

Building Dreams with Love

Sophie

I've been back in Lake Harmony and living with Rob for a week and I feel like I returned home. The moment my driver pulled up in front of his home I couldn't wait to run into his arms and never leave him again. Since my arrival, we have cocooned ourselves at home except for friends and family stopping by to welcome me back.

"What do you want to do today sweetheart," he asks. "As much as I love you being in my arms, you've spent the first half of this year in seclusion."

I turn to face him, "You know what I would LOVE to do?" I bite my lip and hope he is okay with this. It's no secret that I've been hiding in Lake Harmony for the last couple of months before heading to LA to close that chapter of my life and move back here. Between Gertie and her Facebook posts and the news leaking of my stalker being found and arrested here, the town knows I plan on coming back and staying. "I want you to take me into town. I'd like to look around Genie's shop and maybe buy something cute and then I want to treat you to dinner at that delicious Italian restaurant and send Jax pictures of us eating to make him jealous!"

"Are you sure you are ready to become part of this town? I know they respect Jax when he's home, but you may look like a shiny new toy they want to see and talk to."

I snuggle in closer and give him a tender kiss. "Thank you for always making sure I feel safe and comfortable, but I can't hide anymore. I want to become part of this town and let the community see there's nothing special about me. That way I won't have issues and they will hopefully start to treat me like they do Jax. I am here, part of your life, and part of your future."

Rob rolls me under him and kisses me, "You don't know how much I love hearing that you are mine and here to stay. I will do anything you want sweetheart but first I need to love you some more."

“You know that I will never push you away from loving me so please, do your best to show me how much you love me, and I will make sure to show it right back.”

We’ve been walking all over town for the last two hours enjoying the town square with the pretty fountain, stopping in Lake Harmony Treasures to buy fun gifts and to say hello to Genie, and even stopping by Stella’s new shop Mint and Sage for me to sign up for a sound therapy session she is hosting next week.

“I know you were worried about people harassing me a bit today, Rob, but they’ve been nice and polite about saying hello and welcoming me to Lake Harmony. I don’t think that you need to worry about me being out alone.”

He wraps his arm around my shoulder and brings me close with a kiss on the temple, “I’m glad that they are being respectful. I think that they know you’ve been through enough. Once word got out that the fake dog napper was really your stalker, they were happy that Garrett asked them for their help. One of the things I love about this town is their commitment as a community to help each other. You are one of us now and so maybe they will treat you a little bit more like they do Jax. Plus, you are my girl, and they all love me.”

“Well, there is that,” I say to humor him as my stomach growls.

“Soph, I think we better head over to Bella Roma’s so I can feed you.”

I put my hand on my stomach and laugh because I am starving, “How is it only my stomach is growling when you haven’t eaten since I have?”

“While you were browsing Genie’s I bought and ate two candy bars from her.”

I stop and turn to look at him, “Are you serious right now?”

He stands there smiling with his hands in his pockets, “Yep. I didn’t know how long you would be, and I knew you still planned on going next door to talk to my sister. So, I grabbed two candy bars and was eating them while you walked around shopping.”

I grab his hand and drag him towards the car, “Let’s go so I can get myself some dinner. I guess I will still treat you since it was

my idea, but I can't believe you ate candy bars and didn't even offer me a single bite."

"You didn't say you were hungry then."

"Come on, I need some warm bread and a plate full of carbs and we are ordering three dinners and sharing all of it so prepare yourself."

"That sounds good to me."

As we walk to the car I keep mumbling about how ridiculous he is. Good thing I love him, and he is sweet, funny, and easy on the eyes. a big pain in the butt though.

Maria comes over to us as we walk into the cute little restaurant, "Oh beautiful Sophie. I am so happy that you came in and that you are back. When I heard that you were here and in trouble I was so upset. Antoni and I adore Jax, and he said that when you come in to treat you like you are family. He is a silly man because I treat all my customers like family. Now come, let's have you sit in the romantic booth so you will be given some privacy."

"Thank you, Maria, it's so wonderful to finally meet the woman that makes the most amazing food I've had since Italy. I've been so excited to be able to come and sit in your restaurant. While I was here before I was lucky to enjoy your food with Noah and Bree and I've been craving it ever since."

"Thank you, my dear. Come, let's get you a nice glass of wine and you can ask me any questions you may have about the dinner options. Do you like a glass of white or red wine?"

"I would love a red and I'm told you should be the one to pick for me. I usually drink a full-bodied cabernet."

"Wonderful and Robert would you like the same?"

"Sounds perfect Maria, why don't you just bring us a bottle of whatever you pick."

I watch Maria walk towards the back and smile, "I love you."

"I love you too baby. I hope it's okay that I got us a bottle but that's only four glasses. I think we can manage, and you are not buying dinner."

"Yes, I am. I invited you."

He grabs my hand and rubs his thumb over my knuckles, "First of all, I am not taking a beautiful woman who I happen to love

to dinner and not picking up the tab. That's not how things work. Second, I have something that I want to talk to you about."

"I won't argue with you over who's buying this time so thank you. What do you want to talk about? Is everything okay?" Maria comes back to the table and smiles at us, pours our wine, leaves fresh bread and butter, and walks away trying not to interrupt our conversation.

"While you were still in LA selling your house and packing up what is soon to be arriving here, I bought ten acres of land that came up for sale along the bluff behind Julia's Harte of Harmony. I know that you want to call this home now, but I never want you to feel scared or worried again. I like my house, but it's just a house. I want to make a home with you. I'm taking the ten acres that both back up to the water and splitting it into two lots to build on. One lot would be ours to design a house for us to raise a family in and Jax could take the other lot. I know he typically stays with his parents when he comes into town, but I've talked to him, and he wants to have his own place here too. We can divide it and then put up either a main gate that opens to two different drives or each has its own coded gate. That would give you both the security from fans and still be close."

I just sit there and stare at this amazing man who loves me. Not because I am Sophie Knight Hollywood actress but because I'm just a girl, whom he got to know and fell in love with even with all my troubles and quirks.

"Are you going to say something?"

"You are amazing. I love how much you love me and that you know how important Jax is to me. I'm happy in your place though so we could just stay there."

"Soph, I have no clue what all you are having sent here from your place in LA but you had a big house there. I already have a house full of furniture, so let's start fresh and figure out how to combine it all into our home. I want to give you the comfort of a gated home and we can't do that with my current house. We can design a house and have it built before winter hits and whatever things you have coming here on the truck we can keep in storage until we can move it into our new house. I really want to do this for you and since I am the builder, we can design anything you want. Five acres gives us a lot of options plus being on the water I can

have a boathouse or dock and keep my water toys right there on the property.”

“Have you already spoken to Jax about this?”

“Maybe.”

“And...what did he say?”

“He’s already bought the other lot and is working with Scott to design his house.”

“When in the world did you already do all this?”

“Before you got back. I wanted to have things in place for you. I will do anything you want but Jax was pretty pumped about being next door. Something about stealing you for pizza and movie nights or something. Are you happy with this or did I jump the gun?”

“I love it all, but can we go back to the other part of what you said to me?”

“What part?”

“The part about us raising our family in this new house.”

He gets up and comes around to sit next to me in the booth.

“I love you more than I have ever loved someone. I am going to ask you to marry me and put a ring on your finger. I would do it right now if I wasn’t afraid of moving too fast for you. I love you and I am going to marry you and we are going to have a house full of beautiful children that make a lot of noise.”

“Is that so,” I ask him with a smirk. “You are so sure of me agreeing to all this?”

“ I will ask you every day until you say yes.”

I put my hands on his face and look into his eyes, “Yes.”