to return home.”

MC

“And why would you wait for me to come home?”

Nigel is clearly caught off guard by my question.

Nigel

“Oh, I don’t know. I guess I couldn’t deal with your cousin as head of the S Group.”

Nigel

“And you know how much I adore your grandmother, so I thought who better to work for than her?”

I give Nigel a suspicious look.

MC

“Well, now that I’m here, we’re not going to need any more extra employees.”

Nigel’s discomfort grows.

Nigel

“Are you sure? Because it would be troublesome for me if I lose my job again.”

He smiles at me awkwardly.

Nigel

“Can I apply as your butler instead?”

I laugh.

MC

“Fine. You’re hired.”

Nigel mutters something under his breath.

MC

“What did you say?”

Nigel

“Uh, no—I mean, I said ‘thank you.’”

I raised an eyebrow at him.

MC

“Weird. I’m pretty sure I heard you say ‘I love you.’”

Nigel laughs sheepishly.

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**5.**

I decide to ignore the voice. The only voice that matters right now is the one inside me. And it’s telling me one thing.

(I have to make this decision now.)

I glance at my grandfather who looks to be fighting back tears.

MC

“Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make an announcement.”

MC

“A lot of you don’t know me, but I am Errol Seymour’s daughter. And I am next in line to be the leader of S Group in the future.”

Whispers amongst the shareholders fill the auditorium.

MC

“But I want to announce is that I would like to turn down this position and pass it on my cousin Kendra.”

MC

“She deserves this position more than I do.”

Kendra is as much surprised as everyone present.

MC

“I would like to choose my own path and that doesn’t involve running a multinational corporation.”

MC

“This is my decision. Thank you for your attention.”

There is a smattering of reluctant applause from the crowd.

I turn to my grandfather and he couldn’t hide the disappointment in his eyes.

MC

“I am so sorry, Grandfather.”

MC

“But this is not me. I just want to live a normal life. There’s a reason my mother shielded me from all of this.”

MC

“For once, I want to chose a path that I believe will make me happy. Not a path that someone else chose for me.”

I put a hand on my grandfather’s arm.

MC

“I hope you’ll find it in your heart to forgive me and support me in this.”

Grandfather heaves a sigh.

Brandon

“There’s nothing to forgive. You didn’t do anything wrong, [namae].”

Brandon

“But are you sure about your decision?”

MC

“Yes, Grandfather. I know in my heart that I’m sure.”

Grandfather stares into my eyes, as if trying to find out for himself that I am really certain.

Brandon

“You are right, [namae]. I can’t control everything or everyone around me.”

Brandon

“And I’m not going to make the same mistake I did with your father.”

MC

“I’m sure my father would be proud of my decision.”

Brandon

“Indeed. I’m going to miss you, granddaughter.”

MC

“I’m going to miss you too, grandfather.”

I give him a kiss and a hug good-bye.

Kendra

“Can’t say I’m going to miss you. But good luck to you, cousin.”

MC

“Thank you, Kendra.”

I turn to my butlers and Nigel.

(Now comes the hardest part.)

I can tell by the look in their eyes that they are sad to see me go, although they keep a smile plastered on their faces.

MC

“I’m going to miss all of you.”

Stefan gives me a hug.

Stefan

“I’m happy for you.”

MC

“You should find your own happiness too, Stefan.

Zachary takes my hand, and slips me a piece of paper.

MC

“What’s this?”

Zachary

“That’s my new number. I know how to use a cellphone now. Keep in touch.”

MC

“I will. I hope you find your own path, Zachary.”

Bullet kisses me on the cheek.

Bullet

“The mansion is going to be dull without you around.”

MC

“Oh, Bullet. I’ll never forget you. Thank you for everything.”

Nigel takes my hand and kisses it.

Nigel

“Please do visit us from time to time.”

MC

“I will. Be a good boy from now on.”

MC

“Good-bye.”

Scene: Breadmaker on Baker Street. Day.

Months passed after making the biggest decision of my existence. My life at the mansion is but a distant memory now.

(I can’t say that I miss the luxury.)

(But I still think about my butlers—my friends—from time to time.)

Last I heard, Zachary and Stefan left the estate on a motorcycle. Zachary keeps me updated on his social media profile.

Bullet and Nigel became Grandfather’s personal butlers.

(A lot has changed since then.)

Grandma Irene

“[namae], stop daydreaming. Those breads aren’t going to arrange themselves.”

Meanwhile, my grandmother has fully recovered. Everything is back to normal in my world.

(And I’ve never been happier.)

I begin arranging the breads on the shelves. Then the bell hanging by the door rings.

MC

“Give me one second. I’ll be right with you.”

I finish stacking the bread before turning around.

MC

“How may I—?”

My heart skips a beat. In the middle of the bakery stand Bullet, Stefan, Zachary and Nigel, dressed in their civilian clothes.

(?!?)

MC

“What is going on?”

Stefan

“We’re back.”

Nigel

“It’s been a long time.”

Zachary

“We missed you, [namae].”

Bullet

“So we’re going to kidnap you for one day.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

*The end…*