

Excerpt from *Subordinate Position* by Delaney Diamond

Marco made his way through the department toward his office on the other side of the building, winking or smiling at each syrupy “*Hey, Marco,*” he received from the female staff.

After asking his assistant to hold his calls, he shut the office door.

Struck out again.

Deep in thought, he rubbed the side of his jaw as he stared out at the rooftops of the nearby buildings. He wondered if Danica’s behavior was because she liked him, or because she didn’t like him. It was hard to tell, and he was starting to think she couldn’t stand the sight of him. Her chocolate brown eyes seldom looked his way, even when they were in a one-on-one conversation.

It filled him with envy to see her laugh and chat with other employees. It only made him try that much harder to coax a smile in his direction from those lush lips. But she seldom smiled—at least not with him.

With a muttered oath, Marco spun away from the window and dropped into the chair behind his desk. He knew through idle office chatter that she was single. Her availability only heightened his interest.

She occupied way too much of his thoughts. He found himself distracted in the middle of department meetings and strategizing about ways and means to get time alone with her. Of late, she had even managed to infiltrate his dreams, causing him to wake up sweaty and hard, like an adolescent boy with overactive hormones.

Something had to be done.

Soon.