

Chapter 40: Missing

Evelyn quickly packed her things, preparing to leave her house as the police could come to get her at any minute.

She needed to hide for a few days.

After the call ended, it dawned on her that it was Damien's friend, Eric who had used the kidnapper's phone to give her a call.

"Fuck!" She screamed as she threw her jewelries into a box. Evelyn's frustration was killing her. She had no idea what had happened but from the phone call, she knew that the kidnapper had been arrested.

If only she didn't call his line..

She thought about calling Damien but after much thought, she realized that it would be stupid to call him as he was probably aware of the situation.

Could this really be the end for her?

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It had been one week since the incident and Damien was still in a coma. Harriett had been spending most of her time in the hospital, only going home to check up on her children and get change of clothes.

Thomas Daniels had successfully managed to keep the news of Damien's incident away from the media so even Evelyn had no idea that he was in the hospital.

Harriett found it strange that she had not been to the hospital since Damien got admitted. Even if she was behind Harriet's kidnap, Damien was her fiancé and she was believed to be in love with him. Perhaps she wasn't in love with him after all.

"I'll be leaving now, dear." Stacy's voice was weak and void of hope as she gave Harriett a small hug before leaving the hospital.

"Hey." Harriett said as soon as she entered Damien's room. She knew that he couldn't hear her but it just kept her sane talking to him like that.

His room was different from the normal rooms since he was a VIP patient. It looked more like an actual bedroom and he was being attended to by the head doctor.

Harriett took a seat on the small chair beside Damien and grabbed his hand.

"Adrian asked about you today. He's worried about you but I couldn't even tell him that his father is in a coma." She chuckled sadly, holding her tears in.

"Oh and.. I think Addison is starting to like you. She kept talking about how you came to pick them up from the street. You need to get up from this bed and be with your family, Damien." Her last sentence was accompanied with a tear.

"We need you, Damien. I... I need you. I cannot begin to say how sorry I am for everything I put you through. Just... wake up, okay? We can talk things out when you wake up. Please." She whispered before placing her head on the bed.

"You're gonna keep to your word this time?" Harriett thought that she was beginning to hear things. Not that she would be surprised. She had been dreaming of Damien waking up since the night of the incident.

But after hearing the same voice the second time, she realized that she wasn't hearing things and her prayers had finally been answered.

"Please tell me you don't think I'm a ghost." Damien laughed weakly and Harriett screamed out, happiness spreading through her face. She didn't know when she wrapped her arms around his neck. It was the first time in her life that she had been this close to him.

Damien used every strength in him to take his arm around her waist, holding her close to him as he shut his eyes.

"Thank you." Harriett whispered just as the doctors and nurses rushed into the room to check up on him.

She used the opportunity to let the family know that he was finally out of the coma and in thirty minutes, everyone was back in the hospital, including Eric.

When it was finally Eric's turn to meet with Damien, he requested that he go in alone and after much hesitation, Harriett finally agreed.

"You are something, Man. I can't believe you actually took a bullet for her." Eric shook his head with a small laugh and patted Damien lightly on his shoulder.

"I'd rather be in this position than Harriett. I won't be able to live with myself knowing that I could've saved her. I had to protect what's mine." Damien explained with a proud look. To him, the scar from the wound was like a battle scar that he would forever be proud of.

"The kidnapper... has he confessed yet." Damien asked and Eric chuckled.

"You've been in a coma for a week, man. A lot has happened." Eric revealed and Damien's eyes widened.

"One week?!" He hadn't bothered to ask Harriet earlier as he was caught up in the euphoria of the moment..

"Yeah. We almost lost hope but hey... look at you!" Eric smiled out of genuine happiness. His friend had escaped the embrace of death.

"Tell me. What has happened?" Damien asked and leaned back on the head rest.

"The kidnapper didn't need to confess. After you got shot, Evelyn gave him countless calls. I didn't even need to pick her call to know she was the one. Her number was saved as ' Client for Harriet.' Can you imagine?" Eric laughed but Damien was vexed by the news.

He should've punished her that day at the house instead of giving her time to confess.

"So, has she been arrested?" He asked, getting ready to pay her a visit and make sure that doesn't leave jail for a very long time.

"Immediately she realized she had been exposed, she went MIA. The police has searched everywhere and is still searching for her but it's looking like she disappeared from the face of the earth." Eric explained.

"Shit." Damien knew that her being on the lose was extremely dangerous for his family as she could strike at any moment. What was even worse was that he didn't have any idea of where she might be

apart from her parents house.

So, he decided to search there the minute he gets discharged.

"Don't be worried, man. Her bank accounts have been frozen so there's only so far she can go with no money. She's as good as broke right now." Eric said but Damien shook his head.

He knew Evelyn more than anyone so he knew that she wasn't working alone. She wouldn't have been able to pull everything off all by herself.

Whoever she was working with had to be someone who also knew him and possibly holds a grudge.

Now, his first step would be to find her accomplice.

"Evelyn is a dangerous woman, Eric. With her on the lose, my family is in danger." Damien said with his hands gripping the bed tightly.

"I need to get out of here."

Chapter 41: A way out?

"What are you doing?" Harriett looked at Damien suspiciously as she entered the hospital room. Eric had been in for so long that she was starting to feel uneasy so, she decided to check in on them. When walked in, she saw Damien trying to get off the bed while Eric was trying to remove the IV from his hand. As soon as both men saw her, they immediately paused, both looking like children who had been caught stealing ice cream from the fridge.

"Harriett.." Damien spoke up, his voice cracking as he wondered if she had heard their conversation. He assessed her face just to be sure and from the look on it, he concluded that she didn't.

"Do not ' Harriett ' me. What do the both of you grown men think you are doing?" She walked up to the both of them with her hands on her waist like she was their parent.

"Well... I was just checking this cool thing out.. I have no idea what he was doing." Eric immediately defended, throwing his hands up in the air. Damien turned to his friend and raised a brow, shocked at how he easily abandoned him.

"Really, Eric? You've never seen an IV before?" Harriet stomped her feet while Damien laughed.

"Fine. You got us. I need to leave this place, Harriett. The doctor who came in earlier said that I am recovering fast." Damien confessed, his eyes pleading with Harriett.

"No." She replied bluntly with a stern look on her face and Eric took it as his cue to leave as he sensed that a lovers argument was about to begin.

"Harriett, please. I really need to leave. There are some very important matters that I must take care of." He said as soon as Eric was out of the room.

"What matters? Leave them to me, I'll handle them for you. You must already know how competent I am." Harriett replied with both her hands now crossed.

Damien sensed that there was no way out of the matter if he didn't come clean to Harriett, so, he decided to tell her.

"You might not know this but, Evelyn was behind the kidnap." He said, expecting a reaction from her but she only stared at him like it was old news.

"You knew?" He asked with a bewildered expression and Harriett shook her head, disappointment filling her face.

"It breaks my heart to know that even if until this moment, you still think of me as the same naïve woman I was four years ago." She said and sadness immediately appeared on Damien's face as he was suddenly reminded of his shameful past. Harriet immediately noticed this and cleared the air to avoid it having any impact on his health.

"What I mean is, of course I knew that Evelyn was behind the kidnap. I figured that out pretty early." She explained with a small smile as she sat by his side.

"Look, Damien. I know that you are aggravated by this and probably want to kill her but, you need to remember that your health comes first. She has already gone into hiding, so it's going to be hard to find her. Especially if she is working with someone." Harriet said and Damien couldn't help the smile that appeared on his face.

He had just told Eric about how he suspected Evelyn to be working alone and now, he was hearing that his ex-wife thought the same.

She was really something.

"You'll be discharged in a few days anyways. Do not even try to do anything until then."

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PARIS***

"Don't tell me you still have feelings for that whore?" Tony's sister, Rachel spat as she watched her brother try to get to Harriet's phone.

"Do not call her that, Rachael. She's not a whore." He warned, ruffling his hair in frustration. He had been trying to get to Harriet for a week

but for some strange reason, her number wasn't reachable. He was beginning to fear that something serious had happened to her. He had even tried reaching out to her parents but they were also unable to pick up.

He was deeply worried.

"I'm sorry if my words offend you, brother. But, the lady has two children for a man who isn't her husband and was also making advancements towards you. If that is not what whores do then please tell me, what is it?" She said and Tony immediately flared up, hitting his table harshly.

"He was her husband. She got pregnant a few weeks before the divorce and Harriett is not making advancements towards me. If anything I am the one who is trying to secure a future with her but thanks to you and your stupid problems, I had to leave her." He shot back, eying his sister.

"Do not give me that look, Tony. I am your older sister. Your nephew was on the verge of death and you call that 'my problem'? Do you really value that woman more than your own family?" She laughed but deep down she was vexed.

"I didn't mean it like that, Rachael. I'm sorry." He said but she scoffed and crossed her legs on the chair.

"Look, I am only doing all of this for your own good. You know how had things were for you when you had to literally run for your own life from New York but yet you still decide to risk it and go back." She said worriedly, fearing that her brother would be in danger if he decides to return to New York.

"I understand your good intentions, Rachael but I cannot keep running away forever. I'll have to face her eventually. You know that. Besides, I don't think I'll run into her." He said, shaking his head as he remembered how he almost lost his life ten years ago because of a crazy woman.

"That Psychotic bitch is still hovering around in New York, Tony. I'm a hundred percent sure." Rachael said with gritted teeth..

"You know what, Tony? I'll come with you to New York this time

around. You can open another branch there if you want. We're getting that bitch, Bethany this time around." Rachael finished off with a smirk.

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EVELYN

"How long do you plan on staying here, Beth. Everyone is out looking for you and knowing the Daniels and Edwards, they'd stop at nothing to find you this time. Even if it means placing a bounty on you, I'm sure they'll do it. You already know that money isn't a problem for them." Evelyn's partner said, placing a bottle of wine on the table for her.

"You messed up big time, Beth." He shook his head, chuckling at her foolishness.

"Don't you think I know that?! Stop rubbing it in, okay?" She raised her voice out of frustration and downed an entire glass of whiskey, squeezing her face from the effect.

"Fine. Jesus Christ, Beth. Calm down before you hurt yourself." He said, handing her another glass but this time around it was filled with water.

"What's your plan?" He asked as she held her head with both her hands, thinking of a way out of the mess she created for herself. Ten minutes later, her head suddenly snapped as an idea flew in.

"Got something?" He asked and she turned to him with a relieved smile, wrapping her arms around his neck.

"Yeah. Someone, rather." She said, squealing happily.

"Who is this person that will willingly help you out even after your reputation has been totally ruined?" He asked with a snort and Evelyn shook her head before placing a light kiss on his lip.

"Tony. Harriet's lover.. or should I say.. ex lover?"