Chapter Seven

**Scene: Outside Club Zero. Night.**

Everything goes to a standstill as Zachary, intoxicated, does the unexpected.

Zachary

“My lady, I—”

Zachary leans in closer to me and holds onto to my arms to support himself… as he throws up!

His vomit dripping down the front of my dress!

MC

“Ewww!”

Stefan

“Whoa!”

Bullet

“That’s nasty!”

MC

“Zachary?!”

Stefan

“Bullet, get Zachary out of here.”

Stefan removes his coat and wraps it around me as onlookers begin to snap pictures of the incident.

Bullet drives away with Zachary.

Stefan

“Get in the car, Lady [namae].”

**Scene: Inside the town car. Night.**

I climb onto the backseat of our town car and Stefan slips into the driver’s seat.

Stefan

“Wear this.”

Stefan hands me a change of clothes and drives away from Club Zero.

(Oh, thank God, these butlers think of everything!)

(But should I change here?)

**Choice: What should I do?**

1. *Change and trust Stefan that he won’t take a peek.*
2. *Tell Stefan not to take a peek and change clothes.*

**1.**

(The heck with it!)

I didn’t want to spend one more second in a dress full of vomit.

MC

“Ugh, this is disgusting!”

I hurriedly slip on the new dress.

MC

“Remind me not to give Zachary alcohol ever again.”

Stefan

“I’ll make sure it won’t happen again, my lady.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“I’m changing here. No peeking!”

Stefan

“I’m not looking, my lady.”

I change into my new dress as Stefan sit in front, his eyes remaining forward.

MC

“I am never drinking with Zachary again!”

Stefan

“Sorry you had to learn that the hard way.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

MC

“All right, I’m done. You can look now.”

Stefan

“So what’s the next clue?”

I pick up the envelope and read the clue inside.

MC

“It says here that we need to obtain 10 pounds of the finest beluga in the city—”

MC

“What the heck is a beluga?”

Stefan

“It’s caviar, my lady.”

MC

“All right. And then I need to have my butler challenge Julien Ducard to a poker match.”

Stefan

“I know exactly where to find the beluga. But I’m a bit apprehensive about playing poker. I don’t gamble.”

MC

“Zachary and I kind of figured that out. Kendra made sure I have a butler at a disadvantage for each challenge.”

Stefan

“I guess we’ll cross that bridge when we get there. Let’s go get that beluga first.”

It took us less than an hour to acquire the caviar.

I can’t believe it costs $5000 per pound. And we got 10 pounds of it!

Stefan

“Now all we need to do is find Julien Ducard.”

Stefan

“He’s got quite a following on social media and I’m pretty sure he checks in regularly to keep his fans updated.”

Stefan checks Julien Ducard’s profile through his mobile phone.

Sure enough, there’s a lot of information there to locate the poker player.

Stefan

“His latest photo was geotagged at the Midas Casino.”

MC  
“That’s great work Stefan!”

MC

“I guess our only problem now is the gambling part.”

Stefan

“No need to worry. For you, my lady, I’ll take a gamble.”

(He’ll do it for me?)

(That’s so sweet!)

MC

“Thank you, Stefan. That means a lot to me.”

Scene: Midas Casino. Private Poker Room. Night.

When we arrive at the Midas Casino we are led to a private room where Julien Ducard and his pals are playing a game of poker.

We watch him decimate his opponents’ chips in one game.

(He’s good.)

(I don’t know how Stefan can win against him.)

Julien Ducard

“So you are the new Seymour heiress I’ve been hearing about in the grapevine. I’m Julien Ducard.”

MC

“[namae] Bennett Seymour.”

I offer my hand and Julien kisses it.

Julien

“Enchanté.”

MC

“Nice to meet you, Mister Ducard.”

Julien

“Please, a beautiful lady like you can call me Julien.”

Stefan clears his throat.

Stefan

“We have your beluga. We can begin the game now.”

Julien

“It appears that your butler is eager to get on with the game. Excuse me while I make quick work of him.”

Stefan hands the caviar to an attendant and he is led to a table to sit opposite of Julien. And they are both given a stack of chips.

MC

“Good luck.”

The cards are dealt and both players are given two cards each.

Julien gives me a wink as he takes a peek at his cards.

Julien

“He’s going to need more than that to defeat me.”

Stefan didn’t even touch his cards. He looks calm and collected as always.

Stefan

“I’m going to be honest with you, Mister Ducard. I’m not much of a gambling person. I want this game to be as quick as possible.”

Julien

“I’m listening.”

Stefan

“You’ve seen your cards. I haven’t seen mine. Why don’t we let luck determine the outcome of this game? I’m all-in if you are.”

Julien flashes him a confident smile.

(He’s clearly got a good hand.)

Julien

“I’m all-in.”

Julien flips his cards to reveal that he has a pair of aces, a heart and a diamond.

Stefan just looks at him, unflinching. He’s not even perturbed by the hand Julien has been dealt.

Julien

“Well, aren’t you even going to show us your hand?”

Stefan

“You already have the best hand at this point. What are you afraid of, Mister Ducard?”

Julien nods to the dealer, who deals the flop.

It’s an ace of spades, a three of flowers, and a king of hearts.

Julien now has three of a kind.

Stefan suddenly flips his cards. He’s got a two of spades and a six of diamond.

(He’s got nothing.)

The turn is dealt and it’s a five.

Julien pounds his fist on the table.

(Stefan only needs a four card to win!)

The river card is dealt and the dealer flips it to reveal a four of hearts!

Dealer

“Six-high straight wins!”

MC

“Yes!”

With all the excitement, I throw my arms around Stefan, who has a smirk on his face.

Julien

“How about another game?”

Julien

“This time we make it interesting.”

Julien

“If you win, you get to double your money. If I win, you still get to keep the money, but I get a date with her.”

I glance at Stefan who gives Julien a steely gaze. Then I turn back to Julien.

MC

“Uh, hello? I’m standing right here.”

That’s when Stefan takes my hand, interlocking his fingers with mine.

Stefan

“No, I’m sorry, but she’s off-limits.”

Julien’s expression lights up, as if in understanding.

Julien

“Oh! I see what’s going on.”

Julien

“Forgive me, I would never steal a woman from a man’s arm. I’m sorry.”

Julien walks up to us and hands Stefan the next clue.

Stefan

“You can keep the money.”

We both walk away from the table, hand in hand.

MC

“Thank you.”

Stefan

“Don’t mention it, my lady. I wasn’t about to let that creep treat you like a prize to be won.”

**Scene: Midas Casino. Outside. Night.**

We walk outside the casino, and I am aware of the fact that we are still holding hands.

(What is this I’m feeling?)

(I don’t feel like letting go.)

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

1. *Hold Stefan’s hand still.*
2. *Let go of Stefan’s hand.*

**1.**

(It feels… natural.)

(Yet at the same time, I’m nervous.)

(I’ve never stood so close to him this long.)

MC

“Stefan?”

Stefan

“Yes, my lady?”

MC

“I—”

I really didn’t know what to say. I wrack my brain for something.

MC

“You were great back there. With poker, I mean.”

Stefan

“It was pure luck. I’m really not good at gambling.”

MC

“You said a while back that you don’t gamble. Is there any particular reason why?”

Stefan

“I’ve seen so many people lose all their money to gambling. And it ruined their lives.”

Stefan

“My father was one of those people. It completely tore our family apart. I was abandoned. That’s why I ended up on the streets.”

MC

“I can’t even begin to imagine how terrible that must be for you.”

Stefan smiles softly, but his eyes look blatantly sad.

Stefan

“Thanks to your father, I found a new home.”

Stefan holds my hand tighter.

There’s something about him that makes him looks so vulnerable. (I want to reach out and wrap my arms around him and protect him from the world.)   
(He’s been through so much.)

Stefan

“I guess now I have you to thank.”

I look at him curiously.

MC

“Me? Why is that?”

Stefan

“When your father passed away, I kind of lost my purpose. I wanted to quit. My master was gone. I have no one else to serve.”

Stefan

“But then you came along. And now I have a purpose again.”

With his other hand, he tucks my hair behind my ears.

Stefan

“And seeing you every day, growing to become this beautiful woman is quite amazing.”

His fingers start to brush my cheek.

MC

“Stefan, I—”

I want to resist him but I can’t. Stefan puts a finger to my lips, silencing me.

Stefan lets go of my hand and pulls me closer to him.

I pull away from his grasp.

(I can’t do this.)

(Not right now.)

(I can’t be distracted from this challenge, from my training.)

(From everything!)

Stefan

“I’m sorry, my lady. That was too forward.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

(But as much as I want to stand there and hold his hand…)

(I can’t.)

(Not right now.)

I let go of his hand and steps aside.

Stefan

“Is there something wrong, my lady?”

I smile faintly.

MC

“No, Stefan. Everything is… fine, I guess.”

(I can’t be distracted right now.)

(Not by this.)

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Just then Bullet pulls up in front of the casino.

Bullet

“Bullet reporting for duty, little miss.”

MC

“Stefan, I’ll see you at HQ?”

Stefan

“We’ll be waiting. Good luck, my lady.”

**Scene: Inside a town car. Night.**

I climb onto the backseat of Bullet’s town car and hands him the next clue for the next challenge, which he reads.

Bullet

“Says here we need to find the most beautiful dress in the city and bring it to the Countess.”

MC

“You mean Contessa Marquesas, the eccentric millionaire?”

Bullet

“The one and only.”

Bullet

“This is bad.”

MC

“Why? What’s the matter?”

Bullet

“I’ve been avoiding the Countess for years.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“Do I even want to hear this story?”*
2. *“What’s the story?”*

**1.**

MC

“Do I even want to hear this story?”

Bullet

“I think it would be better if you don’t ask.”

MC

“That’s fine.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“What’s the story?”

Bullet

“Let’s just say she’s taken quite a liking for me when we first met.”

MC

“Forget I ask. I think I know where this is going.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Contessa Marquesas is very popular on TV. Her reality show used to be a guilty pleasure of mine.

(I can’t believe I’m going to meet her!)

MC

“I think I know where to find her dress.”

We head straight for the Fashion District and purchase the most beautiful dress available from Contessa’s favorite designer, Gianni Cavalli.

Bullet takes me to the Countess’s manor, where her own butler brings us to her.

The Countess is dress in a very whimsical outfit, something like a cross between a fairy tale costume and haute couture.

Contessa

“Amore mio, Bullet!”

The Countess gives Bullet a warm embrace and kisses him on both cheeks.

Bullet

“Contessa, it’s nice to see you again.”

Contessa

“Well, it’s nice to be seen by you after all this time. Come. Sit. Tell me what’s new with you.”

Bullet

“Well, first, I would like you to meet Lady [namae] Seymour.”

Bullet

“My lady, this is Contessa Marquesas.”

Contessa

“Oh, it’s a pleasure to meet you, cara mia.”

I am about to shake her hand but the Countess turns her attention back to Bullet.

Contessa

“So you are not working for Brandon anymore.”

Contessa

“How is it like being a butler for an heiress?”

Contessa

“You do know I was an heiress once, right?”

I am invisible to the Countess. This is not how I imagined meeting Contessa Marquesas.

Bullet

“It’s been great, Countess. Lady [namae] here is an amazingly beautiful young woman. And it is an honor to be her butler.”

Bullet looks at me with such admiration in his eyes that I can’t help but blush.

Contessa

“Well, if I didn’t know any better, I would think you are quite infatuated with her.”

Bullet and I just stare at one another.

Contessa

“All right, let me see this dress you brought me.”

Bullet opens the box that contains a shimmering evening gown.

The Countess sighs.

Contessa

“It is beautiful. But it’s not for me. I was expecting something a little bit more peculiar, quirky.”

Contessa

“A little bit more… me.”

Contessa

“This is simply not the dress that I’m looking for.”

My words get caught in my throat.

(Does it mean we lost?)

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *Offer to find another dress.*
2. *Plead with her.*

**1.**

MC

“Perhaps we can get you another dress?”

Contessa

“Oh, but that is against the rules, cara mia.”

MC

“Then what are we going to do? If you don’t accept the dress, then we fail the challenge.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Contessa, please, I beg you to reconsider.”

The Countess just looks at me.

MC

“If you don’t accept the dress then that means that we fail the challenge.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Bullet

“That would mean that we lost and all our efforts are for nothing.”

The disappointment in Bullet’s eyes is obvious. Winning this challenge means a lot to him as well.

The Countess seems to consider him for a moment.

Contessa

“Well, not necessarily. You did bring me a Gianni Cavalli dress. That only means it’s one of the most beautiful gowns out there.”

Bullet’s expression brightens and we exchange smiles.

(There’s still hope!)

(We can still win this!)

Contessa

“There is, however, the matter of you being able to complete the task from me.”

Bullet

“Whatever the task is, we’ll do it. This is our last challenge. We’re in this to win.”

Contessa

“Very well, this task if for you Bullet.”

Contessa

“I saw the way you look at your lady. I want you to kiss me as if I was her.”

(?!?)

(Now we’re screwed!)

(There’s no way Bullet would do that!)

(This is all Kendra’s fault.)

(She rigged this game!)

Bullet

“I’m so sorry, my lady.”

MC

“Bullet, it’s okay. I’m not gonna ask you to do it.”

Without another word, Bullet takes a step toward the Countess and he kisses her on the lips. Passionately.

When Bullet pulls away, the Countess still has her eyes closed, the heat of the kiss still lingers on her lips.

Contessa

“Oh, my.”

Bullet turns to me and looks at apologetically.

Bullet

“I had to. I can’t let you down.”

(I wasn’t expecting him to do that.)

(Why would he do that?)

I am at a loss for words.

Contessa

“Since this is your last challenge, I’m going to give you a special note stating that you’ve completed the final task.”

Contessa

“[namae], you are one lucky girl.”

Contessa

“Please, take care of Bullet for me.”

MC

“Thank you, Contessa.”

We bid her good-bye and make our way outside her manor.

Scene: Outside Contessa’s manor. Night.

As we step outside the front door, a roll of thunder sounds from above, and a flash of lightning brightens the sky.

MC

“I think it’s about to rain. Let’s hurry!”

I am about to make a run for the car, but Bullet suddenly grabs my hand and stops me.

Bullet

“I have something to tell you, my lady.”

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

1. *Hear him out.*
2. *Tell him it can wait later.*

**1.**

I stand there, waiting for him to say something.

Bullet

“What I said back there is true. I think you are an amazingly beautiful person.”

Though I am flattered, I want to get something straight.

MC

“Bullet, why would you kiss the Countess like that?”

I didn’t want to admit to myself a while ago. But I’d be lying if I didn’t say I am a bit jealous about the kiss.

I don’t even know what to feel at the moment.

Bullet

“Wasn’t it clear to you? The Countess asked me to kiss her as if she was you.”

Bullet

“That’s how I would kiss you, [namae].”

MC

“Bullet—”

Suddenly it starts to rain.

MC

“We’re going to get wet! Let’s get to the car.”

Bullet

“You’re already wet, [namae]. Why don’t you just stop for a moment and enjoy the rain?”

Bullet laughs.

MC

“You’re crazy!”

I laugh in spite of myself. Once again, I am amazed at how Bullet can make me see the lighter side of every situation.

Bullet

“Am I?”

Bullet puts his other hand on my waist and pulls me closer to him, so that our bodies touched.

I can feel his warmth despite the cold rain.

Bullet

“Sometimes all it needs is a second to realize that there are things you can’t control.”

Bullet

“But you can control how you would react to every situation.”

I feel the weight of his stare. It takes me a moment that I’ve been holding my breath.

MC

“You’re not going to kiss me, are you?”

I don’t know what compelled me to say that.

(That was reckless.)

(What if he does kiss me?)

Bullet

“I want to. But I won’t. Not tonight.”

Bullet

“For now, I just want you to know that I’m having these feelings for you that I can’t explain.”

Bullet

“All I know for use is that I like you.”

MC

“Bullet, I—”

Bullet pulls me into a tight embrace. His hard body, pressing against mine. After a moment, he lets go.

Bullet

“You don’t have to say anything right now. I just want to get it off my chest.”

Bullet

“This is not the right time to talk about it. We have a race to win, remember?”

I smile.

(What is this I’m feeling?)

I part of me wants to feel his warmth again, but the other part thinks that maybe this isn’t the right time.

MC

“All right. Let’s go win this thing.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“Whatever it is, it can wait. It’s about to rain.”

Bullet

“What happened back there. I just want you to know I did it because that’s how I would kiss you.”

Bullet

“I like you. I just want to get that off my chest.”

MC

“Bullet, I—”

Bullet

“You don’t have to say anything. It’s not the right time to talk about. We have a race to win.”

Suddenly it starts to rain and we are soaking wet even before we reached the car.

I try to shake off from my mind what Bullet just said.

(I can’t even explain what I’m feeling right now.)

(I’m confused.)

(That’s for sure.)

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Scene: S Group Tower. Outisde. Night.

After a quick wardrobe change, Bullet and I walk towards S Group Tower.

I glance at him nervously, as he places a reassuring hand on my back.

MC

“Do you think we won?”

Bullet

“I guess we are about to find out.”

*Read more to find out…*