

**"STRIKE!!!"**

**BOOK ONE**

**"CHRIS"**

## Chapter 1

### “Life Sucks! (or not)”

I'm gay!!! And that sucks! When I'm eleven that's the first time I discovered masturbating, well I'll be honest the feeling while doing it is so good but the after feeling is so confusing. But while doing it I wasn't thinking about any girl in my class or any girl in particular. I was thinking about my cousin which is a boy and that'll make me feel so sick after. At high school I tried to blend in shrugging whatever gayness I feel. I Played baseball, volleyball, basketball. But what always surprises me is that I don't wanna hang out with boys,,, not that I don't really want to but I just don't feel hanging out with them. Instead I'm with girls... My best friends in life are all girls and I loved it. At that age of High School people think I'm so lucky to have girls around me they don't know I don't care about girl's tits or lips, I care about boys. But high school is tough I see gay people being teased and bullied along the way. Being picked to and trashed. At first I'm so mad with those kind of people who does that but what can I do I feel so afraid to stand up for them coz they might suspect that I'm gay as well. College is the prolonged high school drama in my life. I never admitted who I was to anyone and I go on with the play. I played the role of this one heck good looking guy who can have any girl he wants coz he has

this innate popularity in him coz he's a total jock in high school. I must say it feels good to have that life. People like you and praise you... walk the path you walk and follow the footsteps you have. But as I reach maturity age I feel empty more and more. That all this popularity and life I have is all but a lie! In third year of college I felt so tired on the charades my life has. I quit playing baseball and stop dating girls. My father was so upset when he found out my quitting; he always wanted a son that plays sports something he didn't reach when he was in college due to some injuries he got. He resented what happened to him and put all those broken dreams in me his only son. So when he found out what happen it took us months with the silent war... My mom didn't care at all she said it was a stupid game I will never make a career out of it, she was actually happy that I quit not because she had that first reason but because she knows it will shatter my dad. Well, as much as I have a fucked up life I somehow have a fucked up family as well. My parents got their legal separation when I was eight and from then I felt like a baseball ball that they just tried to pass from each other. Both wanted me and I thought because they love me but now I knew the real reason. They wanted me coz they feel like I'm their precious possession. My two sisters were old enough back then to make a decision and they've chosen none of them instead they lived with my granny who happened to be the only family I knew. The funny thing is my parents

live in the same town and during my high school I have two houses in which most of the time I don't wanna live. My granny's house is an hour away from our town and I called her house Switzerland since none of my parents can touch me when I'm there. As I graduated college which took me five years anyways I didn't know what I'll do next. Sure I have teaching degree but hell I didn't have any idea why I chose that at all worst it's an English literature major. My mom was fishing me to teach in the school she's been teaching but hell no, who would want to work in the same school as she works. Don't get me wrong I love my mom but she's too motherly that sometimes she forgets that I'm not a baby anymore. My dad on the other hands suggested that I work in his business a dealership business I just laugh at that thought I'm an English Lit. major and what do I know about cars aside from driving them? So I ended up having a teaching job in one of the community colleges on the other town next to my granny's. It was a great job coz I had a chance to at least apply what I learned. And also my University is just a thirty minutes drive from me which gave me the idea to pursue my studies and take up my masters in English. After two years of teaching and studying again I decided to quit. My two sisters where kinda worried about me that time coz they feel like I don't have any idea what to do in life. So knowing about my previous job experience and my educational attainment they've managed to help me get a teaching Job here in Singapore. It's

my second year of teaching here and I'm surprised with myself that I really do love it here. The city itself is the kind of urban I wanted to live, have good pay and great benefits, away from my parents and closer to my two sisters whom I love so much aside from my granny who often times visits us. I have two sisters, the eldest Belle is a restaurant manager she's thirty-two and happily married and has a beautiful and lovable daughter which by the way is the cutest girl ever. The other sister I have is Lyra who works in one of the best advertising company here in Singapore. She's talented in this, plus she has a charisma that only money matters and businesses can have but not love. At twenty-eight she's still single and cannot move on with her past heartbreak which by the way is three years overdue already. These two together with Belle's family is the only family I've got and now I'm so worried I might lost because I'm gay! We all grew up in a Christian setting not because of our parents but because of our granny. We all love church and God and there is no doubt about that. I always love worshipping and serving God but had always this feeling of reservation because the moment I knew I was gay I know that whatever I do will never be enough for God. Now, the thing is I don't wanna live in secrecy anymore. I wanted to be me the real me but if everything is just as easy as telling them that I wanna get marry I'll do it, but it's not. Coming out to them might kill my grandma due to heart attack and may cost a lot of resentment

from my two sisters. People will be disgusted at me and thou the University I'm teaching is open for any gender I know talks will start... but am I ready for all of that in return with my liberty? I wanna answer Yes! but truth is No! my rational mind says Nope I should make it a secret but my weak heart tells me I should be true to myself. I suppose my weak heart is not weak at all coz he managed to defeat my rational mind. And here I am in an open restaurant of all places staring in the shock faces of my two sisters as I told them the words "I'm Gay"... no appetizers, no introduction just right straight with the conclusion.

"Shoot me now" I whispered as I haven't got any reactions or words from them and it's been like three minutes since I said those shocking revelations. With their eyes wide opened I swear I almost believed that they passed out only without closing their eyes. And this feeling I have as I look at them sucks! Being a gay sucks! And having to deal with these coming out stories totally sucks! I mean I'm twenty-three for crying sake but I still feel like a teen age boy that I needed to ask permission on what I wanna do. I feel like I asked them 'can I be gay?' but hell no matter how grown up I am I cannot shrugged away the fact that they are my sisters and I love them and that they deserve to know the real me. I almost jumped out from my sit as Lyra suddenly stand and look down at Belle.

"Hundred bucks?" she said as she stretches her hands towards Belle asking for money. Belle reaches out from her purse and handed her a Hundred dollar bill. I'm confused as hell on what is happening. They should tell me something, they should shout at me, glare at me and feel disgusted but all I can see on Lyra's face was a sheer face of victory and total defeat from Belle's

"Aren't you going to say something?" I asked trying to get some real emotions from them. Suddenly Lyra took her sit and smile as she clasped her both hands move her chin on it.

"Well, I won..." there again that smile that almost sent me of being pissed off

"Yeah... shoot!" it was Belle

"What's goin' on??? This isn't a joke.... I'm gay and I like boys not girls"

"We knew for fact what the word gay means brother" Belle said as she took a sip from her cappuccino.

"Then why this reaction?" I'm still confused

"You see 'lil bro we knew that you're a gay... we just don't know when you'll gonna come out on us... but then I won coz Belle here said you'll not gonna come out till your twenty seven and I told her nope He'll gonna admit earlier than twenty-

five and thank God you did what I said" she giggles as she wave the hundred dollar bill at Belle's face.

"You should have waited four more years" Belle glared at me not because of me being a gay but because she lost.

"So that's it? You knew I am gay but never said anything? Aren't you mad? I'm an abomination" I said

"What do you want us to do? Be mad? Punch you and yell at you as if it'll change you or something?" It was Lyra who was chewing custard bread

"Well You could at least cry" I'm serious about that. I mean this is me coming out their only brother and now their third sister but none of that happened.

"Yeah right... you are really are gay... you love drama... Look... Lyra and I talked about this when we suspected you first and what can we say we love you and you'll always be our brother. We are the only family here now with the kind of parents we have we don't want you feel like you don't have a family"

"Yeah besides, you did justice for yourself since you moved here... you were not self destructive and you are more focussed and happy. And that's all we wanna see from you. After all those troubles you've been through with mom and dad" Lyra looked at me intently and for the first time this day I saw a real emotions from her.



"Uhhmm thanks guys..." I muttered as I can feel the hot waters coming out from my eyes.

"Oh geezze..." Belle grabs a tissue and handed it over me. This is a funny picture I know. A guy that's crying. Not only a guy but a dude. I'm not that muscular like those model or athlete body thou I used to be like that. But I'm certainly a dude I'm kinda tall than the average asian only with slim body. And here I am crying in front of two girls.

"How did you know?" I asked

"When you quit baseball in College" it was Lyra

"and???"

"We thought there's only two reasons a guy will quit baseball. First injured and second you are not comfortable being with hot guys in the locker. Then after you quit you never dated any girl. You never went out and bury yourself from studying." Lyra continued as she paused and take another bite from her custard.

"And the fact that you shifted from engineering to English Lit. bro. that was totally gay" Belle said with a grin in her face.

"First of all, I didn't quit coz I'm not comfortable changing in the locker. I'm gay but I'm not a slut. Secondly, English Lit is not a gay thing. You should check your brains sometimes. It just gets weird more and more"

"Should we say that we saw your computer one day when we visited you in your apartment... and saw Manhunt.com" Lyra is grinning.

"You didn't! Privacy? Have you heard that sis?"

"have you heard turning off as well most especially if you are doing wonders on it?" she counter attacked me.

"Anyways bro I'm still surprised that you told us very early. Why? Is there a guy now that you can't live hiding anymore" Belle said as she get closer to me as if I'm gonna admit something again.

"No!" I kinda raised my voice with that.

"No need to be so defensive" Lyra Mocked me

"I'm not. And there is no guy."

"Then why?" belle asked me

"I just don't wanna lie to you anymore. Besides sooner or later I needed to admit this to you. This feeling is so worse. Not that being gay feeling but the fact that I'm lying and living a double standard life"

"Well thanks for being honest to us. We appreciate it and always remember nothing changed. We still love you as much as we love you before." Belle speaks from her heart just the way she looks at me

"I love you too... and thanks you guys are the best sisters in the world"

"Coz we're the only sisters you have" Lyra added

Well this didn't turn out the way I expected. No cries, no yelling no disappointment. No total drama. In fact it was a comedic scene where my two sisters stage this the whole time. Nevertheless, I still thank them because they prove that they are my real family. Round one is done and I have won this round by default coz it seems that my two sisters just handed over my victory belt and even congratulated me for being gay. Now the real battle is about to come facing my parents and worst facing my granny.

I remember when I was a kid and always have my weekend sleepovers at my granny's house. She always tells us the story of how she and Pop (Grand Father) met and fell in love. Now during their days where the culture is so strict that just holding hands would mean being pregnant my granny and Pop had a very interesting beginning. They never liked each other, thou they grew up in the same neighbourhood. Pop so prideful and full of angst and as he reached high school all he does is to drink. My granny of the other hand was the prima donna of the town coming from a very rich family. She is expected to have a great manner and etiquette. But destiny turns their hate to something else. They've become friends because of that one connection they have. Their families are both prominent where pressures were on their shoulders. They hated their families and to escape the

pressure coming from their parents they run away. They've become best friends and eventually fall for each other. Their life had never been easy. It was tough and bloody hard as my granny always tells us, but they never regretted it. When my father was born granny's parents and Pop's parents hearts softened and they've finally forgiven them and welcomed them back in the family. But my Pop never accepted anything from them again. He worked as hard as he can until he build his own name in the society. I had always loved my Grans' stories.

## CHAPTER 2

### “Nice to meet you”

“Good morning Mr. Suarez” the best thing about being a teacher is walking through the school corridors, knowing that every student who crosses your path will pay respect and greet you. This may sound selfish but I like this kind of feeling. Not that I’m the scary teacher that’s why they pay respect but I know that at some point they respect me coz I earned it from them. Being a teacher is the best job coz it gives me a wide platform to inspire many young people’s life that somehow can make a change. I never discover this philosophy in life up until I started teaching. As a student we fail to see the missions and goals of our teachers’ coz all we want is to pass the class, never mind the real teaching. But the Best lessons learned are not the things we write in our exams but the things we apply in our lives. And this challenges me more to be a better teacher, to motivate these students to apply whatever they learned from me. As I walk into the English department office I see the smiles of my co-teachers. I always have the warmth feeling in this office knowing that we are from different cultural background. We have Americans, Europeans and us the Asians. As I sat on my desk I immediately checked my email and facebook for any messages or notifications that I needed to

know. None... I sighed. I went to Yahoo trying to search some pictures for my presentation when something caught my attention. **"Liam Greyson: Newest addition to Merlions"** I was never been a soccer fan, I love sports like baseball and basketball but soccer for me is a boring game. But soccer happens to be the sports of Singapore and Merlion is the star Football club in the country. Liam Greyson... I stared at his picture and I swear a twinge in my heart makes my every vein so alive. There he was with his white and red uniform. He has sweat all over him but maintain to look so fresh. In every angle one will know how physically fit he is, forgive me to tell this but he is way hotter than David Beckham. I never knew who he was not until this day as I look at his face intently. He's so perfect, smiling... posturing those perfect set of white teeth and those thin yet perfectly moulded lips that for one I know how wonderful it would be to be ravished by it. He has this light brown hair that almost seems to be blond that reaches the tip of his nape and almost covering his eyes. And those eyes... the colour of two well polished emeralds that reflects the green forest of the spring... it depicts confidence and prominence yet no intimidation on it. I never knew that I would be this attracted to non-Asians. Sure there are lots if Europeans and westerners around the city and I must say that they are good looking but none of them really managed to stir my

deepest emotions as what this man is doing with me. "Liam Greyson" I whispered softly.

"Liam! Goodness gracious! Isn't he the gift of God to woman society? Look at that masterpiece" I almost jumped out from my sit as I heard Khian shouted from my ears.

"Geezzze Khian! You don't need to shout!" I glance at her as she still remained mesmerized by what she is seeing from my computer monitor.

She glance at me for a second and focus her eyes at Liam Greyson's picture. "I didn't shout... you think I did by I didn't...it was you're shame instinct that made you think that"

Is it? Might be I'm not sure but as she reached my table and started speaking those words my heart is pumping so hard as if I'm a criminal caught in the act. Zhian has been my best friend since I arrived here in Singapore. Like me she's a Filipino teaching English in same university as I teach. She's cool and bubbly young mom. At the age of seventeen she had been a mom and has a seven year-old son which is left back home. As a single parent she had been into many trials that strengthen her personality. She's so accepting and a real friend. She's been the first person I've told my story not because I want to but she has this amazing

confidence to confront me about my sexuality. She never judged me instead she embraced me whole heartedly.

"Well I stand corrected" as she look at me. "He's not only a gift to woman civilization but also with the gay society" she put up that grin that always makes me glare at her.

"hahaha funny" I told her as I pushed myself in my computer. "Excuse me but I needed to do my presentations"

"Oh come on Chris! It's okay to fantasize about him besides he's really a hottie. God! You act like a virgin girl..."

"I am a virgin" I told her

"But not a girl...you're gay and gay people do this stuff" she said as she grabbed one of the nearest stool and sits beside me.

"I'm not that kind of gay and please stop stereotyping gay people"

"When was the last time you dated a guy?" she asked

"Why are we talking about my love life?"

"We are not talking about your love life... we are about to talk on your sex life..." sometimes her overly opinionated mouth is so annoying that I wanted to get a clip and shut it out.

"I'm not gonna talk about it"



"Coz you don't have one" she grin again

"I'm not looking for one..." I answered

"You're the only modest gay I've ever known in my entire life... The only thing that makes you gay over all is your perfectly cut hair and your neat apartment."

She said

I looked at her starting to be annoyed "Don't you have a job? Go get yourself useful and stop destroying my entire day"

"Ahhh... date someone and be happy and maybe sometime you'll understand the importance of girl talk"

"Stop making me like I'm a girl...I'm not"

"Sure you are... even thou I'll say how Donna the department secretary will be so broken if she finds out you're a gay. Sis you are as hot as those other guys out there...only you like hot guys as well...wait a second... do you prefer hot guys like Jock types or you prefer hot guys like nerdy-quite effeminate type?"

I looked at her with a confused look on what she's trying to point out  
"What?"

"Let's get it straight...do you feel you're top or you're bottom? I mean you want to pitch or you want to catch?"

"Geezzze Khian... you are the total epitome of a gay girl..."

"Answer me.." she insisted

"I don't know... I never had gay sex experience and doing it is still out of my mind. And if you wonder what I would feel about being any of that my answer is I don't care."

"Why?"

"Coz I only wanted to do sex with the right person...and if the right one is bottom then I'll be top... and if the right one is Top then I'll be bottom. In short it doesn't matter as long as I do it with the person I love"

"Got it! But you're such a drama queen...Love is nothing but a shit...but it's okay you'll learn on your own" Now this is Khian a bitter woman in terms of love. She stopped believing in love since her first one abandoned her and her son. Since then she never had a serious and steady relationship. She's a liberated woman but not a slut.

"Go and finish your work" I told her

"Okay...but that hot guy in your computer is gonna visit our school next week" she said as she once again glanced at the picture

My curiosity sparks and I look at her with a question in my eyes. She rolled her eye balls and speak "It's part of the Merlion's recruiting program. They'll be here to look for prospect players and Liam here which is an additional import of

the football club will be conducting a training camp for our football players. Meaning he'll be in the school for the entire week." She blinks at me and then gone.

I looked at the picture once again and my heart pounds so fast. I know this is crazy but knowing the fact that I might be meeting this hot dude is making my heart crazy. Everything about him shouts sex and I want that from him. But I know it will never happen. I mean he's a total dude. A jock and a famous soccer player what else would I expect. *But you were exactly like that before you quit being a jock.* My mind started speaking to me again. I know I've been a jock once upon a time but I always knew I am gay as well. But this man in the picture doesn't have any trace of being a gay. So I shut that hope in my brain and I chose to close the Yahoo bar and started fixing my PowerPoint presentations instead.

Before I went out for lunch that day a memo from the administration came in and passed by the department secretary. I read what the entire memo is about and I will sum like these: Every department needs to send a representative to accompany the Merlion football club on their visit next week. Meaning we will serve to be one of their personal assistants. The head of the department come out from his dungeon and started speaking.

"Now as you know this memo requires every department to send a representative for the assistance of the Merlions. So anyone of you wanted to be

that person? Don't make me choose" Mr. Smith is one old guy but he is really a lovable man.

"Can I vote for Mr. Suarez to do it?" I was shocked by the announcement of Khian and I really glare at her as if I'm throwing a knife at her.

"It's called volunteer not nomination" I said making my clear point of objection.

"I'm sorry Ms. Castro but Mr. Suarez can't be that guy. Instead since you were brave enough to give suggestion I'll make you be the representative then." Mr. Smith's voice has its finality tone and we all know that we cannot argue with that. I smiled and look at Zhian which is not annoyed at all. I feel like she liked the idea itself.

"Mr. Suarez" It was Mr. Smith who called my attention.

"You will not be assisting the Merlion's staff but you'll gonna be assisting Mr. Greyson the entire week" he said. My jaw drop and the feeling of shock was just entire my body that I couldn't even talk.

"Since you're the only one in the department and actually in the school who have very great communication skills and who played varsity in college I told the administration that you can be the assistant of Mr. Greyson" then he went back in

his dungeon. Having the feeling of shockness Zhian walk by y side and took my hands and pull me through the door.

"I guess a congratulations is the right word. Let's go and have some lunch as we talked about your prospect love life" she smiled and I just followed as I am still in the state of shock.

The rest of the week had been extremely nerve wrecking for me knowing the fact that the following week I need to spend time with the most beautiful man I've ever seen. I have never been gayer in my life till now as I scramble on things and out of focus because of the mix emotions galloping me inside. I spent most of my days in school teaching and hanging out with Khian at some afternoon. The weekend I needed to visit Belle to foster for my cute 'lil niece Cess who's six years old and nearly turning seven in a couple of months. By Sunday I was back in my apartment and the entire feeling of anxiousness of meeting Liam Greyson is hovering entire me. Last night was a nightmare I couldn't sleep and found myself watching baseball in my living room till two in the morning. As I woke up this morning I felt like I'm not stepping in a solid ground everything seems to be floating coz of the lack of sleep I had. I scan the entire apartment it was ultimately and undeniably so neat. Everything is in order and fixed. Thou it was a one bedroom bachelor's pad I

managed to make it look like so spacious. The only thing that separates the kitchen and living room is a fibre made wall-divider where my Plasma, DVD and speakers are. The living room is so simple with a single long white couch and two black ball-sits on each side, the centre table is a round black-glass with a small black tree origami and which is big enough to have some of sports illustrated magazines in it. My kitchen is small which is just enough for me coz most of the time I eat outside. A built in stove and oven in my sink and small white table good only for four person. I have a mini bar that divides the mini kitchen and the dining area. My entire apartment can be sum up with only two colours White as the colour in my living room and bedroom and Black for my kitchen and Bathroom. I love my own 'lil space. My two sisters own spare keys on it, I gave each one of them so that they can just come in whenever they want. It's more of a family tradition I also have spare keys to my two sister's house and apartment. I walk into the shower and take a good thirty minutes bath. After I walk out from the bathroom I feel my stomach tightens and I was reminded about my meeting with Liam Greyson. The only man that makes me feel so really gay my entire life. I never imagined myself swooning around a guy, thou yes I'm gay but I thought I'd always be the dude in a certain bromance. But with this guy, which I'm sure is not a gay, I feel like a very naïve girl who had her first crush. I feel so weak and gay which I never feel in my entire

existence. I was a dude, a jock and the star pitcher during my college year. Sometimes I'm still thinking what if I never quit? But then I always knew that it's the best thing I should do. When I quit baseball it seems that I closed the doors for many activities for me. I buried myself studying literature figuring out the secrets between the words of Shakespeare in *Midnight Summer Dream* or the Jane Austin books. I lost myself getting fit, I started skipping meals not actually skipping but forgetting it coz I seldom feel hungry. I don't go to gym anymore though I jog once in a while. In short I become the exact opposite of me when I quit the life of being a jock. Staring at myself in the mirror I scanned every inch of my physical me. I'm tall for a normal Asian, 5'10 and my then muscular body faded and now I have a very slender one. My sisters begun to tease me when I drastically loses weight. I'm not thin but they might be right as I'm almost there if I skip meals more. My clean cut black hair lightens up my entire face. Not to boast but I know I look good. I have a hazel-brown eyes, not typically Asian as I never look like a Chinese, my nose is perfect people always notice that. My slightly thin lip which is naturally red coz I never had vices added up. One thing is sure I never had scar in my face due to pimples or any other causes of scars. I was never been hairy; in fact I have very less hair in my body than a normal guy should have. And people always say that I look so cute with my dimples in my left cheek that always appear

every time I smile. I have a fair complexion, yellowish-white. Over-all I'm not a Chinese looking Asian. Having a generation of Spanish in my blood my looks is the mixture of Filipino (malay)-Hispanic. As I scan myself in the mirror one thing keeps on popping in my mind *would he like me?* Of all question I could have the feeling of hope that Liam Greyson might like me is the only thing that runs through me. I shut that thought as I finish dressing up and headed to my car a CR-V which is in the basement parking.

As I arrived at the school at nine in the morning the entire football field is filled with students and that I know the Merlions has arrived already. I parked my car and I walk through the office. This day should be normal classes but by the arrival of the said football club seems created a great disturbance in the school. My phone beep and it was a text from Zhian:

*Where are you?*

*Just arrived at the office why?*

*You are badly needed here in the field now... Your prince had arrived 😊*

Just on her text I know that she is more excited than anyone to meet Liam Greyson. Well I am excited but at the same time very nervous. I walk through the football field where I can hear screams from the fans which composed by the university students. You see most of the fans are screaming girls. They don't



actually care about football and I doubt if they even understand any single rule about the ball game. They are all here just to take a glimpse on the football stars which by the way are broodingly hot. I walked through the management area clearing my name and I found Zhian immediately who is one of those screaming girls.

"What did I miss?" I asked as I stand beside her. We are just feet away from the field and where all the football players were standing aligned as the announcer which I guess is the team manager calls them one-by-one.

"Not much... your prince haven't been called yet" I scan the players, there were ten of them standing and all of them are really good looking and physically fit but none of them had the effect like of Liam Greyson which I only saw in the picture.

"And finally, I know that everyone is so excited to see him. Our newest additions to the team and our star striker from Liverpool Club in England... give it up for number sixteen! LIAM GREYSON!" as the name was announced the crowd just gone so ecstatic. So he must be really popular. I looked at Zhian and was confused by her shocked face as her mouth dropped and her both eyes were wide opened full of amazement.

"Excuse me..." a deep voice from my back said. I followed the shocked eyes of Zhian and look back as I was stunned by the person standing next to me. Everything seems to go into slow motion. There few inches away from me is LIAM GREYSON wearing his football uniform. I knew that he was one heck of a hot guy but standing right in front of him is surreal. Pictures are nothing compare to what you can see in person. He is tall no doubt, I mean I'm 5'10 but I still need to look up to see his face. If I'm right he might be 6'2, well built with a Lean Muscular body. His sparkling emerald eyes just hypnotize me. He kinda reminds me of Alex Pettyfer the hot British actor from the movie I AM NUMBER FOUR only Liam is the older and more mature version. Then I heard his deep voice again.

"I need to get through" he said. Then I managed to step aside to make an opening for him still unable to say any single word.

"Thanks" then he run through the field and on his half way on the mini platform he looked back and smile towards our direction and gives a wink. I swear that my heart literally stops. I felt like that smile and wink was just for me. I looked at Zhian which has the same facial expression only she wasn't looking at Liam but she's looking at me.

"Did he just wink..." I said unable to finish my line coz she interrupted.

"at you..." she said

"Yeah... at me" still my voice is kinda hiding.

"What's with you?" She asked me with still that shock look in her face. I looked at her with full of question and she got it. She looks at me from head to foot twice and then covers his mouth with amazement in her eyes.

"Oh geezzee... Chris he likes you!" she blurted out

"What?!" just then people near us turned their heads towards our direction. I lowered my voice and grab Zhian's arms and move back.

"What are you talking about? Are you crazy?" I said

"Duh! He turned his head, smiled and winks at you...at your exact direction" she said trying to lower down her voice.

"You're imagining things... he didn't do what you think he does"

"Oh really? You believe that. Coz all I see in that pretty boyish face of yours is different than what you are saying. Admit it Chris you want him to like you... which I think he does"

"Even if I like him it will not make any difference... Look He's one heck of a superstar, a real dude and totally straight" I said

"Then wait 'till you meet each other and that will be..." she looked to where we were standing a while ago and a mischievous smile lights up her face. "in a couple of second" she gestured her fingers pointing in the direction she's looking at. And

Liam was standing there his eyes on us. Well not on us, but I kinda feel his eyes are in me. He walks towards our place and every step he takes I can feel my heart goes faster. The feeling of having a fever is all over me and I don't know what to do.

"Here comes the prince...now tell me he doesn't like you" Zhian whispered as she smiled at Liam which is just two steps away from us.

"Hi!" he said offering his hands... yes to me! I stared at him not knowing what to do. Zhian accepted his hand gesture and introduce herself

"Hello, I'm Zhian Castro... one of the staff assistant of the Merlions for the school visits" she said. She looked at me " And this is Chris Suarez..."

"Nice to meet you Chris" Liam once again offered his hands to me. Zhian simply bumped me from my side and that gives me the hint to take Liam's hands. As soon as my hands touch his a voltage of electricity runs through it. It sounds so cheesy and too romantic story but that's the best way to describe what I felt. Well electricity nowadays are built to push you away from it but this kind of electricity I felt with Liam is different, instead it draws me closer to him.

"Nice to meet you" I said.

## CHAPTER 3

### "What a JOCK!"

I know that he is my responsibility as he stays in the school but I've managed to get away from him the whole day. It seems no one noticed that I'm gone instead I continue on with my normal classes. I was already packing up some stuff for me to take home when Mr. Smith called me in his office. This sounds trouble and I definitely know its trouble and I'm sure that it's about my escape from my duty to assist Liam for the entire day. As I was making my way to his office I'm trying to rehearse my reasons in my mind. I'll simply say that I needed to give some instructions to my students but then I know that was a lame excuse. I opened the door and there he was sitting on the office couch reading some magazine. He looked at me and there's that smile that I think specially made for me.

"Mr. Suarez" It was Mr. Smith recognizing my arrival.

"So, I heard that you miss your duty the entire day" he continued and I know this is gonna happen but not with the presence of Liam.

"Ah yah... I just needed to give some..." I haven't finished what I was trying to say when he interrupted me.

"It's okay Mr. Smith..." Liam said. He moved in the chair on the front of Mr. Smith's table. I take the other one and now we are sitting face to face.

"So Mr. Greyson... This is "

"Chris...I know him we already met" Liam maintain the calm and that grin that for me somewhat teasing.

"Oh I see. So he'll be assisting you tomorrow and the entire week of your stay here and I'll make sure he'll do his job" Mr. Smith said as he pierces his eyes on me giving me a warning not to escape again.

"Okay but I might need his help tonight if that's okay..." he looks at Mr. Smith trying to ask for his permission but sounded like demanding him to let me go. First of all it's not Mr. Smith's decision if I'm okay with that. That's pass office hours meaning I don't have any more responsibilities with him or the school.

"Sure he will help you, right Chris?" Mr. Smith's tone is not interrogative but in a declarative tone.

"Yeah sure..."

"Good so I'll pick you up at seven then and we'll go..." Liam said as If he owns me.

"Off you go then..." Mr. Smith dismissed us and Liam walks through the door without even looking back. I felt so drained by that five minute meeting. I grab my

things and drove to my apartment. I doubt if he'll come anyways he doesn't have my address.

I was busy cooking for my dinner which is very unusual coz I don't cook that much, but I wanna make myself busy for the rest of the night that's why I started cooking my own version of spaghetti with pineapple chunks and seafood. I was about to put it on my plate when I heard my buzzer from the front desk of the apartment building I am living. I looked at the clock and it's seven, wondering who might that be. I know my sisters don't need the buzz as the guards knew them already. I went to the door and answer the buzzer with the video when I was startled by who I've seen... it was LIAM!

"Hey...It's seven are you ready?" he asked. I looked at what I'm wearing a boxers and sleeveless shirt, Am I ready? I didn't even hope that this meeting will be happening at all.

"Just a minute"

"Aren't you gonna invite me upstairs?" I wanna answer no but he wasn't in there anymore. Wondering where he might be I went back to the kitchen to put the spaghetti on the refrigerator before I'll change when I hear three knocks on my door.

"Shoot!" I almost slipped the plate in my hands. Again there was another three knocks and I hurried myself to open it. He was wearing black jeans, snickers and roll-up polo. He looks like a man who walks out from a billboard, just simply breath taking.

"Hi..." that was me.

"You look under dress..." he look at me from head to foot and suddenly I become so aware of my whole being. I felt he was stripping me down by the way he scan me.

"I'm sorry I thought we'll not be going tonight"

"Who told you?" he entered and began wondering his eyes around my apartment.

"Sweet... this is cozy... and so neat"

"Thanks..."

"So who told you?" repeating the same question makes me think of a good possible excuse but I can't instead I settled to tell the truth.

"No one...I just assume... besides you didn't even get my address and even any contact details about where I live."



"Assumptions can kill. I got your address to Mr. Smith. And remind me about your mobile number" he walk through the couch and take his sit. He felt so at home or it was just his natural cockiness. "What's that smell?"

"I'm actually cooking my dinner. Coz again I didn't think I'll be going out tonight"

"What did you cook?"

"Spaghetti but never mind just wait a sec and I'll just get ready" Before I can even run to my room I felt his hands on my risk grabbing me to sit beside him.

"It's okay... I don't have any plan actually" he looked me intently in the eyes and my heart skip a bit. This kind of attraction I'm feeling is scaring me to hell.

"Then why did you tell Mr. Smith you needed my help?"

"Coz I do..." he relaxed and rested his head on the sofa. I can see how tired he is and how drain his body. "I need a friend here..."

"How 'bout your team mates?" I asked

"They are my friends...but they always do what they do and I'm not up to that every time" I don't know what he's talking about but I have the feeling that he doesn't like what his team mates might be doing at night. "I've been here for a month and every time we go out its always party and meeting girls and party and meeting girls again..." I knew it he's straight.

"What's wrong with that" I stared at him with his closed eyes and God knows how beautiful this man is.

"Nothing... It's just too much partying I guess and tiring" he massages his temples and I know that he is really tired.

"Have you eaten your dinner?"

"Nope..." I stand and went to the kitchen.

"I'll prepare us some food just take a rest for a while" Good thing I always cook extras coz I don't know what day my sisters will come. I prepared two plates of spaghetti and made a sandwich, I always have loaf and spreads with me. I opened a red wine from the bar and pour it on our glasses. I went back in the living room and saw him sleeping. I didn't know if I should wake him up or call him for dinner. He might feel my presence as he slowly opened his eyes and look up on me.

"I'm sorry too tired..."

"It's okay... come on let's eat" I waited for him to stand and we both sit in the dining table.

"So you cook... That's great of you. I never knew how to cook." He smiled. I was about to take a bite of my sandwich when he stopped me."Let's say grace first" I was surprised that a jock knows how to pray. He initiated the prayer and just makes it simple and quick.

We started eating as we talk about some stuffs most about sports and our schedule for the entire week. We were both done when he volunteered himself to wash the dishes.

"Nope... You're extremely tired just go to the living room and watch TV" I objected

"Let's just do it together... please let me help you... I feel so guilty of letting you cook instead of eating outside" I guess it's too much to argue with him so we just wash the dishes together. While doing it we talked about his stay in Singapore as I shared my experience during my first year here. When I arrived here it wasn't that hard coz I first lived with Lyra. But when I moved out and lived on my own I did have my fair share of struggles which is comedic on most ways. I told him about my first public humiliation when I got on the wrong train and got lost in the city. He on the other hand never tried public transportations yet. He arrived here last month and since then he started his training with the team. He hasn't seen the city that much. When we are done we moved in the living room. I made some tea for us and we watch sports and since the only sport available is tennis we haven't paid much attention on it.

"Liam why me?" I asked about me being his friend

"Why you?"

"I mean why you chose to be friends with me? You are a sports superstar you can be friends with anyone but why me?"

"I don't know. Maybe just a gut feeling that you are a good person and It might be cool to hang around with you."

"How would you feel that? I actually didn't do my job in assisting you. You should be pissed off at me instead" I took a sip trying to calm my nerves again.

"That's one thing as well. I guess you don't really like me at all coz obviously you don't wanna deal with me. But I want people who don't like me. Meaning they don't need to impress me and they'll just remain true to themselves" Now there's two things that's not clear to him on what he says. First, I do like him in contrast to what he believes that I don't like him. And the other one is that I am not being true to myself when I'm with him. I should tell him that I'm gay if he really wanted to be friends with me. I don't wanna be lying to any other people around me that is a potential friend, but I wanted him to be my friend and I'm scared that he might be disgusted if I told him the real me.

"That's not true..." I said trying to find words to say. He look at me confuse of what I am saying. "I do like you..." that come out to be a whisper but he managed to hear it.

"That's good then..."

"And there's one thing you need to know about me if you wanted to be friends with me" I took a deep breath and still I'm not sure if this is the right thing to do but I feel like I need to be honest with him. "Liam...I'm gay..." I look straight into his face but I didn't see any shock or disgusted reaction. Instead his eyes meet mine and saw how it softened shouting of understanding.

"I just want you to know that..."

"Do you like me?" he asked

"Yes...I just said that" I answered not pulling away from his eyes.

"Are you attracted with me?" That was too much to answer. I pull away from our stare and tried to look on the television.

"What kind of question is that..."

"Just answer me Chris... Are you attracted with me?" he demanded for my answer

"Does it matter?" I look back at him and this time my face is really asking him that question. Would it matter to him if I said YES? Would he run away from me? With this potential friendship we might have will just banish because I'm attracted with him?

"Yes it does... so Answer me...Are you attracted to me?"

"Yah... I am" Right after I said those words I felt his lips on mine. I was astounded but at the same time felt so good. My first kiss with a man and it was that fast approach. I parted my lips giving him an opening as I felt his tongue slip into mine. I felt every part of me moved as I tasted his hotness inside my mouth. It felt so amazing. His tongue travelling everywhere they can get and I fought back as ours are like warriors but not trying to kill each other but complimenting each other in a very artistic yet erotic way. I can feel my lungs trying to hold on for more oxygen but I can't anymore. I didn't know who pulled out first but when I look at him I saw those two pairs of emeralds looking at me with burning passion. I open my mouth to ask something but then again I closed it.

"I like you too..." he said he held my hands and put a simple kiss on it. "I really do like you"

"But why?" that's all I can say

"Do you always try to comprehend things?" he asked me as he pull me closer to him. Now my head is laying in his chest. I can feel the beat of his heart and the hotness of his body.

"How would you like me... I mean you are not gay...You don't look like one either"

"You are right...I'm not gay or Bisexual... But it doesn't mean I don't like to like guys" I didn't understand what he was trying to say. Coz for me if you like guys then you are gay.

"I don't like labels... They create confusions and problems. For me I don't care who to like and be attracted with. Things like this just come... it's not a choice." I smiled and held his hands so tight. I can't believe it. Liam Greyson the hottest football player in the county likes me.

"Then what did you like about me?"

"Have you ever seen yourself in the mirror?" He straightens me up and caresses my face. "You are absolutely adorable. Chris you're such a beauty and you should know that."

"And you are perfection... You can have anyone you want" I muttered.

"Yah? Then I want you... so can I have you?" he smiled, well more of a grin and that was so cute of him.

"What if I say No?" I teased him "it doesn't mean you kiss me you can have me... I'm not that easy... you should work hard to get me" I smiled back at him.

"Then perhaps I'll start working hard then" she planted small kisses on my face then moved to my neck teasing me to let go and kiss him back. "Is this working?" he asked as he continues to lavish me with his kisses. He moved his hands

and caresses my back. I let out a soft moan as I felt the touch of his hands on my back that sent me a different feeling of ecstasy. "ahmmm... I can feel tiny approval there...perhaps this can make you surrender." He slips his hands from my shirt and touches my abdomen circling his fingers into my belly button. Then a louder moan came out from me as his lips are kissing my earlobe. "almost there???" he moved his hands upper as he caresses my chest and then I felt his finger teasing my nipples and circling it with them, when his tongue simply lick the back of ear.

"Oh God Liam!" I let go and I grab his head and kiss his mouth as hard as I can as his hands continue on exploring my upper body. He pulled back and look me in the eyes with that jockish smile.

"So can I have you now? Are you mine?" I nodded as he bent down and continue on kissing me. He guided me through the couch as my back touches the cushions and I felt his weight above me. I wrapped my hand on his neck stroking his hair. I let my hands explore his back and I felt every muscle on it. He crushed his body when I felt his erection to mine scratching each other. That sends me an extraordinary feeling. I felt his hands lowered down from my chest to my stomach down to my fully erected manhood... and as much as pleasurable that is...I felt the surge of fear came through me. One thing is on my mind, I wasn't ready for this.



I'm not yet ready for sex. I let go from our kiss and tried to push him from me but he was too strong.

"What?" he asked as he continues on to plant kisses on my neck "don't you want this here?" still teasing me.

"I do... I really do like it Liam..."

"But?" he stared at me with a question on his face.

"I'm not yet ready..." I close my eyes feeling ashamed of myself. "Sorry...But I don't think I can do this now"

"shhh... it's okay babe" he sat down but held my hands. "Open your eyes and look at me" I did and I sat down and look into his very captivating eyes. "I'm not rushing you and I will never pressure you for something you are not yet ready. Hey, you're my first too..." he smiled at me assuring me that he is not offended. "Come here" gesturing me for a hug and I did. I clutch my hands in his body and I feel how he squeezes me making me feel I'm safe with him.

"Thanks..." We remained like that for some more minutes feeling his body into mine. I'm scared of what feeling I'm having for him. He's a jock and basing from experience this might just be one of his escapades. As my mind tried to rationalize everything my heart says differently.

"You know what" he let go from our embrace and face me again. "It's getting late I should get going" he gives me a kiss from my lips and motioned to stand but I'm not yet ready to let him go. I grabbed him back and locked him from my embrace. "whooh... easy there babe... we'll gonna see each other tomorrow"

"Stay..." it's more of a plea than request. "Stay for tonight please"

"I need to be early tomorrow...and believe me I would love to..." I let go feeling disappointed. I feel like I'm so sissy right now and I look at him and saw how hard it is for him to go as well.

"You are really cute..." he said and give me another kiss then he stand. "But I really need to go." I accompany him to my door as he hugs me one last time and give me a peck. I closed my door trying to absorb everything that happened tonight.

Two weeks ago only one person really knows that I am gay then I came out to my sisters which annoyingly were okay with that. I saw the only man that had great effect on me on the internet and learned that he'll be going to my school. Then I was assigned to him to assist him as he conducts football training but escaped during my first day of Job. He came to see me in my house and kiss me and told me that he really like me a lot in which we almost had sex. If this is all a dream then I don't wanna wake up and if this is a practical joke then don't give the catch, never.

I know that it'll be impossible for me to get a sleep after all what happened. I went to my bathroom took a quick shower trying to get off the feeling that he left from me. I'm on my bed already when I heard my phone rang. It's an unregistered number.

"Hello?"

"Hi there handsome..." It was Liam's voice. I know coz it's calming and assuring voice that only he can give that to me.

"Hey gorgeous... how did you get my number I didn't remember giving it to you."

"I had it while you were cooking..."

"That was invasion of privacy" I smiled

"Not anymore coz you are mine now so you are practically my possession"

"One condition..." I told him

"What is it?"

"That I'm the only living possession that you have"

"No problem... I'm just about to crash now but I can't sleep without hearing your voice" that was so sweet of him.

"And thank God you call. I've been thinking of you."

"You should and make sure you only think of me from now on... I'm a possessive boyfriend" I smiled as he mentioned boyfriend. This is still surreal to me. The hottest guy in the country is my boyfriend and making out with me.

"Boyfriend...hmmm love the sound of it..."

"Yeah boyfriend... gotta go now...sleep tight babe"

"yah you too...have good rest...bye"

"Bye..." then the call ended. What a jock... a sweet and hot jock and he is mine. Tomorrow will definitely be a new day. I'm gonna be spending my whole day with him. But how will he act if people are actually looking at him? Does this mean that what we have will only be between us? *What do you expect? That he'll go around kissing you? He's a superstar and he will never risk that just to be out with you.* My mind was right...maybe what we have is only kept between us... I shouldn't be expecting much from him...What a jock he is and I know that sooner or later he will get into his senses. I'm scared but I can't deny that what we had was so beautiful as well. Feeling his lips into mine... caressing his entire body and most of all his affection and care he showed to me, all of that are amazing and I will risk everything just to have it again.

## CHAPTER 4

### "I said so..."

I woke up at five-thirty in the morning which is very early than my normal waking time. I can't get enough sleep last night but my body reacts very early out of excitement. I decided to go out for a jog for an hour. The air outside is refreshing it's cold but not cold enough to give me chills. I started jogging in a slow phase as I see some joggers going' around as well. My apartment is very near a fitness park where most people, well elderly go out for an exercise early morning and late afternoons. As I am running I'm going around what happened last night and how happy I was to have someone to call boyfriend. I know that what I and Liam has is a whirlwind romance and I'm scared on what is at stake for me in the future, but for now I'll enjoy what we have and deal with the later part. I pass by a bake shop and decided to buy a cappuccino and French rolls before heading back to my apartment. I finish my breakfast and started getting ready for school. I was putting my tie when I heard three knocks from my door, wondering who might that be I walk through while still having some troubles on my tie. I opened my door and a flashy smile from Liam greeted me.

"Good morning babe!" he lean forward and gives me a fast kiss.

"Morning... Why are you here?"

"I'm here to fetch my boyfriend for school" he answered. And took my hand from my tie and fix it. "There it go. You look so adorable anyways" I scan him and he was wearing white shirt and a black jacket, jeans and a stylish white shoes. He looks really amazing. His face is a breath of sunshine as his emerald eyes is sparkling through his smile. I can't contain myself anymore and grab his head and I kissed him. He opened his mouth for me as I penetrated his through my tongue. I don't know how much lesson I learned from last night's kiss but my tongue seems so natural on what he is doing.

"You look so damn hot..." I whisper in his ears as I walk out from him, leaving him stunned.

I grab my office bag and take a last glance of my reflection on the mirror. I walk through the living room and found him sitting on the couch. As I arrive he stands and headed to the door opening it for me. "Ride with me. You don't need to bring your car"

"But I need to ... I need that to go home this noon." I argued not that I don't want to ride with him, hell knows how much I wanted to but I don't wanna take a train going home as well.

"I'll bring you home... and wait for you till you're ready to go out" Is he asking me out for a date? Is this the way he asks someone? Telling what to do without even asking permission at all?

"Is this a date?" I asked

"Consider that as a date..."

"Make sure to have plans this time" I tease him while we made our way outside the building. His car is everything he is. A black Mustang GT convertible...sweet one of the cars that I dreamed off. "Nice car..."

"Part of the package deal" he flashes his smile as he opens the passenger for me. The ride to school is kinda quiet listening to the music of "The Beatles". I found out that he loves classic rocks like Beatles, Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. I do like Rock but I'd prefer Pop sometimes.

"Here we go..." he said as he parked his car in front of the College of Arts and Sciences. He went out and opens the door for me. This makes me feel like a girl somehow and I kinda get the feeling that I might be the catcher in this kind of relationship.

"Thanks so I'll see you later..."

"I'll walk you to the office"

"You don't need to do that" I muttered

"I want to. Besides my meeting with the director of sports will be at nine" I looked at my watch and it's still eight-thirty earlier than my normal day of work. As we walk through the corridors for the first time in two years I felt like my students doesn't know me, as all their good morning and smiles are focussed to Liam. I didn't care that much knowing that this guy is my boyfriend. As we enter the department office all eyes are on us or should I say on Liam. Some of the teachers ask to take a picture with him and I just went straight to my cubicle. The picture takings might take ten minutes or so before he came to see me.

"Gotta go... I'll see you then after an hour" he said and lean 'lil bit closer and whispered in my ear "I wanna kiss you..." then he walks away. That certainly put a huge grin in my face. God I just wanna scream and shout out of joy, my heart cannot contain how much joy it has.

"Spit it out!" It was Zhian who claim his normal place in my cubicle.

"What?" I was trying to play innocent thou I know what she wants

"Stop playing being innocent. I know you and I know when you are trying to suppress something"

"I don't have anything to say" I'm still playing my role as hard as I can.

"Christopher Elias Suarez! You know that it's a crime to hide something from a best friend" I hate it when he uses my complete name.



"Okay... so he picked me up and drive me in the school no big deal. It's part of my job assisting him" I said

"Oh crap! Start from the beginning...Like yesterday? Last Night?" she demanded.

"Well... He came here and talked to Mr. Smith..."

"Fast forward I already know that part... so what happened last night?" her face seems like she has a conclusion to what happened last night already,

"Nothing..."

"Chris..." he peered me in the eyes and I know I can't really hide something from her.

"Okay... He said that he needs my help last night but I didn't think he'll gonna come in my apartment... so" I hesitated for a while and look around us trying to keep my voice down.

"Anong nangyari!" she exclaimed knowing that I'm hanging her with my story and knowing that she uses our own language I know I should tell everything in details. Speaking in tagalong I gave her a run-down story about last night not leaving any single detail hidden.

"See I told you...he got some hots for you" she said.

"I know... can you believe that? I mean Zhian... God might really love me so much for giving me this." I smiled at her and saw her genuine joy for me as well. "But I'm scared at the same time" I said and look down in my hands.

"Oh honey, don't be..." she said

"Bez, He's like the face of sports in Singapore a total jock and hotty in many ways. I'm scared that this is just too much to believe."

"I understand. But Bez, life demands us to take risks to find happiness. I wanted to see you happy and looking the way he looked at you and the way you smile at him I know that he really makes you happy." She took my hand as a gesture of support.

"I don't wanna get hurt. I mean I saw what my sister been through when her relationship failed. I cried with her almost every night and hated man who played with emotions. And how my mom cried when my dad cheated. I mean those were heterosexual relationship but the level of infidelity is still high what more with ours. I'm falling for a sports superstar... not only the risk of infidelity but also the risk of being left out. What if I'm not good enough for him? What if this might destroy his career? Bez, I don't wanna live hiding anymore" She gave me a short hug and look at me with pure love.

"Bez, I know how it feels to be hurt. But I also know how it feels to love. Sure when Ken's father left us I was totally broken but I never regretted the time I had with him. I loved him and he loved me as well. He had hurt me so bad but he taught me a lot of things, and gave me Ken. Love might call for pain and sacrifices but the feeling of being loved and loving is worth those things. Don't let fear and insecurities ruin your chance to be happy..." I was surprised to hear her defend love. All these years I thought she gave up on it but here she is telling me to take some risk.

"Thanks..." She patted my back as the bell rang for the class.

"No worries... see yah at lunch" she said

"Uhm... I can't... kinda have plans for it" she got what I mean.

"Well... hang with you this afternoon then..."

"I can't as well. Liam has plans for us as well"

"I'm starting to hate that guy, he's taking my best friend away from me!" she laughs knowing that no matter what happen she'll gonna be the bestest best friend I have.

I went to the field at ten for the football training and saw Liam starting the training with the football players. They are doing some foot works routines then proceeded to striking. I waved at him and he just nodded. They had their break

after one hour of doing the same stuffs. I went to him with a bottle of water and towel on my hands.

"Water?" I asked and handed him the towel as well.

"Thanks..." he wiped his face as we walk through the bleachers.

"So are you gonna do this the whole day?" I'm trying to make a conversation but I think that wasn't enough as he just stares on the field. I felt like my presence there doesn't matter and it gives a little bit of twinge on my heart. He suddenly changes his gesture and I felt like I'm sitting with a different person. I saw the coach calling for him to talk about something.

"Need to go" and he stands and hurried to Coach Yap. He didn't even bothered to talk to me and that scares me. My heart wrench and at the moment I felt like humiliated. What does that supposed to mean. Why would he treat me so cold I mean I'm just only trying to make some conversation? This total tumultuous change of emotion and treatment from him is so bizarre. I watched him as the training continued on and every break he didn't even bother to come and talk to me. As if he is trying to seclude me ignoring my presence. At quarter to twelve I can't take it any longer the pain I feel just keep on getting worse the more time I sit there watching him ignoring me. I walked out and I saw him look at me for the first time since the last two hours then look away again and continue on with what they

are doing. That last gestured explains everything to me. I didn't expect it that it would be this fast. Now he came into his senses and realized that I was nothing for him. I walk as fast as I can. Zhian saw me as she was going out from one of the classroom. She saw my expression and her worried look approaches me. She knows when I'm having a bad day with a pissed off with someone theme and having a bad day with really hurt feeling.

"Wanna Grab some Junkies to kill our body?" she asked about eating off campus with fast food delights. I nodded and she hurried in the office. "Just wait for me in my car I'll just put this notes and grab my keys." I walk in the parking area and only been badly hurt to see the Black Mustang gone from the parking place this morning. We drove to the nearest McDonalds and ordered as many junkies as we can then we sat to the farthest corner of the room.

"Maybe, he's just trying to sort out thing yah know as you said this thing just gone so wildly fast" She said as I lavish the oily French fries.

"Stop trying to make things better for me... I said so... I shouldn't have taken that bait he has on the first place." My heart is bleeding. I felt like I was tricked and then laughed by my own stupidity.

"You want me to punch him on the face? I might be so small but damn my hands can kill" I know she's trying everything to make me feel a 'lil bit better.

"Nevermind... It's my fault anyway I shouldn't have hoped that much from him." Thinking that what I and Liam had is finally done makes me feel so gloomy and I swear I wanna start to cry. I like him so much that I think I'm falling for him but just about the time that I told myself to take a risk everything came crashing. My mind was right he is too good to be true to like me. I felt hot liquids run as fast as they can into my cheeks as I bow my head down tryin' to play it cool.

"Oh bez..." Zhian muttered as she holds my hands.

"Isn't this a big messy joke? This morning I'm just so happy that I believed that he is mine. But just hours later he sit there with such cold heart and ignore me for the next couple of hours trying to push me away. And you know what it hurts most that look from his eyes when I walk out. A look of relief that I'm finally walking out..." Zhian didn't matter any words as she just keep on listening to me. "But hey, everything has its first right and mine is a double first this day...it sucks." We stayed a little bit longer as I calmed myself and then went back to school. This time I went to my classes and start teaching again. I don't care what Mr. Smith would say in fact I am very much determined to talk to him and reason out that I can't make it on Liam's training anymore. Besides I think he will understand my reason. I'm taking my second masters degree and my papers will be due next month so I needed to finish it and my students exams are just two weeks

now so I needed to attend all my class. After my last class I went to his office and it takes us a bloody arguing for a good thirty minutes before agreeing to my petition and that he will talk to the administration about my case. What a relief... at four everyone was packing their things to go when Zhian asked me to ride with her, but I refused. She's a different route from my house and that will be too much for her. She asked me if I wanted to hang around tonight and I said no again but she argued this time. Knowing how Zhian can be so demanding and pushy I just agreed to it. We'll be meeting at seven at Muhamed Sultan Road to grab some food and head at Harry's Bar at Boat Quay, I didn't like the idea of clubbing tonight coz we have school tomorrow but I kinda needed it somehow. As they say alcohol heals wounds. What really pisses me off is he never calls to atleast explain or tell me that he's ditching me, but who cares now, I won't fall in his pit again.

I parked my car right beside the white civic of Zhian in front the Hachi Restaurant one of the best tasting Japanese restaurant in the city. The place is cosy serving authentic Japanesse. I love *ebi mentaiko cheese* and *boiled sushi* one of the best on the menu. I and Zhian were kinda having fun on our meal talking about our previous summer in Thailand when Liam and a Girl entered the restaurant. I know he saw me as he stops for a while and look on our direction. Zhian noticed me and look at Liam's direction.

"Shoot... of all the places they can go..." she said. I'm still surprised and the amount of pain surging in my heart is killing me. The girl looks so smart and curvy and sophisticated. She's asian as well but a tall one, might be a model or something, just the perfect match for him and it kills my heart to see how perfect they look for each other. I can feel it... I can feel how dying means and it is really painful. "You ready to shoot some bottles of cleansing alcohols?"

"Let's stay for a while. I don't wanna look like so stupid trying to escape just because they're here" I tried my best to finish my food and after twenty-minutes I can't take it anymore longer and just drop my fork and look at Zhian telling her I'm ready to go. We stand and walk through the door and irony of all irony the hell why they sat very near the entrance. I tried not to look at their direction but my eyes can see them. Liam's eating his food when the girl with him looks on our direction and a look of recognition was all over her face. She stands and stops us grabbing my hand.

"Chris?" I look at her with confused face. "It's you...Christopher Elias Suarez...my goodness finally I see you again." I'm still confused on how this girl knew me. I look at her face and she actually looks familiar as well, something's telling me that I knew her. Liam was also stunned by what is happening and just look up on us.



"Do I know you?" I felt Zhian's hands holding my other hand. Perhaps the girl saw that and mistakenly to mean something.

"Oh I'm sorry about that. I didn't mean anything" She said now looking at Zhian. "It's me Mitch remember?..." I raised my brows but I know her name ring a bell somehow. "Michelle Gutierrez... Do I need to remind you about what we share in college?" she said with a joking smile. Then it hits me. It's Mitch the head captain of the bitches' cheerios in college. Well, actually she wasn't a bitch at all the cherios in general are. We dated for like a year and she's the last girlfriend I had since I quit baseball.

"Oh yeah...How are you? I'm sorry about that recognition thing I mean you look so differently... great now... How many years it must be?" I said. And I'm kinda really surprise to see her again because after the break up which is so bad anyways I haven't seen her again.

"Six years I guess. You look so different as well...I mean you look so really different..." Pertaining my transformation from being a hot jock to a plain looking teacher.

"Yah I know... Out of shape and been busy maybe" I said. Zhian jolted my hand. "Oh this is Zhian" I introduce her to Mitch. Zhian offered her hands as Micth happily took it.

"Nice to meet you... I mean finally this dude here had finally found you... Too bad I was ditched in our junior year..." she laughed meaning it was all left behind and I was so relieved by that.

"So you mean you and him in college?" Zhian asked trying to make some inside joke between us.

"Oh yeah for a year... after he quits his life...or I mean the life of what students call popularity and decided to seclude himself for unknown reason."

"I didn't seclude myself I just felt like I needed to focus on my studies" I explained.

"yah whatever" same old she. "Anyways, This Is Liam Greyson..." looking at Liam which is still speechless, he stand as Mitch continues on the introduction. "Liam this is my Chris which happens to be an ex-affair" she smiled at Liam. I don't know if I should tell her that we knew each other or try to pretend this is the first time we met.

"I know him actually; he teaches in the university I'm doing that football training"

"oh I see... So you're a teacher... good for you" I swear I heard a voice of sarcasm and surprise from her.

"So Mitch you haven't changed your type...still digging for a jock?" I joke at her trying to ignore Liam.

"Well, she did change...coz I'm not a jock" Liam answered with a serious tone. What's with him...he sounded upset with what I said then it serves him after all how he treated me.

"Actually she didn't" I look at him eye to eye "She only not didn't changed her taste with a jock but she happens to still like mysterious jocks who seems to hide a lot of secrets" I said challenging his looks.

"And what does that suppose to mean?" He asked as I see his eyes turning into fiery green

"I don't know...why don't you tell us" I will not back out after all this pain I won't. I'll show him that he can't mess around with me that easy.

"ahmmmm Mitch nice meeting you but yah we kinda need to go" That was Zhian feeling the tension going on.

"Yah... nice seeing you again Chris thou it has been kinda weird" She smiled. As I give her a peck on the cheeks and looked at Liam with hateful gaze. I hate him he don't have any right to do this to me, I'm gonna let him know that. We went outside as fast as I can and I just wanna kick and punch someone right now.

"That was totally freaking awkward" Zhian said as soon as we get into the parking. I didn't utter any word. "Ready to take some alcohol in that body and burry those emotions with loud music?" I look at her and actually I don't feel going out anymore I just wanna go home and take this on my own.

"Bez, I'm sorry but I don't think I wanna go clubbing... I just wanna go home now"

"Come on Bez... let's go" I grab her hands and give her a pleading look. "Okay... just please don't take this alone I'm here..."

"I know I just wanna have some time" She let go and give me a hug.

I drive home with tears in my eyes. Damn this heart! Why are we made so vulnerable with emotions like these? Why thing should be so complicated? As I arrive at my apartment I went straight to my bar and open a bottle of wine and drink as much as I can take. I went in the living room and turn on the TV. "Fuck!" I shouted as the smiling face of Liam flashed through the monitor with this interview he has in the school field. I changed the channel and settled with Tom and Jerry... I take another drink from the bottle of wine as I tried to stop my tears from falling. Fuck him! I never felt hurt like these in my entire life and this is so freaking painful. I felt like my heart is held by two hands trying to be squeezed until there's no more blood came out from it. I took more sips and I felt

myself getting groggy. I looked at the TV and it wasn't Tom and Jerry I'm seeing instead me and Liam. Liam trying to trap me allude me of some cheese and trying to be so good and kind but by the time I reach those cheese he grabbed me so hard squeezing me and I can see myself struggling from his grip as pain is searing all over my face. The funny thing is Jerry always had plans to get out from those traps of Tom and get back with a better revenge If only I can be as smart and strong as Jerry even if he's so small but I can't... right now I feel like I'm that very weak and hopeless rat that's just waiting to be eaten by a selfish cat. I look at the bottle and found out that I finish half of it already. I heard knocks from my door but I didn't bother to open it. The knock grew harder and louder and it's starting to bug me. "Fuck Off! Whoever you are go away!" I shouted with the spirit of alcohol inside of me.

"Chris open the door!" I heard a man's voice who sounded like Liam. I didn't answer back as he continued to pound harder. "Chris Open the fuck'n door!" he shouted.

"Get lost...he doesn't want to open...make some people sleep" I heard someone shouting at him from the outside. Then the pounding get softer. I walk through the door still groggy.

"Please... Open the door and let's talk" this time his voice is calm but I didn't answer. "Chris... please... I'm not leaving till you open this door" I turned the door knob and open it. Liam is standing there same clothes he wears in the restaurant and looks so sad.

"I'm sorry" he said... I reminded myself that whatever game his gonna throw to me now I'm not giving in. There's no way I'll believe him again. "I'm sorry about today...about how I acted and not calling you..." I stare at him blankly trying to control the pain and anger in my heart. "Please say something" he tried to grab my hands but I instantly pull away as fast as I can.

"Okay..." I said

"Okay?"

"Yah is that all you wanna say?" I asked putting a strong face.

"I'm sorry... please"

"so what exactly you wanted me to do Liam? Forgive you... then we can continue on making out and telling flowery things only when we are alone... But if we are out we pretend we don't even know each other?" I mockingly said.

"Chris... This is not easy for me please do understand me...I'm trying to sort out things"

"Then sort out things first... as for us forget it... Coz I can't take this game."

"I like you a lot..."

"But?" I challenged him. "Come on Liam... what is that BUT?"

"I don't know... I wanna be with you but things are not easy to deal with"

"so you decided to ignore me and date my ex-girlfriend? Well, I'll tell you what... you can ignore me the hell I care now and date anyone you want. But don't ever come in my door knocking and tell me you want me again."

"Chris..." his pleading voice almost crashes my defences but I won't back down.

"Look Liam... Figure out what you want and who you are first..." I said calmly.

"I want you and I'm sure for that" He said

"Then prove it... because I can't feel that you really want me."

"How?"

"I don't know..." I look at him and I wanted to kiss him but I don't wanna risk anything again being hurt by him is too much. "Go home and sleep this out"

"Chris..."

"Bye Liam... goodnight" I closed my door and headed to my room as I buried my face with tears. I don't know how will this last but looking at him awhile ago makes me sure of one thing. I love him and it was funny I know because we only knew each other a short time but I know I love him. And it's killing me to say

goodbye to him. He doesn't know what he wants when I am very sure that I want...HIM... this is unfair because when I started falling for someone life crashes all those right in front of me. Life is so cruel, first I'm gay and people will never look at me as normal as I can. I cannot choose who to love instead I fall for the wrong person. I can't be happy and contented because I'll always gonna leave full of worries that people will hate me if they know who I am.

"I love him..." I muttered as tears flows in my eyes. "God why are you doing this to me? Is this your punishment? I thought you love me? But why? First I'm gay and when I started feeling happy about myself then here come this pain? Why do you hate me so much that you choose to hurt me endlessly instead of killing me by a swift? " if that's a prayer then that's my prayer of anguish and pain. I was dozing off and I know that when I wake tomorrow this sorrow will always remain there.



## CHAPTER 5

### “The Thing that changes me”

I woke up the next morning very late with the immense pumping in my head. I drag myself for a bath and after thirty minutes I'm ready to go. As I opened my door my eyes widened as I see Liam leaning of the wall across mine. I recovered as fast as I can from my surprise and silently walk away ignoring his presence.

“Ride with me” He asked I keep on playing the ignoring game or I should say I choose to ignore him coz I know I can't resist him if I would stop and talk to him. “Please babe let me take you to school.” I stopped upon hearing that endearment.

“Two things... Don't ever call me again with that. And Don't ever come to my door and ask for something” I left him and take the elevator for the basement parking.

As I was driving to school I noticed his car tailing mine. I arrived just in time and went straight to the office only to be taken back with the little commotion going on.

“Here he comes...” That was Donna “Well it seems that you are really simply irresistible and you got yourself an amazing and romantic girl who's willing to go beyond traditions” I was confused on what she's talking about and headed to my

cubicle. Five dozens of different flowers beautifully arrange into different sizes of glass vase. White lilies, Yellow Roses, Stargazers, Daisies and Dendrobium Orchids. Each has a stick notes saying "I'M SORRY PLEASE FORGIVE ME" and on my table was an Irish Whiskey Truffles. I know its Irish coz of the wooden box on it. I would have thought about how romantic it is but I told myself not to give in. A card sealed in an envelope was inside the box with the chocolates. No one is in my cubicle anymore; I took my sit and opened the envelope. It was handwritten.

*How strange*

*This feeling that my life's begun at last*

*This change,*

*Can people really fall in love so fast?*

*What's the matter with you?*

*Have you been too much on your own?*

*So many things unclear*

*So many things unknown.*

*In my life*

*There are so many questions and answers*

*That somehow seem wrong*

*In my life*

*There are times when I catch in the silence*

*The sigh of a faraway song*

And it sings  
Of a world that I long to see  
Out of reach  
Just a whisper away  
Waiting for me.

I know how much you love Broadway music this just sums up what I feel and hope through  
this you can understand me... and I know how much you adored Les Misérables

Babe,

This is going too much for an act. Using the lines of *In my Life* is too much. What does he really want from me? Why is he doing all of this stuffs? I must admit that there was a little bit of happiness I felt knowing that there's someone out there who really do this for me but that happiness vanishes as I realized who that person is. For a day I felt how to be hurt so bad by him and letting myself totally fall will mean a lot of heartache. I won't go there, I won't let my heart be crushed by some douche bag who thinks they can get all they want coz they're popular, good looking and rich. I took those flowers one by one as I handed them over the office. People were looking at me while doing it and I don't care what they think. I heard murmurings and other stuffs that just stirred up my emotions I look

at them as I saw confused and judgemental looks. I never reacted like these in the office but things are getting so much emotional I faced them.

"It's from a douche guy who thinks he can buy me..." I said and leave them dazed. I don't know what will they think of what I've said but I promised myself that there's no more hiding. If they ask I'll give them straight answer but I won't go around shouting who I am. Zhian who was late came to see me before lunch and I know just the way she looks someone had already pass the entire scene to her.

"Wanna go for lunch?" she asked I was actually thinking of facing Liam on what he did so I guess I need to say No to Zhian.

"Nope... Had other plans." I grabbed my phone and send a text message to Liam

*Let's eat out for lunch wait you at our parking area*

"Mind to share it with me?" I looked at her and see so much compassion.

"He sent me dozens of flowers and these freaking chocolates and showed up in front of my door this morning... what does he wants? I'm meeting him and clear things for once. I don't wanna have this kind of scene again" My phone buzzed and it was a text from Liam

*Sure babe, be there after 5 mins. ☺*

"Gotta go" I stand and give her a peck on the cheeks. "You can have those truffles if you want"

"Goodluck Bez! And thanks for the chocolates!"

We just arrive at the parking at the same time I hitch into the passenger and give him a cold treatment "Drive..." I said.

"Where do you wanna eat?" he asked as if everything is okay. I even saw a smile from his face.

"Somewhere no one can see us for your sake" I hissed at him. He stopped the car and faced me

"Chris I'm sorry please...I'm trying so hard in here"

"Why are you doing this? Tell me Liam what exactly do you want from me?" I faced him as well with anger in my voice.

"I want you..."

"You want me? WHY?"

"I don't know... I just freaking don't know" He answered as I sense desperation from his tone

"Here we go again with those uncertainties...Look Liam I'm not looking for any hook ups or sex things... I'm not that kind and I don't play with emotions. So please stop all of this"

He looked at me with hurt in his eyes and as I look into those green eyes it suddenly turned into a haze, like a morning leaves with dew dropping on it. "Do you see me like that? A hook up guy? A sexual obsessed?" As much as I want to touch him and assure him that I don't actually think of him like that but I can't I need to remain strong and firm for my own sakes.

"Don't do this... turning the tables and throwing those blazes on me"

"I'm not... But it hurts me that you look at me like that. I never meant to have hook ups or to use you... What I feel for you is a stranger to me as well and I know you wouldn't believe that... But I swear to my grave that what I feel here in my heart is real" He took my hands and this time I didn't tried to pull back. I can feel my defences starting to shatter. "Maybe everything happens so fast that I was taken by surprise. Please Chris I beg you let me explain what I did yesterday thou I know nothing can change the pain I caused you. Just please hear me out" I nodded. I reason from myself that perhaps I needed an explanation as well. "I didn't intend to ignore you yesterday yah maybe I did but I didn't want to hurt you. When I walk out from your office I heard murmurs from people questions on why did I drop you by in the office. I felt so afraid about that. Then when you showed up you acted so romantic and caring that I saw those confused looks from the other guys. I know I've been a coward by doing that but what happened to us the

other day is just so fast." He paused and looks into my eyes. "It was so fast that I didn't think what would happen next. All my life I was wandering to find some intense feelings. I was looking that towards girls but I never did find it from them. I tried so hard but nothing, then I saw you. Just the first time you turned around I know something inside me reacted so strong that my body wanted to see you more. At first I didn't care who you were and what are you, all I think is that I felt that thing that I've been looking for" he planted a kiss on my hands. "Then we kissed"

"You kissed me" I interrupted him. He smiles and kissed my palm again.

"I kissed you... and kissed you more. That time I know I don't wanna be away from you again. But my fear overcame me yesterday. Look I know it will take time for you to believe me but I promise not to ignore you again. I'll do my best to show how much you mean to me. Just give me time and help me with this sudden change of who I am. I'd be honest It will be really hard admitting to people that I'm gay coz It has been so hard admitting it to myself as well."

"I thought you hated labels why are you labelling yourself gay then?"

"Coz that's what I am... That hating labels is just part of me scared to identify myself. I know I will never fall for a girl and you made me realize that"

"What about Mitch? She thinks you like her"

"I do..." I pulled my hands as soon as I heard that coz I felt the surge of jealousy all over me. He grabbed my hands back

"Listen...I do like her but as a friend. We've been friends for two years and she's the best girl I've met. She knows that there's nothing going on between us. In fact last night she asked me about you and me" I look at him with a curious face.

"What? So what did you tell her?"

"Nothing... but she gets it from the look on my face and told me to run after you. Even if I didn't tell her anything she knows who you are in my life" I nodded and I'm left so speechless. So there's nothing between them, and he really did come after me last night. My heart sank as I remembered the way I treated him last night. The way I judged him and not listening to him. If only I listened I should have understood. Of course I know the feeling of being in denial, when all you do is fight over the real thing about who you are. As I gazed at his magnificent beauty all I can see now is how much I want to take care of him, guide him and understand him. Of all people I should be the one sticking by his side as he braces himself into the real world of who he is, I've been there and I know how confusing and hard it is.

"Chris, babe I'm really sorry if I hurt your feelings... I'm sorry if I'm not enough for you and I'll understand now if you don't want to be with someone who's



not manly-gay enough to face who he is..." I hug him so tight as I cannot contain my emotions anymore. I've been longing to this since this morning that he showed in my door.

"No... I'm sorry too... I should have listened and understand you...I've been so selfish" I said he guided me to his face. I know we are somewhat in the open but thank God no one really passes there that much.

"You weren't selfish...it wasn't your fault... you just did what you think can protect you from any pain..." He whispered in my ear.

"I'll stay with you till you finally have the power to really embrace the whole you."

"Thanks..." then he kissed me. Oh these kiss... It always takes my breath and makes everything feel it'll be okay. I know that I'm in love with this guy and for the first time there's no fear in my heart.

"I love you..." In between of those kisses those words manage to get out from me. He stopped as he heard those words and his eyes still closed. "I'm sorry if I surprised you by that...no pressure"

"I love you too..." He said as he opened his eyes and saw that love and affection. My heart jump out for joy. I kissed him harder and harder till we lack

air from our lungs. "So you don't hate me anymore?" and that mocking sweet and boyish smile came out again something that always makes me feel so joyful.

"I guess I'm that easy after all... I'm all yours Mr. Greyson" I said and hug him so tight.

"And I'm only yours Mr. Suarez...I love you..." I smiled at that.

"You're aware that we are in the road right?"I asked as I saw some cars passing now.

"yah but being locked in your arms takes my fears away" he answered. Hugging me tightly.

"Yah but let's not push it for you that far... Let's take baby steps first." I let go from the embrace and suggested that we need to go and get our lunch. Looking at him as he drives opens millions of possibilities and risk but all that matters to me now is to help him carry on with the same struggle I've been through. I guess love changes everything and I'm glad I let myself to finally fall for someone.