

In The Lab

Rafe's results returned and he slammed both fists into the table in front of him. The embarrassment of making a scene was nonexistent as he was greeted with a less than stellar projection for his model. He couldn't seem to focus today. He was alerted before he left his house that his vitals were showing erratic readings but he simply dismissed them. He knew he had been missing a lot of sleep lately but he was just too busy. He had been running projections for the past three weeks and he was close, so close that he could feel it. He had hoped this would have been the moment. If he could get confirmation, he would surely get his own team. He had put in his Rafe and felt he had earned it. The normally quiet lab was noisier than usual, noisier than he'd ever seen, as everyone seemed to have a hotter temper for the last couple of days. In his previous years in the lab he had only been present for one actual argument. It was short and resolved quickly. This week was different.

There were discussions going on now that were bordering arguments all over the lab. Why couldn't they leave him alone. He was on the verge of being promoted over all of them. He would finally get the recognition and authority he deserved if they could just be quiet and let him think. Rafe needed to step away for a minute to compose himself and clear his head. He turned away from his station and was plowed into by Mikhael. Rafe was sent flying against the wall and down to one knee. Mikhael lost his balance all together and hit the ground face first, sprawling across the floor.

"You idiot!" Mikhael screamed at him.

"What? Are you serious? You just ran into me." Rafe felt the instant anger that comes from being surprised and hurt at the same Rafe. "What is wrong with you?"

“Me,…” Mikhael climbed to his feet staring Rafe down. “... you ran into me. Shouldn't you be working you hack?”

Rafe didn't know what to say. He had never had any problem with Mikhael and actually thought of him as a good guy. They were definitely not close but they had collaborated on some smaller projects a couple of months ago. Now he was calling him names after knocking him down. That was not Ok.

“Hack?” Rafe pushed off of the wall and encroached upon Mikhael. “Hack? This is not the day.” Rafe pushed Mikhael backwards causing him to fall back to the ground. Rafe couldn't believe what just happened. Why was he behaving so erratically? He still felt his anger swelling inside of him. Mikhael tried to climb to his feet and Rafe pushed him down again.

“Rafe, what is wrong with you? I didn't mean to…”

Mikhael was climbing to his feet again when Rafe balled up his fist and punched him as hard as he could in the left side of his jaw. Mikhael fell back, this Rafe he was on his back.

“You can't just push me around and expect to get away with it!”

It made sense to Rafe now. Mikhael was trying to sabotage his work, he must know how close he was. The last time they worked together, he must have let something slip out. He thought he had been careful. How much did Mikhael know, probably enough to subvert his work.

“The results. Its been you all of this time. I knew I was right. How did you do it?”

“I don’t know what you are talking about. It was an accident, I didn’t mean to run into you.” Mikhael’s replies started to sound like pleading. People were paying attention to the exchange. It took Rafe a second but he realized what Mikhael was doing. Mikhael was trying to discredit him in front of the others. He had tampered with his results and now he was going to try and make him look unstable.

“I know what you are doing! Tell them what you did!” Rafe was screaming now. He could not allow Mikhael to get away with this. “Tell them!” Rafe struck Mikhael again, this one directly lined up with the bridge of his nose. He had meant to aim lower but the rage was clouding his vision. “This is all your fault!” Rafe struck him again, on target and getting the intended results, a broken nose and a lot of blood.

Rafe would make him tell. He wouldn’t get away with his plan to hold him back. Rafe had worked hard, he had earned this. Jemma yelled as she approached from across the lab. “Rafe, what are you doing? Leave him alone?”

Jemma was going to make this look like it was his fault. She was working with Mikhael. Jemma was one of the good ones. She had always supported him. “You too?”

Jemma stopped in her tracks. Rafe had his confirmation, she was working with Mikhael. Rafe stood up, over Mikhael as he clutched his nose crying. Rafe swung his leg back in the largest arc he could manage and kicked Mikhael as hard as he could. Once, twice, and then one last time, the point of his shoe now covered with blood. “You too?”

Jemma screamed. "Not you too. You are not going to blame this on me. You are not going to stop me!" Rafe had to stop her, she was trying to make a scene just as Mikhael had done. Rafe ran at her at the full speed he could muster. She offered no resistance as he tackled her to the ground, only screams.

"Shut up, I know what you are doing!"

Rafe hit her. With the very first punch she stopped her incessant screaming. The second one made her go limp. She may have been prepared to set him up but she wasn't ready for him to stop her. Rafe climbed to his feet and stumbled needing to use the nearby wall for support. He was tired before this but now his stomach was churning and he felt cold. His vision was also getting cloudy and he thought it must be do to the adrenaline. Why were they doing this? Despite the room starting to spin, Rafe could see others coming after him. They gathered around him standing in wide eyed amazement. Rafe tried to get out what he could. "All of you?"

As soon as he heard his own distorted voice, Rafe knew that they must have poisoned him. His heart was racing. He couldn't see. He continued to get colder. And the room was spinning. He never would have imagined they would have been so jealous. Rafe stumbled and that was the chance the others had been waiting on. They rushed him and pinned both of his arms. Pauliina, Haina, Kara, Vishnu, Jason - It was everyone on the office, they were all against him.

"No, get way!"

They grabbed onto him tighter. He couldn't move his arms. He tried to kick at them and they piled onto his legs. They had taken him to the ground and were overpowering him. What were they going to do?

"Get off of me!"

The more he struggled the more they piled onto him. He tried to bite at them, tried to use the only weapon he had left but he couldn't move his head.

"Get off of me!"

It was getting darker in the room. Whatever they had given him was making him feel worse, much worse. It felt like he was dying.

"No! You can't have it! It's my work! You can't have it!"

Rafe was screaming as loud as he could but it was coming out sounding unintelligible like some wild animal. Rafe could see more movement over him and then the room was completely black and his heart felt as if it was going to escape through his chest.

"What have you done to me? No...!"

Mikhael Linos

12.12.26.2679 - 03.04.2718

Jemma Nguyen

13.09.2661 - 03.04.2718

Rafe Al Samara
07.08.2650 - 03.04.2718

Kara Impke
05.04.2667 – 08.04.2718

Pauliina Johansen
03.01.2659 – 09.04.2718

Haina Stacia Benton
08.01.2673 – 10.04.2718

Vishnu Harunson
09.11.2659 – 11.04.2718

Irving Horowitz
07.06.2670 – 11.04.2718