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Upon hearing those words, Selena felt as if someone had stabbed her in the heart. As it turned out, exploiting her had been the most important part of the organization's plan.

"There were a lot of things that didn't go according to our plan—your pregnancy, for one, was something we never expected to happen. The organization told me about it at the first instance and we considered aborting the plan altogether, but we knew that we could never reinstate it after having carried out the first part of it. I thought I was capable of wiping out the entire Zephyr Organization, but that took much longer than I expected."

Pierre paused for a moment before he added, "I don't want you to spend the rest of your life in fear; you never could sleep peacefully whenever I left home. I wanted to put an end to this once and for all. The only way for me to do that was to eradicate them for good, so I carried on with the plan."

Despite his explanation, all Selena heard was that he had chosen to continue with the plan even while he knew she was pregnant. It was a bitter pill to swallow and she began to question the weight she held in his heart.

"I'm so sorry, Selena. I'm really sorry about all of this." He could think of nothing else to say except to apologize profusely; any other promises or oaths seemed meaningless at this point.

The tears spilled down Selena's cheeks. She could understand the position Pierre had been in and she knew that it would be like this since the day she married him. His love for his country would always come first and while she had accepted it as the truth, it didn't make her feel any less resentful.

She could barely describe the anguish that tore through her.

"Stop crying. This is all my fault. I'm the one who hasn't done right by you or the children."

Selena's eyes were red and the accusation in them was clear as she stared at Pierre. "So, you gave me that ring with the knowledge that Yoel would show up, didn't you? You wanted me to kill him."

"No!" he quickly countered. "I had a feeling you might be in danger. I gave you that ring so that you could defend yourself when the time came. I initially hoped to surprise you with a birthday gift where the ring was handmade by me. It really was meant to be a birthday gift for you. Even if none of this had happened, I would still have given it to you."

Upon hearing Pierre's words, Selena felt better and her expression softened ever so slightly.

"That being said, the incident with Yoel was unexpected. I didn't think he would be that prepared. He founded his own organization with his reputation beginning to overtake Zephyr Organization, which meant he had become a very real threat. I assumed that he would stop going after Fowler Corporation once he had his own organization, but he returned anyway. The deployment was made as soon as I learned of his return and keeping you safe was the top priority of the mission."

Selena sniffed before she asked hesitantly, "It's been a while since the incident blew over, though. Why are you only back now?"

She had learned of Zephyr Organization's downfall a month ago, which should have been the end of things. It didn't make sense that Pierre didn't return home immediately after that.

"There were a couple of things I needed to take care of before I could come back."

She pouted. Looks like everything else is more important than I am.

"I'm sorry, Selena. I promise I won't ever leave you like that again," he promised, gazing upon her sentimentally.

Selena gaped. "Really?"

"I'm serious; I've retired."

The word 'retired' seemed to linger in the air and Selena was so shocked to hear this that she was at a loss for words. I can't believe he's retired. I can't believe he chose to retire at his prime!

She was in disbelief. He had left the industry where his loyalty and passion had rested.

"Why? Why did you retire?"

Pierre pursed his lips and gave her an indulgent smile. "Retirement isn't all that bad. I get to spend time with you and the kids. I owe you this much, Selena, and I'll spend the rest of my life making it up to you."

Selena could feel the knot in her stomach loosening as she found solace in his assurance. Now that he had retired, there was nothing else left for her to say.