

Chapter Four

The sun shone brightly into Harley's bedroom and danced across Gabriella's face. When the sun had hit him in the face, he woke up with a sudden smile realizing that she was laying next to him. Her long beautiful silken hair splayed across his pillows, and she held a small smile on her sleeping lips. For a moment he lay there indulging himself in her soft scent, and the softness of her skin as he gently touched his lips to her shoulder.

He was about to get out of bed when she rolled over with outstretched arms and pulled him in close to her and kissed his full lips and brushed his beard across her face. As she slowly and methodically kissed him, she gently rolled him onto his back and accepted his hardness completely within her tenderness. A slow smile came across Harley's face when he realized what she was doing, and he didn't put up a fight. He wanted Gabriella in his life and was willing to do whatever it took to have her.

With a low growl he said, "Sweetness, are you sure you are up for this so early in the morning? After all you still need to shower and get ready for work."

She giggled and nuzzled into his neck, " Oh I am quite certain. There is nothing that could stop me from enjoying this moment with you."

"Very well sweetness. Have it your way, but if you're late for work don't go blaming me," he retorted.

"I'm the boss, I'm allowed to be late," she chortled as she wrapped her arms around his neck and pushed herself deeper onto his hardened shaft.

He thrust himself into her while holding her by the hips, and with a fluid motion he sat up and rolled her onto her back and threw her legs over his shoulders as he thrust harder and deeper into her. She moaned and matched his every movement. They were like a well-oiled machine.

Their breathing increased with each thrust, and the sheets began to stick to their sweat covered naked bodies. Gabriella began to get that tingling sensation deep in the pit of her stomach when she knew that she was close to orgasm.

“Oh my god, yes, right there, don’t stop,” she growled in ecstasy.

“Never sweetness, I don’t release until I know that I have satisfied you and then I know its my turn to orgasm,” he replied.

“Keep going, keep going, I’m just about there,” she wailed as he began to thrust harder and faster.

Before he knew it, she was digging her nails into his back and pulling him in tighter with her thighs.

“NOW! I’m ready now my Viking King,” she bellowed as he gave another thrust and she screamed in ecstasy, and he followed seconds later.

They both lay there panting breathlessly and holding hands before Gabriella rolled over on her side and rested her head on Harley’s muscular chest. She softly ran her hands over his chest and calmed her breathing before she sat up next to him.

“Well I guess I better run home and quickly shower and then get to work,” she smiled at him.

“Sweetness, you don’t have to go home to shower, I bought a few things for you to have here,” he said with a sheepish smile.

“I appreciate that, but I do need clean clothes. I’m not about to shower and then put dirty clothes on,” she chuckled.

“Alright then gorgeous, I guess I can let you go home to change for the day,” he replied with a wry smile on his lips.

“I won’t be too long. I will go home shower, change, and come back here to say bye before I leave for the shop,” Gabriella said with amusement in her voice as she rolled over to kiss him before getting out of bed.

She dressed quickly and headed downstairs and out the back door to her place. She had left her patio door unlocked when she came over the night before. As Gabriella walked through the gate of her yard, she could see Goliath standing at the door waiting for her, he was anxiously awaiting her so her could go out and do his business. Just as she walked in the door, her landline began to ring. She had thought it was odd, as no one usually calls that number unless its an emergency or the security company for the store.

Gabriella answered on the third ring, “Hello?”

“Hello, this is Sunlife Insurance, we are calling for a Miss Gabriella Verno,” the male voice stated.

“NOT INTERSETED!, DON’T CALL BACK!” she shouted into the phone before she hung up.

Gabriella then continued through the living room and ascended the stairs to her bedroom to pick out something to wear before going to have a shower. Within twenty minutes she was showered, dressed, and headed back downstairs to feed Goliath and head out to see Harley before she left for the store. She went into the garage and opened the garage door then started her car and

backed out, then closed the door again. Just as she was putting her car into park, Harley was rushing out his door with a travel mug of fresh coffee and two slices of toast. She lowered her drivers window as he approached her car.

“What are you doing? Were you going to leave without saying bye?” he asked with a look of woe stretched across his fine chiselled features.

“Oh no, I was just pulling my car out, and then I was going to come right over Harley. I am so sorry that you thought I would just leave like that after saying that I would come back,” Gabriella replied as she opened her door and stood in front of him and wrapped her arms around his strong neck to kiss him.

“Mmmm, the perfect taste of sweetness before you run away for the day. I made you coffee and toast just to give you a good start to your day beautiful,” Harley replied as he helped her back into her car and closed the door behind her.

Gabriella smiled and waved at Harley as she pulled away and began driving towards her quaint little shop for the day, but what she didn't realize was that Harley had a secret that he hadn't told her yet. He had just been called by his boss before he saw her off requesting that he come in to work a couple days earlier than expected. Knowing this weighed heavy on Harley, as he was really enjoying spending time with Gabriella and getting to know her. Harley wandered around his house thinking of ways that he could tell Gabriella that he had to leave early without it looking like he was just going to skip town now that he's had his way with her. He paced for hours. At one point he thought he was going to wear a hole into the hardwood flooring of his living room.

Gabriella arrived at her quaint shop ready to greet the day with a bright smile on her face and a song in her heart. She unlocked the back door and walked in and entered the alarm code to disarm it. She took her purse into her workshop and looked over the unique chandelier piece on which she was working. Gabby cocked her head to one side looking it over and then realized she needed to get the front of the store organized and ready to open. Dayna and Amelia should be arriving shortly to take care of the customers. She walked out to the front of the store after she had gathered the till box from the safe. As Gabriella walked out to the front, something had caught her eye in one of the display cases. There seemed to be a crystal statue missing and it was one of her higher priced items. It was a Rose Quartz statuette of the naked female form. This puzzled Gabby as she didn't remember seeing it on the till slips at the end of the day that it had been sold.

She continued walking into the front of the shop when she heard footsteps behind her. She quickly turned to see Dayna standing behind her.

With a look of relief she asked, “ Hey did you sell the Rose Quartz naked female crystal in this case under a different item number or anything?”

“Nope, not me girlfriend. You have everything barcoded for a reason so mistakes like that don't happen. Why do you ask?” Dayna asked with a queer look on her face.

“I just happened to notice that it wasn't in the case and didn't recall seeing it on any of the end of day slips recently,” Gabriella remarked.

“Maybe Amelia knows what happened to it,” Dayna stated trying to hint to her best friend that the girl liked to leave display cases open after showing pieces to customers and someone could have stolen it.

“Alright. I’ll let you finish opening so I can get to work on the piece in the back. Let me know when Amelia gets in will ya?” Gabriella asked.

“Sure thing boss lady,” Dayna said as she saluted Gabby like the smartass that she was.

“Could you do me a favour Dayna, would you please try and call Amelia to see if she answers?” Gabriella asked.

“Sure thing Gabs, and then I will let you know what I hear,” Dayna replied.

“Thanks,” Gabriella said with a smile.

Gabriella walked to the back of her shop where she had her workshop that she kept herself locked up in while working on new pieces so that no one would disturb her creative juices. She took her keys from her pocket and unlocked the door and entered the workshop. In here she felt at peace so long as there were no interruptions. She began turning on the lights over her work bench and then reached for the small stereo and turned on some of her favorite music to work by. She loved listening to heavy metal when working because it kept her motivated. She muddled around the work bench for a few minutes before settling in to begin working on the webbing of the chandelier once again.

Dayna had busied herself getting ready to open the front end of the small store. As she wanders around dusting and preparing the showcases, she notices that it is almost forty-five minutes past when Amelia is supposed to be in for her shift. Secretly Dayna hoped that this would be just cause for Gabriella to finally fire Amelia because she didn’t like her from the moment that she stepped foot into the store, but Dayna played nice because she was a friend of Gabby’s. Dayna had hung the dreamcatchers that needed to be hung, placed the crystals on top of the displays that needed to be, and finally turned the dreamcatcher lamps on. The dreamcatcher lamps were one of Dayna’s favorite pieces that Gabriella made, and they were unique to her brand. Once things were hung, turned on, and placed on display, it was finally time to turn on the open sign, but Dayna was going to hold off for just a couple of minutes so that she could go and talk to Gabriella about Amelia not showing up now that it was an hour past her start time. Dayna had cautiously knocked on Gabby’s studio door and waited for her to reply, if she didn’t get a reply she would text her.

“Yeah, what is it?” Gabriella called out.

“It’s me Dayna, can I talk to you face to face for a moment please Gab’s?” Dayna inquired.

Dayna stood there for what seemed like an eternity while waiting for her to answer.

“Yeah, just give me a minute to cover this piece,” Gabriella replied.

“Sure, no problem,” Dayna said.

Gabriella appeared in the doorway and asked what the issue was. When Dayna had told her that Amelia had yet to show up for her shift and there were no messages on the voicemail, she could see the irritation on Gabriella’s face.

“Did she answer her phone?” Gabriella asked hoping everything was alright.

“There was no answer, it went straight to voicemail. I left a voicemail for her to call immediately,” Dayna replied.

“Ok, thanks. That does it, I’ve had enough of giving her chance after chance, and all she does is burn me. Well I’m fed up, if she shows up send her back here please Dayna,” Gabriella said through gritted teeth.

Dayna was a little surprised as she replied, “Sure, no problem. For now I’ll just do my best out front alone, and if I have a problem I’ll call you.”

Gabriella nodded her head before giving Dayna a hug and then returning inside her studio to get back to work on the chandelier.

Dayna worked her way to the front of the store to unlock the door and turn on the open sign to begin business for the day. Hearing the words come from Gabby’s mouth that she was going to fire Amelia if she actually showed up, was like music to her ears. Dayna busied herself with reading material on each crystal so that she could explain its benefits and what it was to each customer, but some people bought them just because they were “cool” looking and nothing more. She had gotten so lost in the book, that she didn’t hear the door chimes to alert you when someone entered the store.

Harley had decided to pay a visit to Gabriella’s shop and maybe make a purchase for his mother’s upcoming birthday. As he entered the store, he noticed the young woman behind the counter reading and was trying to catch her attention, but she had looked thoroughly engrossed in whatever she was reading. He slowly walked over to the counter and leaned on it before clearing his throat to gain her attention.

Quickly Dayna looked up, “Oh, sorry sir. I didn’t mean to ignore you,” she said as her cheeks turned crimson from the embarrassment.

“No need to be sorry, I just walked in,” Harley replied with a smile.

“What can I do for you today?” Dayna asked as she looked at this amazing specimen of a man.

“I am looking for a unique gift for my mother, and a friend of mine said that this would be just the place for that,” he said playing down that he knew Gabriella and hoped that Dayna didn’t recognize him.

“Sure, we have plenty of unique gift ideas. Let me show you around the showroom,” she replied with a smile as she came out from behind the counter.

She began with showing Harley the different types of crystal statues and the custom jewelry that Gabriella had made. As she handed him each piece that she thought his mother would like, she could feel the heat rise to her face, and a deep moistness happening between her thighs. He shook his head and would say that, “they weren’t right.” Dayna would move on to the next showcase and pull-out pieces, and Harley would just shake his head. As they made their way to the next display cabinet, something caught his attention out the corner of his eye.

“Excuse me, but what are those?” he said as he turned and pointed at the dreamcatcher lamps.

“Oh, those are dreamcatcher lamps. They are unique to this shop only as the artist that owns this shop is the only one in town that makes them,” Dayna said with a wry smile on her lips hoping that she would be able to make this sale.

“My god, whoever the artist is, they have some raw talent,” Harley said with a smile, even though he knew very well who the artist was.

Dayna walked over to the counter that displayed the lamps and gestured for Harley to follow her. She began to describe each one and what was in the center of each hoop around the lamp.

“That’s very well in good miss, but what is the meaning behind a dreamcatcher?” Harley asked her.

“Great question. It is believed that the Indigenous people of the Great Plains believe that the air is filled with both good and bad dreams. According to dreamcatcher legend, the good dreams pass through the center hole to the sleeping person, while the bad dreams are trapped in the web where they perish in the light of dawn,” Dayna explained to him.

“Wow, I had no idea that is very interesting. Do you have any that have a hummingbird in the middle?” he asked.

“I believe we may, but they are in the back warehouse. Give me a minute to ring my boss in the back studio to come out and give me a hand,” Dayna said as she picked up the phone to call Gabriella.

“Your boss wouldn’t happen to be Gabriella Verno, would it?” he asked with a sheepish grin on his face.

“Why yes, it is. How do you know Gabby?” she asked quizzically.

“My name is Harley. I met you ladies for drinks awhile back,” he replied.

“Oh shit, sorry Harley. My mind has been elsewhere today with an employee not showing up for work today,” Dayna replied with a chuckle.

He grinned, “No worries. Is Gabby busy right now? I wouldn’t mind seeing her for a minute if she has time?” he asked.

“Let me call her and ask. When she is in the studio working on a new piece, she doesn’t like to be disturbed. But since it’s you, I don’t think she’ll mind, but we will double check just in case,” Dayna smiled.

Dayna called Gabriella quickly to let her know that there was someone here to see her and that she also needed some help out front so that she could get an item from the warehouse. Gabriella was a little taken aback because Dayna knew that she didn’t like to be disturbed but today was an unusual day since they were short staffed anyways.

“Sure, go ahead send them back, and I will grab the piece you need from the warehouse while I’m out of the studio,” Gabriella replied.

“Okay, I will send them right back Gabs,” Dayna replied with a childlike giggle.

Harley began to make his way to the warehouse area where Gabriella’s studio was. Just as he crossed the threshold into the back, he heard Gabriella squeal with delight. He knew that she wouldn’t be too upset if he interrupted her day.

“What are you doing here handsome?” she asked as she tilted her head up to give him a kiss.

“Well, I needed to buy mum something for her birthday, and what better place to buy than at my girlfriend’s shop,” he said with a smile as he squeezed her buttocks and lifted her to wrap her legs around his waist.

“SO, you’re my mystery person buying the Hummingbird lamp then?” she asked him.

“Aye. Are you disappointed that it’s me?” he asked her as he kissed her softly.

She looked up at him, “ No, not at all. I am thrilled that it is you, I was just thinking about you,” she smiled.

Harley put her back on the floor and she walked over to where the other lamps were stored safely in boxes. Each was labeled with what it was and what colour webbing was on it.

“What is your moms favorite colour?” she asked him, wondering if he even knew or if he was just going to guess like most men.

“I would have to say that her favorite colour is turquoise, but if you don’t have that a light blue will work too,” he replied.

Gabriella looked at the shelves quizzically but finally found just what she was looking for. It was the perfect combination of turquoise and blue. She grabbed the box from the shelf and turned to hand it Harley so that he could go complete his purchase. She handed him the box containing the lamp and was turning to walk away when he placed the box on the floor and grabbed her by the elbow and spun her around into his strong arms and kissed her.

The heat rose to her face, and in that moment all she wanted to do was take him to her studio and ravage his vexing body. But, she held her composure and pulled out of the passion that was building before her body took over her mind. Harley picked up the box and gave her another quick kiss before following her to the front of the shop. He placed it on the counter in front of Dayna who had a perplexing look on her face, as she could see how flushed Gabriella was.

Dayna began to enter in the lamp, “How will you be paying for that today sir?” she asked.

“I will be paying with my credit card,” he replied.

“Dayna did you give him a discount?” Gabriella asked quickly before Dayna completed the sale.

“No. I didn’t know there was one,” Dayna replied with a confused look.

“Yes. Give Harley the employee discount please,” Gabriella said as she smiled at Harley.

“Oh sweetness, you don’t need to do that. I am quite capable of paying full price for one of your works of art,” he said as he held her stare for a moment.

“I insist upon it, it’s a birthday gift for your mother,” she said with a quick smile.

“I appreciate the gesture love. Will I be seeing you later this evening?” he asked as Dayna was now completing the sale.

Teasingly she says, “I don’t know if I’ll be able to make it, it’s just such a bother to travel that far,” Gabby giggled.

Harley cocked his head and replied, "Sweetness, I love how you like to tease me and keep me on my toes."

Harley picked up the lamp box and gave her a quick kiss before turning on his heel and leaving Kismet Jewels. Before Dayna could get too noisy about the situation, Gabriella began to walk back to her studio.

"Oh hey, before I forget, there's still no word from Amelia. Do you think we should send someone to do a wellness check on her in case something happened?" Dayna inquired.

"Yeah, maybe that's a good idea. Call the police and have them do a wellness check in case her mental health has declined again," Gabriella replied.

"Very well. I will get right on that and let you know the outcome of it," Dayna said.

"Thanks," Gabriella replied as she began walking to the back of the store to her studio.

Dayna picked up the phone, dialled the number for the police, and spoke to the first person that picked up. She had explained the situation and that Amelia does have some mental health issues, and that since they haven't heard from her for her shift that day, they had decided to call. The receptionist explained to Dayna what was going to happen and that as soon as they completed the wellness check someone would be in contact with her. Dayna thanked the woman on the other end of the line and then ended the call. She walked back to the studio and knocked softly on the door.

Without opening the door Gabriella called out, "What's up Dayna?"

"Just wanted you to know I made the call, and someone will be in touch as soon as they have information for us," Dayna called back.

"Okay, thanks Dayna," Gabriella replied and she worked on the chandelier.

"No problem Gabs," Dayna replied as she turned away from the door and went back to the front of the store to finish helping customers for the day.

The day wore on and Gabriella nearly had all of the webbing finished on the chandelier when her phone rang in the studio.

"Hello, Kismet Jewels, how can I help you on this lovely day," she answered.

"Is this Miss Gabriella Verno?" the male voice asked.

"Yes, who may I ask is calling?" she questioned.

"This is Officer Tyler Adams. You had us do a wellness check on an employee?" he asked her.

"Yes, on Amelia Jones. Is everything alright?" Gabriella asked with heaviness in her chest.

"Everything appears to be fine. There was no one at home, and her neighbours say that she went out last night with a man and hasn't been back since. Have you tried calling her?" the officer asked.

"Yes my assistant did, and it went right to voicemail. She left a message and we haven't heard a word back from her, that's why we called you," Gabriella stated hotly.

“Calm down ma’am. I’m just trying to cover all the bases, and make sure that nothing serious has happened,” replied Officer Adams.

“Well, thank you for all that you have done officer. If I hear from her I will be sure to let you know,” Gabriella replied.

“You’re welcome. No need to let us know, but if she doesn’t turn up in the next 72 hours feel free to come down to the station and file a missing persons report,” Officer Adams said.

Gabriella smiled before saying, “Thank you, I will keep that in mind. Have a good day Officer.”

“You as well ma’am,” he replied as he ended the call.

Gabriella sat there for a moment wondering what the hell had possessed Amelia to run off with some guy and not call in for her shift, or in the very least let Gabriella know what was going on. By the time the call had come in from the police, it was nearly time to close the shop. Gabriella finished the last of the webbing and decided that she would worry about putting in the lighting fixtures the next day along with decorating it with beautiful crystals. She tidied up her studio and then went out to the front to help Dayna close up for the night. As Dayna finished putting items back into the display cases, Gabriella rang out the till, collected the end of day sales slips, and then took the till drawer back to her office to put in the safe. When she came in the next day she would get the deposit ready, but for now all the cash was put into a safe that only she had the combination for.

Dayna had locked the doors and turned out the Open sign and then began to turn off the lights in the front of the store when someone knocked on the door. Dayna walked over to the door to see what they needed.

“I’m sorry, but we are closed for the day. We open at 8am tomorrow morning,” Dayna said through the closed door.

“Oh shit. I was hoping to speak with Gabriella Verno,” the girl stated.

Dayna baffled as to why this girl needed to see Gabriella so late in the day, “Can I ask for what? She is very busy,” she charged.

“I wanted to talk to her about working here,” the girl said.

“Well, like I said come back in the morning when we are open and I am sure Gabriella will speak to you then,” Dayna stated dryly.

“Okay, thank you so much,” the girl said with a wry smile as she turned and walked away from the store front.

Dayna walked away from the door shaking her head in disbelief. She thought to herself the nerve to come at the end of the day expecting to see Gabriella for a job, that doesn’t seem like she would be too dependable in her mind’s eye. But, she put it out of her mind and finished what she was doing and then met Gabriella by the back door to leave so they could finish locking up and then set the alarm. Both girls walked out the back door and stood there for a moment. Dayna quickly mentioned that some girl may come to see her in the morning about a job, before they hugged and got into their cars and drove away.

Gabriella pulled up in front of her townhouse and opened the garage door and pulled in and turned her car off before closing the garage door. As she closed the garage door, she got out of her car and walked through the inside door to find Goliath waiting by the door to go for his nightly walk.

“Hey buddy, I’ll be right with you, I’m just going to go change quickly and then we can go,” she smiled and patted Goliath on the head.

She kicked her shoes off and ran up the stairs to change into something a little more comfortable for taking her precious fur baby for a walk. Before long, she was headed back down the stairs in a pair of leggings and an oversized t-shirt and a pair of sneakers. As soon as she got to the bottom of the stairs, Goliath spotted her and began circling around her and nearly knocked her over.

“Easy boy, we’re going now,” she giggled as she grabbed his leash off the hook by the inside garage door.

She was now ready to take Goliath for his walk and enjoy the evening views of everyone’s gardens and the smells of the flowers that were in bloom. Gabriella had taken her usual route and made sure that any mess that Goliath made, she picked it up and tossed it in the trash. She wasn’t like some dog owners that just left their mess for everyone to step in. It really irritated Gabriella when she came across someone who had just let their dog do their business and then leave it on the sidewalk for some poor unsuspecting stranger to step in. On her days when her moods were really fiery, she wanted to search out the owners and rub their noses in it to teach them a lesson or two. But, generally she just carried extra baggies and picked up the messes from other dogs and took them to the trash as well.

Dayna often chastised Gabby for being too NICE! She had told her on more than one occasion that one day someone was going to take advantage of her kindness, and Gabriella thought that it finally happened with Amelia. Gabriella walked down to the dog park with Goliath and then let him off his leash to run and play with other dogs. For such a large animal, he was as gentle as a lamb. She sat there watching him, when out of the corner of her eye she spotted Amelia’s car drive by. How could she be so naïve as to trust Amelia, she knew that there was a potential for her to burn her, but she gave her a chance anyways. Gabriella called Goliath back so she could put him back on his leash and then head back home. She wasn’t sure if she was going to go over to Harley’s tonight or not. She would like a night to sit and relax with a glass of chardonnay in a bubble bath before going to bed for the night. Gabriella would ponder on it during her walk home and decide then if she was going to see her sensual exotic Viking. Just as she was thinking about him, her phone dinged.

Harley

Hey sweetness, r u comin’ by 2nite?

Gabriella

I don’t know yet sexy 😊

Harley

Can u plz, I need 2 talk 2 u

She thought about what her reply was going to be, frankly she was scared about what he needed to talk to her about so badly. The last time she heard those words, the asshole she had been seeing was married and repeatedly told her that they were separated when they weren't. It wasn't until she went over there to surprise him that she found out, and not to mention they had two children together. But, she figured she had better get the talk over with if it was going to be that bad.

Gabriella

Yeah, sure. Give me 10 mins, just walking Goliath

Harley

C u soon sweetness 😊

Gabriella

Sure thing

She put her phone back in her pocket and walked towards Applewood Crescent. Gabriella had a pit in the bottom of her stomach that something terrible was about to happen. It always seems to happen when things are going well, suddenly the rug is ripped out from under her feet. It was like the Gods enjoyed playing cruel tricks with her love life. She arrived back at the cul-de-sac and walked towards her townhouse to take Goliath home before she went to see Harley. Just as she was walking into view, Harley had walked out on to his balcony and noticed that she was walking with her head hung low, she didn't seem herself. He hoped that he hadn't scared her with his message about needing to talk. But, he had to. He was about to leave in two short days for camp, and he wouldn't be back for a week. What killed him more was that he had to go in early.

Gabriella took Goliath home and made her way over to Harley's to find out what was in store for her. Was it going to be another woman, that he was married, or that he was just using her and didn't actually care for her at all like he had told her. She was terrified about what was coming her way. She slowly made her way over to Harley's and knocked on his door with a heavy heart. He answered the door in nothing but his jeans and a smile. Well maybe the news wasn't going to be too bad after all she thought. She walked in, and he lead her into the living room where he had candles lit and glasses of wine with a charcuterie board. Well, if he was going to dump her, he was pretty classy about it, she thought.

"Sweetness, can you please sit. I have something to tell you that I have been struggling with all day," he said as he took her by the hand to have her sit next to him.

"Well, all I can say is, if you're going to dump me just spit it out and let me leave. There is no need in dragging it out with this elaborate showing," she spit out, sounding harsher than she wanted.

He was taken a back for a moment before he replied, "Sweetness, I'm not dumping you, I could never be so crass to a woman of your calibre."

Gabriella swallowed hard, "Then what is all this about? As you can tell I don't do well with messages that have hidden meanings. I prefer people that just come right out and say what they need to say and not beat around the bush," she blurted out.

“Very well, here goes nothing. Sweetness, I have to leave for camp in a couple days for a week. Trust me when I say this, I don’t want to leave right now when things are just heating up between us,” he said as he took her hand in his and brought it to his lips and kissed the back softly.

“Well, Jesus H. Christ. You did all this and made it sound like life or death just because you’re going back to work? Don’t worry about it, we have all the time in the world when you’re back home and for ever how long this carries on,” she replied with a chuckle as she shook her head in disbelief that he was worried about how she would react about him going back to work.

They talked a little while longer and enjoyed the wine and the charcuterie board. Gabriella couldn’t believe the level of concern that this incredible man had for her feelings after knowing her for such a short time. They had agreed that while he was away in camp that he would call and text when he could, and she promised to stay safe so he wouldn’t worry about her. As the night wore on, the sun began to set casting hues of orange, pink and red over everything. It made the night even more seductive.