

CHAPTER 5

Eva had to make a great effort that day to contain her excitement in front of the rest of the people. She was very excited, but it was important to not let it show. How is she going to be happy that a poor person has mutated in such a... horrible way? (although it seemed wonderful to her). Well, the reality was that authorities hadn't yet revealed who the victim was and what had really happened to her, but Eva was pretty sure she would know that sooner or later.

She was about to tell Alex about the great news, but... wait a second. She was still anonymous on the internet, and she wanted to stay that way, right? If for any reason, people around her discovered what her true interests were, everyone would repudiate her. She couldn't afford a slip like that, so she decided that Alex didn't have to know anything. She had to keep acting like always. She didn't need to ignore the fact itself, but it was still an isolated case in a remote part of the world, as it had been happening lately.

As soon as it was known, by the affected person's own confession, the police cordoned off the house and locked the victim in her house. And after an interrogation, she ended up confessing that she mutated 3 days ago! The fact leaked to the press was that she was an important business woman in the area, owner of a chain of fashion stores. In his mansion, the entire service had been exposed to this patient 0, and for those 3 days they were leading a normal life. The authorities became very nervous, and launched an unprecedented search operation.

3 days later, there were 4 more affected throughout the city. Great! Eva thought... But in all her surroundings there were only people talking about the risk of going out into the street and crossing paths with someone carrying the mutagen. People were visibly scared.

Day after day, more infections were added to the list. It seemed that there was no real control. Tracing teams were taking too long to find close contacts, perhaps because people were also fearful of law enforcement's treatment of those potentially affected. There were quite bad rumors about possible torture, illegal confinement, etc, and all this would be covered by the citizen security law.

Making a great effort, Eva didn't comment anything to Alex, but in his daily mail with more material, he sent photos of new mutates, to Eva's delight. But something in the background of a photo caught her attention... "Pizzeria Panino? one second. That's where Maya, the boys and I are going to have dinner... Am I sure about this??"

And yes it was. As she looked at the other photos, all the background images had perfectly familiar views of her city. Alejandro was sharing images of the outbreak from his own city!! How the hell does he get them? But following his reasoning, the sensible thing was not to confess that this was his city, so she continued as usual, but more excited.

The days passed, and the infections increased. Rumors of nasty, grotesque and monstrous mutations were circulating on everyone's lips. And also more macabre rumors about violent arrests by the police to lock up possible contacts with infected people. It all seemed like a

real witch hunt. The entire population was afraid to go outside, but the authorities had not yet restricted mobility. "Everything is controlled, we ask the population not to panic, the forces of order guarantee the control of this small outbreak" The politicians announced.

But the reality was different. Despite the tests they did, and the tracking, the mutated cases sometimes appeared without any logical origin. There was fear, and worse, mistrust in people. The truth is that a person could be a transmitter without having mutated yet, and transmit the mutation later on completely unconsciously. And then Pam! suddenly mutate. But by then he could have already spread the mutation out there.

A few days later, a normal Tuesday until then, Maya and Eva went to their respective classes, but when they finished the classes, Maya commented strangely that one of her classmates had not come. This wouldn't be a weird thing, if they weren't in a normal situation. But those days, any change in routine could be a bad thing. "What if... ?" Maya wondered.

"Don't worry, I'm sure she'll be sick. People get sick even with a mutagen outbreak, you know?" Eva tried to reassure, although she wasn't as worried as Maya. "To my disappointment, it's probably just a cold" she thought.

But the next day, in the middle of Maya's class, the teacher received an urgent message. She turned her face totally white as the wall, and with all calm she could muster, she asked her students to calmly pack up everything and go home quietly. It seemed that her classmate had finally mutated, and the authorities asked all classmates to quarantine for a week. They would call them by phone in an hour, to proceed with the pertinent tests.

Maya's blood ran cold. As she went out, sent a message to Eva, telling her that she was very scared. Eva tried to reassure her, but the reality is that she was more excited than worried. But she felt bad for that, her friend was suffering. "Don't worry, I'm sure it's nothing, you'll see how in the end everything becomes just a scare" said Eva. But deep down she was beginning to feel frustrated. Why didn't it happen in my class??

The rest of the classes finished and Eva went home, she asked Maya how she was, and obviously, nothing had happened. "Have you seen? Nothing will happen to you. Do not leave the house and everything will be fine" She said trying to reassure her. Although in reality, nothing was certain... If you had to mutate, you couldn't do anything about it.

Arriving home, Eva was very excited. She locked herself in her room and started fantasizing on her own. Could the mutation reach her acquaintances? What if Maya mutated? how would she mutate? and what if it spread to her own school?? All this was making her very nervous. She turned on her computer, closed the door of her room, and began to search through her material for the most suggestive images, which made her imagination fly, and her finger traveled inside her pants. She had to release the stress that this situation caused, and the anxiety that perhaps her most hidden fantasy could finally come true. But then something distracted her. "An email? ha well, it's Spam "she said with her hand still wet.

But something caught her attention. The ads didn't light up or link to anything. In fact, they were just JPGs but without any links attached. So weird?. She looked at the entire message,

and there was also the typical banner at the end of the message with the conditions and the link to unsubscribe. But something else caught his attention. Among the JPGs there was only one text, the rest were all images. And the text clearly said MAYA.

"What the hell is this??" She thought "Maya?? Is it referring to Maya, my friend? She looked at the sender, and it was an automatically generated account, it was clearly Spam. Well, this was all very strange, but it doesn't seem really relevant. She couldn't stop spinning. Maya...

She thought of searching for Maya on google, and she didn't realize: maybe it's spam from the design program MAYA 3D? She had used it a few years ago. "It must be that, for sure". She thought more calmly. She went back to her pictures, and her hand sank into her crotch again, while with the other scrolled the mouse through images one after another.

In that way she arrived at 3 in the morning (again) until she fell asleep. The next day, she lazily got out of bed "I have to stop staying up so much, especially when I have class the next day" she said to herself still half asleep in front of the mirror. While she was having breakfast with her parents, her cell phone rang. She had a message from Maya. "What do you want at this hour?" She wondered to herself. But the message made her head explode literally. "I have mutated!!! shit!! It had to happen to me!!"