

CHAPTER 7

Maya was on top of the bed, fully covered with a blanket, the blinds drawn and the light very low. It was obvious that Maya had set the stage so she wouldn't have to show her body more than needed. Eva entered slowly, afraid of frightening her. The blanket covered her body, but volumetrically it took up more space than she should. "Wow... her mutation must be big" she thought.

"Come in... sit down..." Maya invited Eva.

Eva sat down carefully, without taking her eyes off Maya, trying to convey closeness and trust.

"So how are you? Do you feel better?" Eve asked.

"Yes... well... I'm still not used to this, but I think I have no choice"

At least she had stopped crying.

"I... I'm really sorry about what happened to you. But this is not going to change anything. Among us, everything will continue to be exactly the same, you shouldn't worry about that "

"I... I know you are the best. But don't fool yourself, Eva, this has changed everything, and there is no turning back." Maya said, looking down, visibly sad.

"But...I'm sure it's not that bad! Maya, most mutants end up appreciating her new body much more. In many cases, it supposes advantages, it's a fact. Sometimes people have an irrational fear of what ends up being a body full of advan...` She stopped short when she saw that Maya looked at her a little annoyed.

"It's obvious that you tell that because it hasn't happened to you!" She said angrily. Eva thought to herself "I wish".

"Well, you may be right, but... how bad has it been? You haven't told us anything yet..."

"I'm not...ready yet to...show myself to anyone. Only to my parents, and their reaction has been... I prefer not to talk about it. My mother, every time see me, starts to cry, I don't need to tell you more."

"Well, your mother has always been very impressionable."

"Yes, you are right about that"

"Do you remember when I threw up in your living room, that time I ate two whole pizzas and a chocolate shake?"

"Yes! My mother couldn't clean it, my father had to go because my mother ran out of the house to get some air, hehehe"

At least she laughed...

"Well, I am convinced that it is not that bad. Let's see, you said you haven't ended up crippled, that is, you haven't lost your legs or their mobility, right?"

"No... I told you this is not a problem..." Maya said looking up distractedly

"So, they are still in their place...? i.e. can you walk well?"

"Well..." she said, shifting a little uncomfortably on the bed. As she moved, Eva saw how the blanket moved in several places where, physically, a normal body should not.

"Let's just say...all of them are in their new place now..." Maya said visibly embarrassed and very slowly. Eva's heart was beating so hard that she was afraid Maya might hear it.

"But... all of them? you have... you have multi..." she had to stop the sentence to swallow hard "multiple...legs?" Eva's eyes widened, seeing that indeed, the sheets moved a little confirming that there were more than two feet moving under.

"I have.... yes... I already told you, I'm a monster!" Maya's eyes moistened again.

"But... but that's not so bad! I mean... well, I know right now you see everything black, but multiple legs! That's great!"

"Well, I don't see it that way! I barely know how to move! as it doesn't happen to you, you can say whatever you want about it !" Maya was immediately indignant "besides, if that were the only thing..."

Wait, is there more??? Eva was shocked, it's a huge mutation!

"Is there more?" Eva asked without being able to hide her curiosity.

"I... nothing, leave it, I have more limbs, let's leave it like that... and things that... that shouldn't be there!" Maya was really angry, but more with herself than with anything else.

"Okay...okay...if you're uncomfortable I won't ask, don't worry. But I insist that you aren't a monster! I think you are just the opposite, a superhuman! Multiple legs, and multiple..."

"Eva! Stop! You don't really know how bad I feel. I have to learn absolutely everything from scratch! and my mother doesn't help at all. I hardly know how to move, I'm barely dexterous using the computer, and shower or bathroom? don't try to imagine that. Nothing in this house is compatible with my body right now." Maya was close to crying again.

Eva got up and approached Maya to try to give her a hug, but Maya looked at her like a lightning bolt, stopping her movement, with a clear message of "stay away!" in her eyes. Eva stopped and just sat on the edge of the bed keeping the distance.

"Maya. I will be with you all you need. You know I live two blocks from here. If you need help just tell me. You know you can trust me even if you need to wash your ass!"

She said jokingly, trying to cheer her up a bit.

"Very funny..." she said, trying to sound angry, but a small smile escaped from her mouth.

"But thanks. I know I can count on you. I'll let you know, I promise."

Then Maya's mother called from the hallway "Maya... it's dinner time!"

"Well, I have to go too. I'll see you tomorrow, okay?"

"Thanks Eva. You are a good friend"

Eva made her way home floating down the street. Her head was only trying to guess what else she was hiding under the blankets. "Multiple members! Does that mean she has extra arms too?? And what does she mean with things that should not be there??"

Eva had a huge emotional conflict. Her best friend had multiple legs and arms, just like in her deepest fantasies! That was great, finally a mutant close to her! But so close... Why couldn't she mutate as well? She felt very frustrated. Maya clearly didn't want the mutation, but she wanted!. Fate could be very cruel sometimes.

The next day, Eva went to visit Maya, along with Rob and especially Sam, who was very worried about her cousin. Maya received them the same way. Dim lights, shades down, the blanket around her body, showing only her head, and a plate of cookies courtesy of her mother. They all respected her wish not to show her body yet, but they were all extremely

curious. They were able to get out of her that Maya had indeed developed multiple limbs, and more, although she didn't want to define anything else. And less in front of the boys.

But the opinion was unanimous. Within the mutations that she could have suffered, the multiple members were not bad at all. They tried to cheer Maya up, and more or less managed to make her smile. They went back to talking about daily things, Sam told him gossip about his cousins in town, for example, Rob commented that there were only 2 days left until the new expansion of the RPG they used to play was released, and that they had to work very hard, to which Rob asked directly: "you, you can keep running the computer, can't you, Maya?" He said, visibly concerned.

"Yes, Rob, don't worry... my arms... are normal..." Maya said, reassuring Rob. And perhaps because of how relaxed the conversation was and how relaxed they managed to make Maya feel, he ended up saying:

"the four of them..."

Her three friends looked at her open-mouthed. Plus Eva, who almost choked on the cookies her mother left for snack.

"Four arms?????" They all said in unison.

Maya almost regretted saying it. But seeing how everyone was amazed, she soon got over her embarrassment.

"Yes... well... I don't think it's easy, I'm... still very clumsy. The new ones basically copy the movement on the old ones, which makes them always in the middle. Plus I look like a Mortal Kombat monster."

"Well... four arms..." Rob said visibly affected "no... it's not that big a deal, is it, Eva?" Rob tried to hide his shock from her. One thing is what happened on the other side of the world, but when it happened to one of your friends, the thing has a different impact

"No, of course not, there are much worse mutations, besides, that have many advantages, like... for example... you can be very skilled with video games! is incredible!" Eva said tremendously excitedly, and very jealousy.

"But, you... how are you feeling, cousin?" Sam said, visibly worried. He had never seen a mutant in person, and with all the bad talk about mutants, Sam feared the worst.

Maya tried to appear strong, but she didn't find it easy.

"I am... physically... very affected, but it doesn't hurt at all, the doctors have said that the mutation hasn't altered my metabolism, that is, I'm not going to die or anything, but... emotionally, I'm devastated. It is not easy to assume that the life I had is over forever..."

Seeing that Maya was about to burst into tears again, Eva tried to radically change the topic of conversation.

"Well... 4 arms can't be that bad, I mean, you can write two things at the same time, write on the keyboard and use the mouse simultaneously... eat while reading a book, I don't know... it can have many advantages"

Maya did not seem very convinced, but Rob, seeing where Eva wanted to go, and despite not sharing that "optimistic" vision, tried to encourage Maya by showing her that it wasn't so bad. But Rob and Sam still had in her brain terrible images of what else might be under that blanket. They were visibly impressed.

Maya kept saying that it wasn't that easy, that they were hard to handle. But little by little, Maya was cheering up a little when she saw that her friends were still there, and they didn't reject her like a pest, as she thought was going to happen. But they didn't know everything. If they knew all the truth, maybe they would change her point of view, she was convinced.

As the days passed, it seemed to Eva that Maya was slowly accepting herself. At least she stopped crying, and somehow she didn't feel as miserable as she used to. In the end it was going to be just a time question, thought Eva. She had no choice.

She continued to be amazed about Maya, she began to suspect what her true mutations were, because of all the details she was catching. Her four arms, her breasts had grown, because of the forms of the blankets, and using her logic, she thought that she had at least 6 legs, and therefore 6 genitalia! That's why she would be so embarrassed. But that, from her point of view, was something great! God, she was sooo jealous!

Fortunately, she was able to discuss these concerns with Alex, who continued sharing material with Eva. But all the images were about people from her own city, as she could check from the backgrounds of the photographs.

"Seriously, Alex, where do you get them?"

"I've already told you, I can't reveal my source, I run a lot of risks sharing this with you. Do you want me to stop and get in trouble?" He answered

"It's just... It really strikes me that all these photos are from the same place" Eva said, already more and more intrigued. She was willing to offer some of her anonymity to find out more.

"And how do you know?" Alex asked innocently

"Because I live in this city"

For a few minutes Alex didn't answer, until he finally said:

"You live there?? really?? Why didn't you tell me before? all these people are your neighbors and you had not told me??" Alex said a little offended.

"Yes! I didn't tell you anything... because I wanted to keep my privacy too, just like you, I guess, but... after that email I don't know what to think anymore. And all your photos are from my city, and what if... the email was sent to me by the same person who sends you the photos??" She said.

"Well, I hadn't thought about it." Alex answered evasively.

Eva continued talking about her friend Maya, and how she thought it was her mutation, making Alex also feel very interested. She confessed to him that she was very envious. It was unfair that Maya, who really hated being mutated, had to be able to experience it, and she didn't. She was grateful to be able to express these hidden feelings with someone.

Day after day, Eva visited Maya whenever she could. They talked about class gossip, about studies, about the computer, but also about her own mutation. Eva always commented on how cool it must be to have multiple members. Little by little, Maya felt more comfortable with her body, especially since Eva tried to normalize it and share with her her way of seeing mutants. It was really a great effort by Eva, especially containing her curiosity and her excitement about her best friend being a mutant.

"Eva, one question... Why..." Maya began to ask "why do you like mutations so much?"

Eva noticed how her back was freezing...

"W-what do you mean?" Eva said absently.

"Well, all these days, you do nothing but talk to me about how beneficial some mutations are, that I have been lucky, that it is not so bad, that it even has its own beauty... I mean, the general opinion regarding mutations, it's just the opposite, you stop being human, it's an aberration of nature, come on, it's bad. But you, you think just the opposite, why? what do you see in mutants??" Maya said in a very direct way.

"Well... I... it's not all so... that way." Eva didn't really know where to go. But Maya was willing to know what Eva thought. And she didn't have many alternatives.

"I... well... I, we could say that... I have a peculiar point of view regarding all this, you know?" Maya was silent, waiting for Eva to continue speaking

"I... I don't know why, or since when, I think since I can remember, I've been attracted to... you know, bodies..." It was very difficult for Eva to say this. It was her deepest secret, but she wasn't going to fool Maya. After all, she was going to confess her fantasy to a person who was literally her fantasy, what was wrong with it? "...different bodies. You know, mutant video games, cartoon series... I mean, bodies with multiple arms, legs... he... heads..."

Maya looked at her quite strangely, but she didn't say anything, her look invited her to continue talking

"... And well, over time, this interest became almost... an obsession, when I reached puberty, my interest in sexual issues also grew, and joined these tastes... My God, I cannot believe I'm speaking about this." Eva covered her face in shame. But a hand from Maya came out of the sheets and touched his shoulder.

"Please continue. I swear it won't get out of here"

"Okay... Well, since my fantasies don't exist, well, they didn't exist up to now, so I invented them myself and captured them in drawings. Also surfing the internet I found forums and communities of people who did morphs and others... all that fed my fantasies. But then the mutation arose in Minnesota. And that has been a turning point in my life."

Maya nodded understanding the situation.

"I...I'm telling you something I never thought I'd tell anyone, really. This is my deepest secret. But that's how I really am. And I'm very ashamed of it, because I know it's not normal. But I can't help it. I am tremendously attracted to mutants. Their multiple arms, breasts, heads, sexual organs, various forms... I have a collec... well, I have seen many mutations through the network, and for me they are amazing. To the point that I would like to mutate in any way..."

Maya kept silent, but her face showed surprise.

"That's why... when you... mutated... well. I really felt sorry for you, I was very affected by how you were emotionally, I felt terrible, because you were having a really bad time, but on the other hand, I was amazed knowing that my best friend was experiencing my greatest longing!" Eva didn't care about her secret right now. She needed to get it out at once.

"In fact, I think that fate is unfair, I should have mutated instead of you. But these things are not chosen. Anyway, I still don't know what your mutation is really like, but what I know for

now seems incredible to me. And anything else you haven't told me yet will make it even more amazing. I really think, even if you don't share it, that you are very lucky." Eva lowered her head embarrassed by everything she had said.

But Maya, she kept looking at her. She then sighed, looked down, and slowly her body got up from the bed. Little by little the blanket that covered her slipped away, and Maya's real body was discovered. Eva began to look at the scene with wide eyes. Her heart was beating at 1000 per hour.