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He loves me and wants to marry me? At that moment, Selena felt her mind was all muddled up. "I'll assume that I have your consent if you won't say anything." Pierre placed a finger under her chin.

"Wait!" After holding both hands up against his chest, she quickly retracted a hand to clutch onto the lapels of her shirt. "What do you mean by that?"

"I mean it in the literal sense." Selena stared at him intently, knowing that she should in fact avoid taking it in that sense. Who knows what this man has in mind? Tentatively, she asked, "What if I am unwilling to comply?"

Standing up, he sat back down on the sofa, looking all prim and proper. Although he wanted to get himself a cigarette, he retracted his hand upon recalling something. "You will eventually comply."

"Stop being such a pompous arse!" She cast him a glance.

Snorting, he continued, "I know you're seeking revenge on them. You want to seek revenge against Megan. What will she think if you get together with me? Won't she feel frustrated that you end up finding a better man despite the fact that she had snatched away your previous one? You also want to seek revenge against your father. If he catches wind of our marriage, he will come to you while wagging his tail, right?"

He got it all right! Selena had to admit that she could never let go of the hatred she felt. She was the only one who knew how much she had to go through in order to get to where she was now. Although she thought of forgetting the past for Juniper's sake, she couldn't do that. There were nights when she would dream of those instances when Finneas was with Megan, as well as that time when her own father chased her out of the house, delivering a fatal blow to her when she was at her most vulnerable.

She never forgot about her life in exile. Ever since her return from Springvale, she had been thinking of enacting her revenge, but she would pull back whenever she thought of Juniper. It wasn't until Megan and Meredith tried to assault Juniper that she decided she would throw caution to the wind. She wanted to make sure that JNS Corporation flourished in Astoria, as it would ensure that she could trample over Megan, as well as make Finneas regret his actions. "You're right on both accounts, but I don't need your help. I can do it on my own."

"Are you sure?" Pierre wore a meaningful smile.

If Pierre wasn't in the picture, she could easily do it on her own, but things were different now that they crossed paths. If he was displeased by any measure, she wouldn't even get a chance at revenge, as JNS Corporation might be crushed by him. To him, the act of it would be as easy as crushing an ant.

"Are you threatening me? Will you stop me from enacting revenge if I don't comply with your wishes? You might even go as far as undermining my company and hurting my daughter; is that right?"

Arching his brow, he didn't give a response, so she took it as a silent 'yes'.

"So does this relation between us count as a transaction as well?" All of a sudden, she had a feeling that she was just as miserable as Meredith.

"You can take it as that."

"What do I have to gain if I agree to your terms?"

"You will get me." He smiled in a self-conceited manner.

However, she didn't think it was funny at all. "What do I need to do?"

"Anything that is required of my woman." His answer was ambiguous at best, which made her worry all the more.

After spending a while in a stalemate, he stood from his seat abruptly. "I have matters to attend to, so you can take your time to think this through. By the way, we'll have dinner together tonight." He was ready to leave after that, but he stopped in his tracks halfway up the stairs. "There are phones in the house, so you can call your family to reassure them of your safety."

"Hold on! I need a month's time before I can make a decision!" Selena tried her best to buy herself some time. Although knowing he might not give her that much time, she figured that she wouldn't know if she didn't try.