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"Aren't you sad and blaming yourself for what happened? Haven't you been hoping to find the child so you can clear your name? Alright, I will fulfill that wish of yours! As long as you agree to marry me, I will return the child to you so that you can hand him back."

Selena was irked by the sinister and self-conceited smile that Hades wore, yet she could do nothing about it. "Why must it come to this? You're using a child—"

Before she could even finish her sentence, Hades cut her short. "Yeah! I am despicable and shameless! I will achieve my goals with any means necessary! I will do anything to clear my path! So, are you going to take on or reject my offer?"

His tight grip on Selena's chin was starting to pain her. The craftiness in his gaze told her that he was absolutely serious. "It's fine if you don't agree." He moved closer to whisper into her ear. "Since I already killed so many people, I don't care if I kill one more child. How about that?"

Selena clenched her fists tightly, but in the end, she let go of them. "Is all of this even necessary?" Her tone sounded less agitated than before. She understood Hades well enough to know that while he never easily made decisions, he wouldn't easily change them once he did. Since he hid the fact that he was preparing a wedding from her, she knew he'd never considered failure as an option.

Now that Selena knew Jameson was alive, there was no more reason for Hades to hide anything. "Yes, I will follow through my plans!" He sounded resolute.

"What is even the point of all this? Even if I marry you, I will only hate you instead of love you since you conquered me through such despicable means."

"All a man needs is a woman by his side! Nothing else matters!" Hades let out a mirthless chuckle. "Did you assume that Pierre loved you? He just wants to claim your beauty and career for his own due to his possessiveness."

Hearing that, Selena snorted. So that's why he wants to marry me. It never was because of love, she thought. "Okay, I promise to marry you. Can you release Jamie now?"

"Of course not! Do I look like an idiot? I will lose my only bargaining chip if I let him go. Only after you become my woman will I release him. I won't go back on my word." Finally, Hades let go of her chin, which was already numb from his grip.

"I need to take a trip back to Astoria."

"Trying to seek help?" Hades chuckled. "Jameson is with me, and Pierre knows this. He would have already rescued his son if he could, so don't you even think of enlisting his help. You're the only one who can save his son."

Selena bit on her lip upon hearing that. No wonder Pierre never mentioned a word about Jameson. He already found him. He must have not told me because he didn't want it to become a threat.

"You know me; I'll marry you if I promised to. I'm only returning to Astoria to find Juniper's biological father. I need to settle that as I can't let Juniper keep on waiting just because of my own circumstances."

Hades frowned upon hearing that, eliciting a smile from Selena. "What's the matter? I bet you don't have the guts to do that. Are you afraid that I won't come back once I leave, or are you afraid that something else might happen?"

"You don't need to taunt me like that." Hades was able to discern that Selena was trying to trick him into letting her go. While he couldn't do much to help in regards to finding Juniper's father, he acknowledged that Selena needed to find the man.

"Alright, you can go." Then, he added, "One month. Our deal will only be effective for one month. As soon as time's up, I won't guarantee Jameson's safety."